



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 21 March 2018

Subject	Page
PETITION .....	553
MOTION .....	553
Citizen's Right of Reply .....	553
NOTICE OF MOTION .....	553
Rookwood Weir .....	553
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS .....	554
Trade 2018 .....	554
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence .....	554
Waste Levy .....	555
Queensland Economy .....	555
Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance .....	556
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games .....	556
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Security .....	557
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport .....	558
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Energy Supply .....	558
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, TAFE .....	559
Waste .....	559
Eagle Farm Racecourse; Racing Industry .....	560
Aged-Care Facilities .....	561
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence .....	561
MOTION .....	562
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders .....	562
NOTICE OF MOTION .....	562
New Chum, Waste Facility .....	562

# Table of Contents – Wednesday, 21 March 2018

<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE .....</b>	<b>563</b>
<b>Taxation .....</b>	<b>563</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 24 January 2018, to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, from Messrs Matthew and Alf Sorbello, regarding land tax increases. ....	563
<b>Waste Levy .....</b>	<b>563</b>
<b>Routes Asia 2018.....</b>	<b>564</b>
<b>Taxation .....</b>	<b>565</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated 30 October 2013, titled 'Electoral Commission of Queensland Disclosure Return—Donor to Registered Political Party', detailing donations to the LNP in 2013. ....	566
<b>Waste .....</b>	<b>566</b>
<b>Taxation, Small Business .....</b>	<b>567</b>
<b>Retail Trade.....</b>	<b>568</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> LNP web page offering for sale a book titled <i>Special Commemorative Edition Foundations for a New Era</i> . ....	568
<i>Tabled paper:</i> LNP web page showing LNP merchandise.....	569
<i>Tabled paper:</i> LNP web page offering for sale an LNP hat signed by the Leader of the Liberal National Party, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP.....	569
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Draft letter, dated 21 March 2018, prepared by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Prime Minister, Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, purportedly prepared for the Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to outline concerns about three critical issues facing Queenslanders. ....	569
<b>Waste Levy .....</b>	<b>569</b>
<b>Land 400.....</b>	<b>570</b>
<b>Waste Levy .....</b>	<b>570</b>
<b>Waste .....</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>Waste Levy .....</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>Works for Queensland .....</b>	<b>572</b>
<b>Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails .....</b>	<b>572</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of emails regarding Energex and Stanwell.....	572
<b>Vines Creek Bridges Project.....</b>	<b>573</b>
<b>Renewable Energy.....</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL .....</b>	<b>575</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>575</b>
<b>SAFER WATERWAYS BILL .....</b>	<b>587</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>587</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Safer Waterways Bill 2018. ....	587
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Safer Waterways Bill 2018, explanatory notes. ....	587
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>589</b>
<b>Referral to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee....</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (CLEARING FOR RELEVANT PURPOSES) AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>590</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018. ....	590
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes. ....	590
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>592</b>
<b>Referral to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee....</b>	<b>592</b>
<b>HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL .....</b>	<b>592</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>592</b>
<b>VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA .....</b>	<b>593</b>
<b>Nomination .....</b>	<b>593</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding the nomination of Ms Amanda Stoker to fill the casual Senate vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. George Brandis QC, and a declaration of qualification and consent to act in accordance with schedule 4 of the standing rules and orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. ....	593
<b>Election of Senator.....</b>	<b>593</b>
<b>Notification of Election.....</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL .....</b>	<b>601</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>601</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 19 March 2018, titled 'The day Georgia McLennan was diagnosed with cancer came as a shock not just to her but the medical experts doing the diagnosing' ..... 607	607
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Daily Mercury</i> , dated 20 March 2018, titled 'Health cuts mean waits'. ....	608
<b>Consideration in Detail.....</b>	<b>617</b>
Clause 1, as read, agreed to. ....	617
Clause 2 postponed.....	617
Clauses 3 to 155, as read, agreed to. ....	617
Insertion of new clauses— .....	617
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Hospital Foundations Bill, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Steven Miles's amendments. ....	620
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>ABC News</i> online, dated 28 February 2017, titled 'Queensland rushes through mental health law changes after "colossal legal mess"'. ....	620
Amendment agreed to. ....	620

# Table of Contents – Wednesday, 21 March 2018

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to .....	620
Clause 2— .....	620
Amendment agreed to .....	620
Clause 2, as amended, agreed to .....	620
<b>Third Reading</b> .....	<b>621</b>
<b>Long Title</b> .....	<b>621</b>
Amendment agreed to .....	621
<b>QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL</b> .....	<b>621</b>
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	<b>621</b>
<b>MOTION</b> .....	<b>630</b>
<b>Rookwood Weir</b> .....	<b>630</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, undated, by the then Premier, the Hon. Peter Beattie, and the then Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Water, Hon. Henry Palaszczuk, titled 'Premier visits possible new dam site' .....	632
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to. ....	637
Resolved in the negative. ....	637
Non-government amendment (Mr Powell) negated. ....	637
<b>MOTION</b> .....	<b>637</b>
<b>New Chum, Waste Facility</b> .....	<b>637</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Queensland Times</i> , dated 14 March 2018, titled 'MILLER SLAMS: I don't trust council to deal with the dump'. ....	643
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, depicting graph titled 'Figure 1: Change in volume of waste from other States transported into Queensland since the year ending 30 June 2014'. ....	643
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to. ....	647
Resolved in the affirmative.....	647
Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to. ....	647
Resolved in the affirmative.....	647
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b> .....	<b>648</b>
<b>Scenic Rim Electorate, Services</b> .....	<b>648</b>
<b>Health Services</b> .....	<b>648</b>
<b>Kawana Electorate, Law and Order</b> .....	<b>649</b>
<b>Maryborough Government Office; Hansen, Mrs M</b> .....	<b>650</b>
<b>Bundaberg Base Hospital</b> .....	<b>651</b>
<b>Tieri, Oaky North Lockout</b> .....	<b>651</b>
<b>Queensland Racing</b> .....	<b>652</b>
<b>Harmony Day</b> .....	<b>652</b>
<b>Housing Affordability</b> .....	<b>653</b>
<b>Miller Electorate</b> .....	<b>654</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE</b> .....	<b>654</b>

## WEDNESDAY, 21 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.

### PETITION

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

#### **Moreton Bay Regional Council's Planning Scheme, Amendment 1 Warner Investigation Area**

From 1,583 petitioners, requesting the House to review the Moreton Bay Regional Council's Planning Scheme, Amendment 1 Warner Investigation Area [\[396\]](#).

Petition received.

### MOTION

#### **Citizen's Right of Reply**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.32 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 179 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendations of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendations and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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#### **RESPONSE BY MR MAX BARRIE TO A STATEMENT MADE IN A DOCUMENT TABLED BY THE MEMBER FOR CAIRNS, MR ROB PYNE MP, ON 24 AUGUST 2017**

On 24 August 2017, the Member for Cairns tabled a document in the Queensland Parliament which included the following statement:

*The Councillors wife was treated so badly during the complaints process that following a phone call with Max Barrie from the department, this wife and mother of two young children 'went out the back' and committed suicide.*

I was not in the departmental position dealing with councillor conduct complaints on or about 18 January 2012, being the time when the Cook Shire councillor's wife passed away. Furthermore, I would not have had any permission under the department's records security policies to have any knowledge of this or any other complaints about councillors at that time.

The first knowledge I had of the Cook Shire councillor's complaint was on 31 January 2013, when he resubmitted an earlier complaint to the department which had been finalised by the then Director-General of the department on 6 June 2012, prior to me assuming responsibility for the management of councillor conduct complaints on 1 July 2012.

I can also categorically advise that in fulfilling my responsibilities in managing councillor conduct complaints on behalf of the department between 1 July 2012 and 20 January 2017, I did not on any occasion discuss any complaint made against a councillor with a spouse or partner or any other relative of a subject councillor.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### **Rookwood Weir**



**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.33 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls upon the Turnbull LNP federal government to immediately match the Palaszczuk government's commitment to fund half the construction and operation costs of the \$352 million Rookwood Weir.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Trade 2018



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): We have always said that the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will deliver \$4 billion for our economy, but that is a conservative figure. The sky is the limit when it comes to Trade 2018 and the legacy we will leave by using the games to attract investment in Queensland. Off the back of the Commonwealth Games we will lure some of the world's greatest business minds to Queensland.

I am proud to say that already 1,000 people have confirmed their attendance at Trade 2018 on the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games. During Trade 2018 we will play host to representatives from Commonwealth countries across the globe including India, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and Malaysia. Also, our Commonwealth Games tourism investment program will help attract investment in tourism infrastructure and attractions across Queensland.

We will host several high-level international delegations in our region during and after the games and we will provide investors with opportunities to experience the best parts of what Queensland has to offer. During these visits we will introduce investors to senior officers from local government and regional tourism organisations to ensure we are creating a pathway to development and investment in the future. We are not just focusing on new investors; Trade 2018 is also about reconnecting with Queensland's most important investors to grow our \$14 billion tourism infrastructure pipeline. The pipeline extends from The Star Gold Coast's transformation through to Crystalbrook Collection's \$100 million investment in the reef marina in Port Douglas.

The Commonwealth Games is an incredibly important part of this. To have scores of the most important investors on the globe here in Queensland and experience the largest event in our state's history is a great opportunity. We need to put our best foot forward, and that is what Trade 2018 is all about. With exactly two weeks until the opening ceremony, I cannot wait to host the greatest Commonwealth Games of all time.

### National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Last Friday was the eighth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This is a day for all school communities to stand together to demonstrate their commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for every student across the country. This year students were encouraged to imagine a world free from bullying.

I was pleased to be able to join Minister Grace Grace for a national day of action event at the State Library of Queensland where we were joined by students from schools including Woodridge State High School, Mabel Park State High School, All Hallows', Stuartholme, Kelvin Grove State College and the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries. This year National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence events took place at every one of more than 1,200 state schools across Queensland. School students are working together to create a bright future without bullying and violence.

We also know that we need more than just one national day of action a year. My government is committed to doing everything it can to help rid our society of the scourge of bullying. I am pleased to say that the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, acted on my advice to include the issue of cyberbullying on the agenda during the COAG meeting. I am also pleased COAG agreed to establish a working group of senior officials to consider initiatives to combat cyberbullying.

I have also established Queensland's Anti-bullying Taskforce which met for the first time last Friday. Task force members have a wide range of knowledge and expertise and I know they are absolutely committed to developing the very best ideas on how we reduce cyberbullying in our community. We all need to be part of the solution. The task force will consult widely to develop a framework and program of activities to help address bullying and cyberbullying. I look forward to receiving its recommendations and ideas—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** One of your members is on the task force, so I do not know why you are interrupting me.

I look forward to receiving its recommendations and ideas at the end of August. As I have just said, this is a bipartisan committee which has a representative from the government and the opposition and I look forward to both sides of the House working together on this very important issue.

### Waste Levy



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Queensland's new waste levy has two objectives: to stop New South Wales treating us like a dump and to build a new recycling industry. Just the threat of it has had an immediate effect. The New South Wales government has announced \$47 million in grants for local councils so they can find somewhere else to put their rubbish. Our neighbours at Tweed Shire Council issued a media release assuring its ratepayers that it has set aside \$40 million to cope with the 35 tonnes of waste it currently ships across the border into Queensland and that the cost of dealing with its own rubbish will not cost its ratepayers any more. In fact, in the past six months Tweed has increased the amount of rubbish it recycles from 40 per cent to more than 60 per cent. I bet it performs even better soon.

The Waste Management Association of Australia, the Local Government Association, the Queensland Conservation Council and the waste management companies all back our stop the trucks levy. It seems that the only people who are unhappy about putting an end to this shameful free ride are the ones who were responsible for opening our borders in the first place.

Since 2013, when the Newman LNP government made Queensland Australia's dumping ground, 2,180,000 tonnes of waste has been shipped north.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** These are the facts. Last year, we had 900,000 tonnes—a new record. It staggers me why any government would want to make Queensland someone else's dump. We would not want our neighbours throwing their rubbish over the fence. Why would a government open Queensland's borders to interstate waste for free? Why would the members opposite attack my government for stopping that?

Let me say this—and I said it yesterday—Queensland families will not pay this levy. They will not pay any more to put rubbish in their household bins. The Sunday tip trip stays exactly the same. Queensland is the only mainland state not to charge this levy—and Tasmania does not need to stop the trucks like we do. It has Bass Strait.

Houses are still being built in other states. The sky did not fall. The sun still comes up. For a Queensland company to dump its waste in Sydney, the charge is \$138 a tonne. The same load sent from Sydney to Ipswich costs them nothing. After consultation with local governments and waste companies, we will set out our charge. A stakeholder group will be announced and meet on Friday. We will do everything we can to stop the waste and stop the trucks.

### Queensland Economy



**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.41 am): Over recent weeks we have seen good news about the continued strengthening of the Queensland economy under the Palaszczuk government. Australian Bureau of Statistics data released this month showed that the December quarter 2017 marked the eighth consecutive quarterly increase in trend state final demand, the key measure of the performance of the domestic economy. The continued growth in state final demand is further evidence that the Palaszczuk government is successfully steering the Queensland economy's transition from the resources investment boom to more broad-based growth.


It was particularly pleasing to note from the December quarter data the 11.8 per cent increase in business investment over the year. That increase in business investment is consistent with recent data from the NAB Monthly Business Survey, which showed business conditions in Queensland to be the highest of any state in February. Conditions are improving in Queensland, businesses are confident in the Queensland economy and they are investing.

It is not just businesses that are confident. The latest Westpac-Melbourne Institute consumer sentiment data, released last week, showed that Queensland had the highest consumer confidence of any state in March. The past three months have been the strongest quarter for consumer confidence in Queensland since 2010. Most importantly, this ongoing and increasing business and consumer confidence in Queensland is translating into more jobs for Queenslanders. More than 150,000 jobs have been created since the Palaszczuk government came into office. That includes 75,000 full-time jobs in the past year alone. The unemployment rate has fallen under this government, and the participation rate has risen significantly. More people are working and more people are looking for work because of the improved job opportunities.

We have also seen a rebound in our tourism industry, which struggled during the resources investment boom due to the high Australian dollar. Recent data showed total international tourist nights spent in Queensland rose 3.8 per cent in 2017 to 35.3 million nights. In fact, tourist nights were about 17 per cent higher in 2017 than they were in 2014.

Once again the latest economic data shows that the Queensland economy is growing, business and consumer confidence is high, and jobs are being created. Most importantly, this is a virtuous circle. The ongoing and increasing business and consumer confidence in Queensland is translating into more jobs for Queenslanders and more jobs translates into increasing business and consumer confidence. All of that illustrates that the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plan is working and delivering real and measurable benefits, including more jobs for more Queenslanders.

### **Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): As the minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, I am pleased to report to the House on progress made to rebuild our state 12 months on from severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The combination of severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie's intensity, speed and direction wreaked havoc from Bowen to the New South Wales border.

Homes, businesses, schools and infrastructure were damaged, families were displaced, industries were crippled and towns were isolated, impacting hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders. During the height of the disaster, 235,000 customers lost power. More than 1,000 schools were closed statewide. Damage estimates to public infrastructure are in the order of more than \$650 million, with a \$450 million impact on agriculture and over \$150 million in losses to the tourism industry.


The Palaszczuk government continues to work with councils and communities to support their recovery from the destruction caused by this ferocious cyclone. We have provided \$25 million to help our primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations clean up and recover. In addition, a \$14.9 million community recovery fund was established to help restore social networks and build community resilience and capacity for the future. That funding has seen the provision of personal and financial counselling, mental health services and community development by 29 organisations across Queensland to address the longer term needs of disaster affected communities, individuals and families.

To date, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has approved more than \$490 million in Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements payments to councils and state agencies in restoration funds for Cyclone Debbie. Almost \$1 million in assistance has been provided to sport and recreational clubs across Queensland to repair facilities and infrastructure.

After Cyclone Debbie, the Palaszczuk government fought hard to secure extraordinary disaster assistance funding from the federal government. We asked the Turnbull government to join with us and pay a 50 per cent commitment of a \$220 million fund to help battered communities recover more quickly and more fully. The Turnbull government's funding package of only \$48 million of the \$110 million requested was a body blow to a state that was already reeling from a natural disaster. However, the Palaszczuk government is standing by its \$110 million commitment to the people of Queensland to rebuild more resilient infrastructure; to help repair damaged beaches, waterways and other natural assets; and to help drive economic recovery.

As these past weeks have shown, our state continues to suffer from Mother Nature's fury. Communities across Northern, Central and Western Queensland—from Palm Island to the Northern Territory border—have experienced major widespread flooding. The state disaster coordinator, Brendan Moon, and the regional liaison officers have been on the ground in the most impacted areas such as Ingham to provide guidance on the recovery effort. So far, 34 local councils have been activated for NDRRA assistance and the Palaszczuk government stands ready to extend this assistance as needed. While we are still on the road to recovery, the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job to ensure as much assistance as possible gets to those who need it most.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.47 am): It is exactly two weeks until the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. We are on track to deliver the best games ever.

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I know. We are counting the sleeps. Today, overlay works at the Oxenford venue for boxing, table tennis and squash and the Anna Meares Velodrome are being finalised and will be finished for handover tomorrow. Works at the beach volleyball venue on the southern Gold Coast—down at Coolangatta—are now officially completed. That means that these venues are all ready. We are rolling out the red carpet and we are simply waiting for the athletes to arrive.

As part of our commitment to deliver the Commonwealth Games, we have delivered more than \$320 million in new and improved sporting infrastructure at 18 venues and almost \$1 billion in transport and roads upgrades. We have also delivered a comprehensive transport strategy that includes an interactive journey planner.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** They are still bagging the games. They all want to turn up.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Do not go.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have been listening to the minister's statement. It appears to be a statement of fact. However, I ask the minister to not provoke the opposition.


**Ms JONES:** I am pretty sure that the Premier and the other members of this government would be very happy to deal with those 1,000 visitors who have RSVP'd to the trade delegation, even if the members opposite do not want to.

I thank the CEO, Mark Peters, and all of the staff at Goldoc, the Office of the Commonwealth Games and across government who have worked so hard to ensure the games are a success. I thank the many public servants who have been seconded across government departments who have been embedded in the Office of the Commonwealth Games. They have done a fantastic job and we are so proud of the work that they have done. On the weekend I was fortunate enough to spend a night at the Commonwealth Games village in Southport.

**Ms Grace:** Nice PJs!

**Ms JONES:** Thank you. I thought they were appropriately modest. I stayed in one of the rooms that will be set aside for an athlete in the next two weeks. To see the village as it is now and to hear superstar Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake say our village was the best that he has ever seen, including Olympic villages, gives proof to us as Queenslanders that we can be very proud of the Commonwealth Games we will be putting on in a fortnight.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Security**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.50 am): The 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games is shaping up to not only be the best games ever but also the safest and most successful games ever. It is the biggest event ever to be held in Queensland and the biggest security contingent ever has been deployed to keep Queenslanders, athletes and our visitors safe.

A joint emergency services coordination centre has now been activated on the Gold Coast as part of Queensland Police Service Operation Sentinel. The games' security operation has a workforce of more than 9,500 personnel, all working together to ensure a safe celebration. More than 3,700 police from around the state will be deployed to the Commonwealth Games across all venues: the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns, with a strong focus on the Gold Coast. They will be backed up by 4,200 security providers, 1,500 Defence Force personnel, Australian Federal Police, police from other state jurisdictions and Commonwealth intelligence agencies.

I can advise the House that all accreditation and security checks are on track. Security assessments of all games venues have been completed and they will be subject to ongoing inspections to maintain safety and security. This includes a lockdown and search of the games village to make sure that Minister Jones did not leave anything behind when she spent the night there.

Our meticulous planning means that our business-as-usual policing operations across the state will be maintained during the games period through our sound management of leave, training and overtime of our Queensland Police Service members. As well as providing police with the resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe for the Commonwealth Games, our government has brought in new police powers to ensure that safety and security are maintained. The security measures that are in place for the Commonwealth Games will mean that our Commonwealth Games will be the safest and best ever.



### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.52 am): The 2018 Commonwealth Games is going to be the biggest sporting event in the nation in more than a decade and the Palaszczuk government is determined to offer spectators the best experience possible at Queensland's largest ever sporting event. With 670,000 visitors arriving next month there is no doubt that travel around the Gold Coast is going to be very different in the lead-up to and during the event. To aid with the extra demand, three new light rail stations located at Parkwood, Parkwood East and Helensvale are now open and in operation—thanks to the Palaszczuk government—and fast becoming commuter favourites. Last week, after public safety checks, the new footbridge at Parkwood opened.

There have been 510,000 more trips on the Gold Coast Light Rail network since stage 2 was launched in December and a total of 2.37 million trips have been taken on the network since paid trips started. This is a 27 per cent increase in patronage since December because of the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2. During the games trams will operate 24 hours a day with services running every six minutes at peak event times. We also have 24-hour train services, a tripling of services, and 24-hour bus services on the bus line linking key venues and precincts.

As well as responding to the anticipated extra demand on the public transport system, last year we announced a suite of initiatives to reduce congestion and improve reliability and safety on the M1. The initiative relating to trucks using the left lane has been in place since last August. An independent assessment by the Australian Road Research Board found that the risk associated with speed variability and lane changing is down 68 per cent and traffic flow has improved markedly and compliance is now up to 96 per cent by trucks in terms of the left-lane initiative—a huge boost to safety on the M1. Speed limit restrictions between the Gateway merge and Gaven have also proven successful. I am pleased to report that in the first week of March, out of a total of 750,000 trips taken during that time, there were only 213 speeding infringements issued. I say a big thank you to all those M1 motorists who have complied with the new provisions and increased safety on the M1 in the lead-up to the games.

While still being refined, early data from the trial is also showing a promising 50 per cent reduction in total recorded crashes on the M1 and a reduction of recorded incident length, down from about an hour to just 17 minutes, with more traffic flow as a result! A comprehensive review into the effectiveness and performance of all M1 management initiatives will take place at the completion of the games. Speed limits will return to normal after the games on Tuesday, 17 April.

Following the launch of the Commonwealth Games Journey Planner I encourage ticketholders to plan ahead in terms of their travel to the games and to use the free public transport available to them. It will be the easiest way to get to the games and I am sure it will be a good experience for many. The games journey planner will provide a seamless end-to-end journey including public transport, shuttle service locations and event schedules, cycling, walking and it will also help to locate park-and-ride locations and enable commuters to book a park. I note that thousands of spectators have already done so and they can continue to do so as the games get closer. There have been more than 3,300 bookings already and there are still more than 100,000 bookings available at our park-and-rides for those people who do need to drive.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Energy Supply



**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.56 am): As we get ever closer to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast the excitement is mounting, preparations are continuing and every effort is being made to ensure Queensland is presented at its very best on the world stage. This includes investment by Energex of more than \$45 million in upgrading its infrastructure on the Gold Coast over the next five years to support growth in the tourism hotspot and events such as the Commonwealth Games. Investment in this region will ensure a secure and reliable network during the games and beyond 2018, with substations to be upgraded at Bundall, Labrador, Miami and Palm Beach.

Security and reliability of the network is Energex's No. 1 priority right across South-East Queensland. These upgrades align with the growth in one of our premier tourism and event destinations—the Gold Coast. When one considers nearly 7,000 athletes and team officials, 15,000 volunteers and more than an estimated 650,000 visitors will visit the region, there will be considerably more than the usual activity on the network during that fortnight. The tourism boost anticipated on the back of holding an event as big as the Commonwealth Games has also been factored into the investment being made to upgrade the network.

The works will extend beyond the cables and powerlines supplying the games facilities themselves and also will incorporate upgrades in the main hospitality and entertainment precinct of Surfers Paradise. Looking beyond April and the games, the four substations will undergo significant upgrades, directly benefitting more than 35,000 customers. When completed the upgrades will increase capacity to the Gold Coast's power grid.

There is so much more to the Gold Coast than the glitz, the glamour and the games. The Palaszczuk government recognises that Australia's sixth largest city, home to more than 560,000 people, expects efficiency and reliability every day, not only between 4 and 15 April.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, TAFE



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government understands the importance of securing quality industry experience for Queenslanders in training. The upcoming Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast presents a golden opportunity to put training into practice. The games will open doors for 15,000 TAFE trained volunteers to gain real-life work experience in a fast paced environment alongside industry professionals.

Earlier this month I visited the hospitality students at Marsden State High School in my local electorate. Members may have heard them on ABC Brisbane Radio this morning proudly talking about their Commonwealth Games involvement.

Students across Logan were invited to a recruitment session where more than 50 students from years 11 and 12 were selected to be part of the catering team for the Commonwealth Games. That included 40 students from Marsden State High School. I spoke with hospitality student Jasmyne, who said she hoped that this 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' would give her a head start to a career in the thriving hospitality and tourism industry once she finishes school.

TAFE Queensland's partnership with the Commonwealth Games is shining a light on the talent that our state has to offer. One of those creative talents comes from the Nambour TAFE campus. Graphic design student Hazem is the mastermind behind the wooden cube seating that will be featured in the athletes village. Each seat was designed by Hazem and she incorporated the colours of each country that will be competing in the games.

Training and upskilling Queenslanders is also vital to making sure we can continue to have the largest jobs growth in the country. Members may not be aware that we have 64 beauty students and teachers running one of the most popular Commonwealth Games outlets, Salon XXI. The salon was designed and created by two talented TAFE Gold Coast students. It will give students and teachers the opportunity to apply their knowledge by providing beauty services to athletes, coaches and officials. This is the Commonwealth Games offering real-life work experience.

After the games have finished, a Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games legacy project will provide a training program for almost 300 of the volunteers, creating a pathway to earning a nationally recognised training qualification. That legacy will boost employment opportunities and upskill Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is all about making sure Queenslanders have the skills they need to fill the jobs of the future, and that is what the Commonwealth Games will do.

### Waste



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.01 am): Yesterday we said we would stop the trucks, develop a comprehensive statewide waste strategy and stand up for Queensland. Today, we are taking action.

Today I can advise the House that the Recycling and Waste Management Stakeholder Advisory Group, announced yesterday, will have its first meeting on Friday. The group will consist of representatives from across the waste industry and key business groups, including the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Australian Council of Recycling, the Waste Recycling Industry Association Queensland, the Waste Management Association of Australia, Sustainable Business Australia and the Master Builders Association Queensland.

We have also provided an open invitation to the Chamber of Commerce Industry Queensland and the Australian Industry Group to be part of the stakeholder advisory group. Importantly, I have asked the Local Government Association of Queensland to ensure there is regional representation on this very important stakeholder advisory group in the future. I will also be urging other group members

who hold a statewide role to ensure they seek feedback from their regional membership. The group will also ensure there are appropriate opportunities for regional communities and businesses to engage with this consultation process.

Make no mistake: we will stop the trucks. We are committed to this action and committed to fixing the mistakes of the former LNP government and we have received positive stakeholder feedback. The Waste Management Association of Australia welcomed our announcement yesterday. CEO Gayle Sloan said 'this is a real opportunity to create local jobs and investment in this essential sector'. Mark Venhoek from waste management company Suez tweeted—

Very, very encouraging news the Queensland Government intends to bring the landfill levy back. This will stop crazy waste movements.

Dr Tim Seelig from the Queensland Conservation Council said—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please pause for a moment, Minister. Members to my left, your interjections are not being taken by the minister. I find them to be disruptive. I ask that you listen. If you have a question for the minister, you may ask that question during question time.

**Ms ENOCH:** Dr Tim Seelig from the Queensland Conservation Council said—

We welcome news that Queensland will restore a Waste Levy. Queensland needs to deal with the current situation of massive over-the-border-sourced rubbish dumping in the state. A Waste Levy will be an important measure to remove the driver of such waste disposal.

As we heard from the Premier earlier, yesterday the Tweed Shire Council, just across the border, said that transporting waste from New South Wales to Queensland had 'delayed the significant cost to expand its Stotts Creek site'. The Tweed Shire Council in New South Wales will now have to take care of its own waste. It will not be using Queensland as its dumping ground.

### **Eagle Farm Racecourse; Racing Industry**



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 am): Mr Speaker, I am fed up. As I rise in this House today—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Members to my left, I find your interjections to be quite childish.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** As I rise in this House today, the jewel in Queensland's thoroughbred racing crown sits idle at Ascot in the electorate of the member for Clayfield. Owners, trainers, jockeys and the racing public are all being denied an opportunity to participate in the wonderful experience that is racing at Eagle Farm. That facility—a 150-year-old Queensland icon—has been out of action for far too long. There have been too many excuses from Racing Queensland and others, too little clarity about what exactly are the impediments to finishing the job, and, quite frankly, too little clarity on what it will take to ensure that the track at Eagle Farm is once again ready for racing.

As racing minister, one of my very first actions was to seek assurances from Racing Queensland that the organisation had this sorry matter in hand. I asked whether the track would be ready for the Winter Carnival. 'Possibly', was the answer. Faced with such uncertainty and knowing the impact a wrong decision would have on trainers' preparation for the Winter Carnival, I supported Racing Queensland's decision to once again hold the Winter Carnival at Doomben. Twelve weeks on, with 700 metres of track still not laid, the prospects of Eagle Farm being ready for racing in spring appear slim. And that is simply not good enough.

Today I stand in this House and say that it is time for the blame-shifting and finger-pointing to end in favour of working together. This sorry saga is trying my patience and the patience of the racing industry, while causing serious angst for Eagle Farm's neighbours. They have borne the brunt of too much noise, dust and smells, and they have my sympathy.

In ongoing discussions with Racing Queensland chair Steve Wilson, I directed him in the strongest terms to do whatever it took to see Queensland's most significant racing facility once again operational. The ball is now firmly in the court of Racing Queensland. I have demanded weekly briefings from the board on the progress being made with the track remediation and I have also directed RQ to keep the industry fully informed.

Despite my frustration, there is also good news for an industry that employs tens of thousands of Queenslanders and contributes \$1.2 billion to the state's economy. Working with the Palaszczuk government, RQ has completely turned around the organisation's finances and, as a consequence,

improved the industry's long-term prospects. It has worked with the government to put together the immensely popular \$70 million country racing package. It has overseen significant prize money increases, making Queensland more competitive. I will finish by saying just one thing: fix the track!


**Mr Nicholls:** No racing there this year, boy.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Clayfield, I ask you to address people in this House by their correct title.

**Mr Nicholls:** It was a term of endearment.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield! Members, this is going to be a long morning if we continue to hear repeated interjections that do not follow standing orders.

### **Aged-Care Facilities**

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.07 am): Regularly I hear from older Queenslanders, their adult children and members of the community about their concerns regarding the quality of care in aged-care facilities and the high costs of entry into aged-care facilities. The issue of abuse committed by providers, staff, other residents, families, carers or friends of the older person is also regularly raised. Abuse, including neglect by aged-care workers, has no place in residential aged care.

Currently, the Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport is holding an inquiry into the quality of care in residential aged-care facilities in Australia. The inquiry presents an important opportunity to consider the quality and safeguards required to ensure Australia's residential aged-care system is robust and protects the rights and interests of older people.

As Minister for Seniors, I made a submission on behalf of the Queensland government to this inquiry on 16 March. During the 2017 state election campaign the Queensland government made an election commitment to introduce safe staff-to-resident ratios, including nurse-to-resident ratios, in public aged-care settings in Queensland. I am pleased to say that we are actively working towards introducing the ratio in our 16 residential aged-care homes.


Queensland is a national leader in this work and I am pleased that my colleague the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services plans to advocate on this important issue with ministers at the COAG Health Council. It is clear that for a service to operate safely and at an acceptable standard it must be properly resourced.

State and territory governments cannot achieve the consistent outcomes that are required independently of the Commonwealth. The federal government needs to fund aged-care facilities fairly to ensure they are appropriately staffed. Frail and aged Australians are entitled to expect the same level of care wherever they live.

The Queensland government is working towards building an age-friendly Queensland and our approach of helping older people to remain active and connected to their community will contribute to their overall wellbeing and ultimately prevent mistreatment. The Queensland government is preventing, responding to and raising awareness about elder abuse. Any abuse should not be tolerated, including of our older people in our community. This includes protecting the rights and interests of Queenslanders living in residential aged-care facilities.

As Minister for Seniors, I will always stand up for our older generations. They built the communities that we have the privilege to live in and we will repay that effort.

### **National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.10 am): There are no quick and easy fixes to the scourge of bullying, but the Palaszczuk government is determined to find solutions. On Friday last week more than 720,000 students of all ages in Queensland were asked to imagine a world free of bullying. Judging by the responses the Premier and I saw at the State Library workshop and then at my visit to Buranda State School, the result was truly inspiring.

Children of all ages posted messages about kindness, mateship, standing up for each other and ending the hurt that comes from careless words and deeds. Standing in front of 250 students at Buranda State School, Woolloongabba, yelling 'Bullying. No Way!' at the top of their voices is something I will remember for a long time. I thank the principal, staff and students for their warm welcome.

Due to the efforts of the Premier and the great team in my department that has been organising the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence for the last eight years, there is a greater focus on the issue than ever before.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier and Manager of Opposition Business, please stop your interjections across the chamber.

**Ms GRACE:** Perhaps the Manager of Opposition Business needs to listen to this. It would be a good lesson for him to hear what students are saying.

For the first time, this year 100 per cent of state schools in Queensland participated in the national day of action, and there was very strong support from Catholic and independent schools too. There were record numbers of schools and students in Queensland, and across Australia, taking a stand, raising awareness and working together to find solutions to bullying and cyberbullying.

I know many members also participated in the national day of action with their local communities. At these events it was evident that schools and communities are actively involved and invested in making a difference in the lives of Queensland students. The day also provided schools the chance to showcase the many antibullying initiatives and programs they already have in place. Every student has the right to learn in a safe, supportive environment and to be treated with respect. I want to thank Queensland schools for their ongoing commitment to stand against bullying, not just on the national day of action, but each and every day.

The Queensland Anti-bullying Taskforce, which met for the first time on the national day of action, will be developing recommendations for Queensland to address bullying and cyberbullying. The Palaszczuk government is leading the nation on this issue. The government is committed to working with students, schools and communities right across our state to share our message: 'Bullying. No Way!'



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wanted to very briefly remark that today is the ninth anniversary of those members elected in 2009. For the class of 2009, and particularly those who remained elected over the entire period, happy ninth anniversary.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy be permitted to move at 5.20 pm today the motion of which the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy gave notice earlier today, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- 5 minutes for each member; and
- Total debate time before question put—30 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### New Chum, Waste Facility



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to call in the proposed superdump at New Chum in Ipswich and rule it out.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, now is not the time to debate this.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Tourism, now is not the time to debate this. That will occur later today. Question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Taxation



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 am): My first question is to the Premier. I table a letter written to the Treasurer by father and son owners of a shopping centre in Brisbane which reads—

... over time the costs will be passed on to the tenants through the rental charges and prices that the consumer will pay for goods and services will increase ...

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 24 January 2018, to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, from Messrs Matthew and Alf Sorbello, regarding land tax increases [397].

Why is the Premier introducing a tax on supermarket rents that will hurt everyday Queenslanders when they have to pay more at the cash register for their groceries?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am more than happy to have a look at the letter. I understand it was addressed to the Treasurer and not to me. I will take my time to read that. The Treasurer will probably respond in due course.

We went to the election outlining the revenue measures that we would take to help fund our election commitments. When it comes to land tax, that relates to around 850 people who own property worth more than \$10 million. I very rarely agree with the *Courier-Mail*, but if they want to describe these as 'Robin Hood' taxes, I am happy to say that I agree. Those people who can afford to pay a bit more tax can afford this.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is Harmony Day today.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is Harmony Day and they have already started. They have already been wound up. We took to the election our revenue measures to help pay for our election commitments. They were fully costed and fully funded. Families want new schools built. Families want their hospitals expanded. Families want nurses, doctors, teachers, teacher aides and cleaners, and that is what my government is committed to providing.

It is about time we found out whose side the opposition is really on. Whose side are they on? Are they on the side of wealthy individuals and companies that can afford to pay a little bit more? When they were in government what did they do? They increased taxes on the insurance that mums and dads hold on their homes, their cars and their businesses. Some \$1 billion was imposed on the mums and dads of this state.

**Mr Bleijie:** A few little leprechauns at the end of the rainbow with a pot of gold.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You are the biggest leprechaun. You are the biggest one.

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

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am always happy to practise what I preach, compared to former premier Campbell Newman. The member opposite ought to know about dignity and grace. He was part of that. If he wants to go there we can go through his record.

### Waste Levy

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The House will come to order. The question will be heard in silence. Any breaches of that today will come with action.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. Yesterday the minister was not sure whether it was a waste tax or a waste levy. Today is the minister sure of the actual price of Labor's waste tax? Is it \$60, is it \$70 or is it even more?

**Ms ENOCH:** The member can call it whatever she wishes because Queensland householders will not be impacted by this waste levy. Queensland householders will not care what they call it because they will not be impacted by it. Queensland householders will not care what they call it when the trucks have stopped. Queensland householders will not care what they call it when the jobs are being created.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, I hope you understand that the standing orders do not allow for repeated interjections. You are breaching the standing orders. If I am going to have to warn you this often, I will start naming members. The minister is not taking your interjections.

**Ms ENOCH:** As I have already explained today in the ministerial statement and if the member had been listening, she would have heard that the stakeholder advisory group is being formed and that members have agreed to be part of that, including some open invitations to other members, and that group will be meeting on Friday. Their role will be to look at co-designing with government—we have industry, business and government—not just the waste levy but also the comprehensive waste strategy that will project Queensland into the future. I know that is a difficult thing for those opposite to listen to. Consultation is a very difficult concept for those opposite.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Ms ENOCH:** It is very interesting to hear the member for Glass House making any comment whatsoever when he was the environment minister who stripped the waste levy from Queensland, opening the floodgates for New South Wales—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, this is not a schoolyard. It is a house for debate. A question has been asked; I expect to be able to hear the answer.

**Ms ENOCH:** The member for Glass House was responsible for removing the waste levy in Queensland which opened the floodgates for New South Wales and other states to bring their rubbish to our state.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House.

**Ms ENOCH:** He turned a blind eye to the number of trucks that were moving in and out of our state—900,000 tonnes of waste has been transported into our state as a result of the decisions of the member for Glass House.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, I understand that you have been somewhat provoked. However, your interjections are designed to be disruptive. You can make a point without saying it over and over and over again.

**Ms ENOCH:** That is why we have taken on Justice Lyons's report and his recommendations and we will be introducing a new waste levy in this state. It will be co-designed with business and with industry and it will future proof our state.

### **Routes Asia 2018**

**Mr HEALY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on her attendance at the recent Asian airlines conference in Brisbane?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Cairns for that question. I was delighted to join with the member for Cairns at a special reception for some of our dignitaries who were attending this conference here in Brisbane on Saturday night. From the outset I acknowledge the tremendous work that the Minister for Tourism is doing in this state, especially with our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, in getting even more airlines to our great state.

On Saturday we were able to announce that Viejet, the budget discount flyer, will be coming into Brisbane. We know that Vietnam is opening up as a great trade partner for Queensland. It is also a key destination for people wanting to visit family and friends and also holiday in Vietnam. We have seen, as the Treasurer said today, a huge increase in the number of tourists coming to our state. The Minister for Tourism recently released some data in relation to the number of Chinese visitors coming to Queensland where we have now reached the half a million mark.

It was very interesting to hear at the conference about the enormous amount of work that is happening at the Brisbane Airport. I think it is something that we should all be incredibly proud of. What we will see over the next few years is that the capacity of planes that will be able to come into Brisbane Airport could double. In fact, we will be able to take more airlines into Brisbane than Sydney and Melbourne and we will rival the likes of Hong Kong. That is great news for Queensland business and great news for the Queensland tourism industry. More flights coming in means more people spending their money here in Queensland and more people having the opportunity to explore everything that Queensland has to offer. It will mean greater uptake for small business. It will mean greater visitation numbers. It will mean an increase in hotel nights. We will see Queensland once again prove to be the gateway to Asia.

Over 900 people are attending that conference here in Brisbane this week. As the member for Cairns raised at the conference, having worked in the tourism industry, having come from the tourism industry, we will not only have the ability to pack planes with people going to other countries and people coming here but also have the ability to pack the cargo with fresh produce and agriculture. We want to maximise the potential that Queensland has to offer. We will be speaking more about this during the Commonwealth Games as part of Trade 2018. Let me re-emphasise what the minister said two weeks ago for the Commonwealth Games: let us celebrate and let us get everyone in Queensland on board for the greatest Commonwealth Games ever.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before the next question, I acknowledge that we have the Australian Catholic University represented in the gallery here today.

### Taxation

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. According to the respected HIA and the Property Council, the government's five new taxes will together put more than \$3,000 onto the cost of a new house. Why is Labor making it even harder for young people to get ahead in life?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the shadow Treasurer for his question. Let me say at the outset that we will introduce the four revenue measures that we took to the election. We said that we will introduce them in this budget, and the Treasurer will outline them and introduce them in the budget. I note that the Leader of the Opposition was campaigning against the luxury motor vehicle tax. Once again, let me make it very clear: this applies to luxury motor vehicles over \$100,000. How many Queenslanders have the opportunity to afford to drive a vehicle over \$100,000?

**Ms Trad:** Not many but she's going to fight for them.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Whose side is the Leader of the Opposition on? Is she on the side of Queenslanders or is she on the side of luxury Lamborghini owners or Ferrari owners?

**Ms Fentiman:** 'Ferrari Frecklington'.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** 'Ferrari Frecklington'; there we are. 'Ferrari Frecklington,' I hear members say.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I have asked people to use members' correct titles in this House.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry, the member for Nanango. Let me make it very clear—

**Mrs Frecklington:** The mechanic will need a job, won't he? What about the admin girl?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Who is the admin girl?

**Mrs Frecklington:** That works for the dealership.

**Mr Bleijie:** That is going to be shafted under your taxes.

**Ms Trad:** That is outrageous.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is outrageous and I reject that. That is just fearmongering.

**Ms Jones:** It's pretty clear she doesn't own a Lamborghini.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. If you are going to purchase a luxury vehicle over \$100,000, yes, we are going to ask you to pay a little bit more.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, I am hearing very loud interjections. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have asked the question; I hope that you would want to hear the answer. Minister for Health, you are also being notably loud with your interjections. I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I was asked a question previously about a letter that has come in to the Treasurer. We have looked at the author—



**Ms Trad:** Mr Sorbello.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Sorbello, and we have also just found with the ECQ electoral disclosure return that they have donated a considerable amount of money to the LNP. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 30 October 2013, titled 'Electoral Commission of Queensland Disclosure Return—Donor to Registered Political Party', detailing donations to the LNP in 2013 [398].

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Full disclosure. Next LNP donor question?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members! Minister for Education, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not an opportunity to comment, Leader of the Opposition. Premier, you said that you were rising on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Would you like to articulate that matter of privilege?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was responding to a question that was asked earlier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** So there is no matter of privilege?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please continue.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We look forward to the next question from the LNP donor—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising, Mr Speaker.

**Ms Jones:** Did they donate to you too?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Tourism, your interjections are not helpful.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** No, but I would be interested in what the member for Brisbane Central says. Mr Speaker, after the Premier got up and referred to the Sorbello Group I clearly heard the member for Maryborough make the statement 'a bunch of crooks'. That is not able to be done in this parliament. There is no right of reply and it was a very clear statement made in this place. It is a serious matter and the member should be asked to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I did not hear the interjection. However, I will be happy to review the audio to see if it is able to be picked up, unless the member for Maryborough would like to make a statement.

**Mr Saunders:** They have glass jaws, Mr Speaker. I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, member for Maryborough, you have to unconditionally withdraw and that is not an unconditional withdrawal.

**Mr Saunders:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I look forward to the next question from the opposition from their LNP donors. Perhaps they should have full disclosure. We still have not seen the \$100,000 in secret donations. We look forward to seeing that after the court case.

### Waste

**Mr POWER:** My question without notice is for the Premier. Will the Premier outline how the government will stand up for Queensland by stopping waste from southern states being dumped here and whether there are any alternative policies?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I have asked that questions be heard in silence. That was not silence and I am sure you can tell the difference. That will be my last warning, otherwise people will be named.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Logan for the question. We know that the member for Logan is very passionate about this issue. I, like members on this side of the House, do not want to see 900,000 tonnes of waste from southern states, predominantly Sydney, dumped in the SEQ—enough to fill the Gabba. We want to stop the waste and stop the trucks. The member for Woodridge did some figures for me. During this question time between 80 and 100 tonnes of waste from New South Wales will be dumped in this state. To put it another way, 130 trucks filled with New South Wales rubbish are coming across the border each day.

The Lyons report says that a lot of that waste is contaminated. We can see from the Lyons report that the amount of waste coming into Queensland has almost doubled in the period from 2013-14 to 2016-17 and that in that waste there is contaminated soil. I honestly believe that we need to stop this amount of rubbish coming across the border from New South Wales. It is about time we find out whether the opposition is on Queensland's side or New South Wales' side. On this side of the House we back Queensland. Every single person on this side backs Queensland. Those on that side of the House back New South Wales. I want to see their true colours. Unfortunately, a parcel was delivered to me this morning for the opposition to reveal their true colours. I think it might be contaminated. I am really not game to touch it, but it is a blues jersey. I can't touch it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, resume your seat. All members are aware of the rules and standing orders that relate to the use of props. Premier, that should now be put away, particularly for the reason that it is from New South Wales.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What I want to hear today is whether those opposite are on Queensland's side or whether they back New South Wales. We want to stop the trucks from New South Wales. We are going to stop the waste from New South Wales. We will back Queensland every single step of the way. The New South Wales government is rubbing its hands together and sending all of this waste to Queensland, but now we are going to stop it.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I have cautioned you a couple of times today. I now warn you under the standing orders. You are very loud, and you stand out well and truly with your interjections.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It may well be a curse.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I have only just issued a statement. You are warned under the standing orders.

### **Taxation, Small Business**

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Minister for Small Business. Small business is the largest creator of jobs in Queensland. Did the minister insist on modelling the impacts on small business before signing off on Labor's new taxes?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. It is the first question I have been asked as Minister for Small Business by the opposition in this new term of parliament and it is the first question that the shadow minister has asked on anything to do with employment, small business or training and skills. It is a good day.

Let us talk about small business in Queensland. Small business is growing in Queensland under this government and we have the fastest jobs growth rate in the nation. Let us talk about how well small business is doing in this state. The number of Queensland small businesses increased by nearly three per cent last year. That is the biggest increase in Queensland over the past seven years. Let us talk about how this Labor government is supporting small business. In relation to the waste levy that we have heard ministerial statements about today, this is about stopping—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat, Minister. Members to my left, continued interjections are unacceptable. Member for Toowoomba North, you have been particularly persistent. You are warned under the standing orders. I will name members under standing orders if these interjections continue. I appreciate the subject matter, but it is not good for the order of the House.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** This levy is all about stopping more than 900,000 tonnes of waste being dumped in Queensland by the southern states. That amount of waste is currently costing small business and it is costing households, but this waste levy will not cost households. We have committed to working with small business. I have spoken—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Southport, you are warned for persistent interjections. I will continue to name members and if they persist they will receive the appropriate action.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** In relation to this levy, we will absolutely work with small business. They will be part of our stakeholder advisory group. They will be designing the levy with us. New South Wales currently has the highest levy, the highest number of small businesses and the fastest growth of small businesses in the country. We are going to continue to work with small business. While I am on my feet, let us look at their record for small business when they were in government.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on a matter of relevance. There are five new taxes. Will the minister answer the question about whether the modelling is done for all of the five new taxes?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, I have said before that it is not an opportunity for you to restate your question if you are rising to a point of order on relevance. There is no point of order.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I was speaking to the House. I would appreciate being heard in silence.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Their record while in government was to abolish the small business commissioner, which meant for three years when those opposite were in government Queensland had absolutely no representation at a national level to talk about the things that matter to small business. Those opposite can get up here any day and ask questions about small business, but this government absolutely backs small business. We have reintroduced a small business advocate which represents Queensland on a national stage, because for three years when they were in government—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to 118(b) and relevance with respect to the original question that was asked. The question was with respect to signing off on the new taxes and whether there was modelling of the impacts on small business. The minister I understand is answering the question in terms of now they are consulting, but the question was specific about the modelling prior to signing off on the new taxes, and the minister has not answered any of that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 118(b), I do ask the minister to ensure she is relevant to the question being asked.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Let us look at what they were going to do if they were re-elected. They were going to cut \$1½ million from Advancing Small Business, they were going to cut nearly \$5 million from Advancing Queensland and they were going to cut our job-growing programs. We stand up for small business. Those opposite cut and hurt them.

### Retail Trade

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House about the state of retail trade in Queensland?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Aspley for his question and congratulate him on his first speech in this House yesterday. From his contribution yesterday, it is very clear that the member for Aspley is thinking very deeply about big issues that are affecting our economy and security of jobs here in Queensland and right across Australia when he talks about the gig economy. We know that retail and small business are affected by the rise of the gig economy, so it is very important to talk about the health of retail trade here in Queensland.

ABS retail data that was released last week shows that here in Queensland \$62 billion in retail trade was recorded in the last year. In the month of January alone, there was \$5.2 billion in retail sales. That is our highest record ever, which is fantastic. This record level of activity is driven by the increase in jobs and confidence here in Queensland that has been steered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. This stands in stark contrast to what the LNP did when they were in government. By sacking Queenslanders, talking down the economy and driving down our economy, we saw a dip in confidence, a dip in jobs growth and a peak in unemployment, with an 11-year record high.

They have been doing their bit recently in terms of boosting retail trade in Queensland, and I do have to give them credit for that. I understand that in terms of their online shopping store they are having a monumental sale. Everything must go, starting with a book on the history of the LNP, a special signed copy, which I will table for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* LNP web page offering for sale a book titled *Special Commemorative Edition Foundations for a New Era* [399].

That is a special commemorative edition for only \$5. I tried to look for the sequel, 'The future of the LNP', but it just was not there. There are a number of items that we just cannot get anymore, including caps signed by Barnaby Joyce, Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls. They are just not there anymore.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, please table that.

**Ms TRAD:** I table that.

*Tabled paper:* LNP web page showing LNP merchandise [400].

You can still get a cap signed by the Leader of the Opposition for \$35. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* LNP web page offering for sale an LNP hat signed by the Leader of the Liberal National Party, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP [401].

No wonder she has not had time to write to Malcolm Turnbull about making sure that Queensland gets a fair—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You made a ruling with the Premier before with the jersey. The Deputy Premier has now had three or four props that she has displayed, despite your rulings and earlier rulings to the Deputy Premier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. Deputy Premier, I appreciate the fact you are tabling multiple documents. Whether all of them need to be displayed before being tabled is certainly a question that is worth asking.

**Ms TRAD:** The Premier has noted that the blue cap goes with the blue shirt from New South Wales. No wonder the member for Nanango has not had the time to write to Malcolm Turnbull to say, 'Don't cut our GST. Pay our health system what we are owed, and don't cut housing to remote Indigenous communities.' I have saved her the effort. I have written the letter for her. All she needs to do is sign it. Stop signing caps and start writing to Malcolm Turnbull defending Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Draft letter, dated 21 March 2018, prepared by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Prime Minister, Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, purportedly prepared for the Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to outline concerns about three critical issues facing Queenslanders [402].

(Time expired)

### Waste Levy

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. Will the minister guarantee the price of fish and chips will not increase because of Labor's new tax on grease trap and vegetable oil waste?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. This goes to the heart of the conversation that we are having with industry and with business about building a waste recycling and a circular economy in this state—the idea of being able to recycle oil and recycle paper right here in Queensland to create an economy, to create jobs and to manage our own waste.

Those opposite seem absolutely opposed to this waste levy here in Queensland, but just over 100 kilometres down the M1 the Liberals and Nationals have an entirely opposite position. The LNP in New South Wales knows what the answer is to Queensland's waste issues. On ABC news on 9 August 2017, the New South Wales environment minister had some advice for the Premier. She said that it was a simple fix in terms of being able to stop the trucks and stop the waste being dumped in our state. She said stopping the practice of interstate rubbish transfer was a simple fix. She said that all the Premier has to do is reintroduce the waste levy and this issue would go away. The New South Wales minister understands that this is an important step towards creating industry and managing—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Health, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms ENOCH:** The minister in New South Wales understands the importance of the levy and what it does for the economy and being able to create a circular economy and manage waste yourself. However, those opposite do not understand that whatsoever. We are taking on board Justice Lyons's report and his recommendations and we will continue to work with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy for Queensland and a levy that does not impact households. That is one of the

principles we will be presenting to the group. We want to see recycling happening in Queensland. That is why we are looking for ways to invest in that. They continue to oppose this idea, yet their own friends—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, I am hoping that you will get the message. There are interjections and then there are interjections and repeated, disruptive interjections.

**Ms ENOCH:** This side of the House is standing up for Queensland and we will continue to stand up for Queensland. We call on the opposition to join us and stand up for Queensland instead of New South Wales.

### Land 400

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. I ask: will the minister please update the House how news of the Land 400 decision has been received by people in Queensland?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. I pay tribute to her unwavering support of the Land 400 program, which has been secured by Queensland. From this year forward, 14 March will be known in Queensland as 'Land 400 day'. It was a significant victory—a victory overcoming the combined firepower of the Victorian government, the Victorian opposition, the Victorian Public Service, the Victorian media, the Victorian advertising blitz and even the member for Everton.

At news of Queensland's triumph what did we get from the member for Everton? We got a sarcastic tweet—what would you expect—saying that we 'played a lead role in the moon landing and the fall of the Berlin wall'. That is what he tweeted. I have, in fact, met Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon. You do not need to be a rocket scientist to understand how small-minded that tweet of the member for Everton was. It was a petty response to Queensland securing the biggest contract for construction in the history of the Australian Army. While there is no 'Tim' in 'team', I can certainly report to the House there certainly is a 'Deb' in 'debacle'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, use the correct title, please.

**Mr DICK:** What did the Leader of the Opposition do? She tweeted 'Awesome! Team @LNPQLD MPs have secured the #Land400 for QLD'. Is that true? If it is, I will tell honourable members what would be awesome: the LNP getting behind the Queensland film and television industry and telling the blues in Canberra—no wonder they are backing the blues; Malcolm Turnbull is from Sydney—and Malcolm Turnbull to back our film and television industry, back Cross River Rail and stop the funding cuts to health.

The truth of the matter is that we would not have got this contract if the Palaszczuk Labor government did not get Rheinmetall to come to Queensland. The unfortunate truth of Queensland politics is that the LNP always get the big moments wrong. This was their chance. They could have got on the maroon bus, but they are standing on the kerb waiting for the blues to turn up. The truth of the matter is that this contract was secured by Queensland and it will make a massive difference to the manufacturing industry and to Queensland workers in the future. The truth of all of this is that, when it comes to the Land 400 contract, the LNP are all at sea.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth and member for Theodore, I am cautioning both of you.

### Waste Levy

**Mr PERRETT:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. The Palaszczuk government's new tax will apply to fly ash. How does the minister guarantee her new tax is not going to have a direct impact on Queensland families' and farmers' electricity bills?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. As I have already outlined today, a stakeholder advisory group is being formed and will meet on Friday. Their task will be to help design a comprehensive, whole-of-state strategy and to design a waste levy with one of the principles being no impact on households. We have got business and industry working together with government to co-design the strategy and the levy that will take into account these issues.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Warrego.

**Ms ENOCH:** They will bring the expertise and they will consult and ensure we have the right information to design the strategy and the levy. That advisory group will hold their first meeting on Friday.

### **Waste**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. I ask: will the minister further update the House about the government's plans for managing waste?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. I understand that this has been a particular pressure for the people of Ipswich. I thank the member and I thank those Ipswich members who have been very vocal and have been advocates for their communities—the member for Ipswich, the member for Ipswich West and of course the member for Bundamba.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to developing a holistic strategy for managing waste in this state, as I have said many times now. As part of that process we will be collaborating with industry stakeholders and the community to meet our commitment that Queensland families will not face the cost of a waste levy. That is an idea that needs to be clarified for those opposite, because it seems like they need this broken down into simple terms. Not only are we addressing the immediate problem of interstate dumping, which is a particular one and an immediate one; we are also setting a path to improve waste management for generations to come. This means we will talk to and work with key stakeholders and the community as we forge that path.

Yesterday afternoon the member for Everton stood in this place and demonstrated to us that, when it comes to public consultation, the LNP just cannot cope with the concept. They do not know what to do with that kind of collaborative government. Instead of constructively being part of the process, the member for Everton stood here and mansplained the strategy that the Premier, the Deputy Premier and I set out clearly. Of course he cannot understand how the government can commit to avoiding an impact on families. This is the man who gave us the three strikes rule for public housing tenants when he was the minister for housing in 2013. He would not know consultative policy making if it walked up and introduced itself. Maybe the member for Everton should speak to the member for Callide, who in his maiden speech said he would hold me accountable for stopping Queensland becoming a dumping ground for interstate waste. I can assure the member that through our strategy we will be doing just that.

What did we hear from the member for Broadwater with regard to our strategy yesterday? Did he speak about investing in new industries? Did he say anything about creating jobs in the regions? Did he even talk about protecting our environment, which is his shadow portfolio area? That is three strikes. Let me be clear: the LNP's track record on waste policy absolutely stinks. They sold out Queenslanders for the cheapest price and now this government is cleaning up their mess.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next member to ask a question, I want to acknowledge that we have St Stephen's College, Algester State School, Pallara State School and Calamvale Community College, all from the electorate of Algester, in the gallery. I also acknowledge that we have St Augustine's College from the electorate of Jordan.

### **Waste Levy**

**Mr HART:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. Yesterday the Deputy Premier said while discussing the building industry, 'The cost of waste is charged back to the owner of the building to get rid of.' That is a fact. I ask: is this an admission the Palaszczuk government's new tax on home renovations waste will have a direct impact on Queensland families when they renovate their houses?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I could hear members to my right murmuring during the question. I ask that they be heard in silence. I cannot identify a particular member, but I caution all of you.

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. Once again, I outline that today I announced the membership of the stakeholder advisory group. They will be charged with the task of helping to co-design not just the levy but also the statewide strategy. We want to encourage people to recycle in this state, including the building industry. If we do not have the industry levers in place, that will be a very hard task. When the LNP removed the levy they not only opened the floodgates for rubbish to be

dumped in our state from other states but also robbed our state of the opportunity to build the infrastructure and prevented the industry from leveraging recycling opportunities—all of these aspects that we have been talking about today.

That is why the stakeholder advisory group will look at all of these aspects in the co-design of the levy and the co-design of the statewide strategy. We are looking for a strong path forward to ensure that our state is investing in that circular economy so that Queenslanders are investing in recycling in this state.

### Works for Queensland

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and I ask: will the minister inform the House how the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queenslanders through the Works for Queensland program and whether the minister is aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I will commence by wishing you and the rest of the House a happy Harmony Day. I thank the member for Gladstone for the question. I also want to thank him for officially opening the upgrade of the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre at Eidsvold on the weekend, which is a program that was supported under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.

As the Palaszczuk government went to the last election we knew how effective the Works for Queensland package was in delivering real infrastructure and jobs to regional Queensland. This is precisely why we committed to extend the program to the end of the 2020-21 financial year. This means that more jobs and more great projects are being delivered by local government right throughout regional Queensland.

Works for Queensland has delivered and it continues to deliver. It has already supported more than 9,000 jobs and there are more to come with over 1,300 projects. Let us have a look, shall we, at some of the projects that have been approved so far: \$600,000 to the Gympie Regional Council for the River to Rail Trail; \$606,000 to the Goondiwindi Regional Council to replace footpaths in CBDs right throughout the region; \$950,000 to the Maranoa Regional Council for the northern bore project in Roma—and the list goes on.

These are real projects delivering real outcomes right across regional Queensland. Make no mistake: Works for Queensland was at real risk at the time of the election because those opposite planned to scrap it. They were prepared to throw Works for Queensland on the scrap heap. It would just be part of the waste problem we now have to confront in Queensland. As a consequence, we now have a new chance with this refreshed parliament.

The three projects I mentioned and many more besides have a common thread: they are all in local government areas that have LNP members representing them. I challenge those members opposite to go back to their communities after this week's sitting and tell those councils that they did not deserve funding for those projects. Will they sit in silence while the mayors of those councils tell them time and time again how Works for Queensland has been a breath of fresh air and is delivering local results in their communities? Will they stay silent, or will they turn up to open events and celebrate them?

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Yes, they will turn up and do that if they can. The reality is that we have not seen the LNP deliver for the bush and the evidence for that is the result of the election. The Palaszczuk government delivers for the bush—

*(Time expired)*

### Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Industrial Relations. Minister, I table more emails between ETU boss Peter Simpson and the mangocube email account.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails regarding Energex and Stanwell [\[403\]](#).

ETU boss Peter Simpson says, 'I've texted Grace regarding this ... .' Simpson later says, 'Haven't got hold of Grace but spoken to Sharon her CoS.' He later writes, 'Energex have capitulated Comrades, thanks for your assistance.' Did the minister or her chief of staff, Sharon Durham, interfere in the ETU's dispute with Energex and the Stanwell Corporation?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before you answer the question, Minister, I want to again caution members about lengthy preambles. There is nothing wrong with tabling a document with those elements contained in it. I call the Minister for Industrial Relations.



**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Kawana for the question. The simple answer to your question is: absolutely not. This is about industrial relations in this state, which is something that you lot over there—

**CHAIR:** Minister, I ask that you direct your comments through the chair. Do not refer directly to members.

**Ms GRACE:** Absolutely, Mr Speaker. I am more than happy to do that. What is clear is that when we came to government there were no agreements with any agencies, GOCs or departments. The list of outstanding agreements that were due to be negotiated was incredible. In fact, the public sector, the core, had had a wage freeze for over 12 months.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gympie!

**Ms GRACE:** They were incapable of doing an agreement with their own staff. I get a text about an agreement—

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gympie! Member for Toowoomba South!

**Ms GRACE:**—with a GOC and somehow we are interfering in industrial relations. Isn't that a great big sign out with regard to IR in this state! The truth of the matter is that, unlike those opposite, when we deal with IR in this state we do it professionally, we do it properly and we deliver agreements for workers in this state. The only thing those opposite can hang their hat on with regard to workers in this state was sacking 14,000 public servants. That is the IR record they have in this House. It is the exact opposite over here because we do good agreements. We establish a wages policy that we adhere to. When we were doing agreements with GOCs and public sector agencies they were in line with our well-published wages policy in this state.

The member for Kawana needs a very good lesson in IR. You would never believe that he was the minister for IR in the Campbell Newman government, but he was. He is incapable of understanding anything to do with industrial relations and incapable of signing off on one agreement with their workers. The agreements were all outstanding until our government. No wonder the unions were concerned when they were in government, because do you know what workers got other than the sack? They got nothing. There were zero per cent wage increases. They took away—

**A government member:** What did they give themselves?

**Ms GRACE:** Yes, of course! When the member for Callide and Campbell Newman came in here they were able to give themselves a beautiful wage increase. Oh, it was glorious!

Honestly, Mr Speaker, if it were not so serious it would be funny. They stand up and question us on IR and about interfering with regard to industrial relations, but we are professional on this side. I am a professional ex-union official and very proud of it. When it comes to agreements we will do them second to none, unlike those who gave their staff nothing but sack, sell and—what was the other one?

*(Time expired)*

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I saw the member for Mackay jump first. I call the member for Mackay.

### **Vines Creek Bridges Project**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Vines Creek Bridges project in Mackay and what it means to access for the port of Mackay?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for Mackay for her question. When we came to government three years ago there was an absurd situation in Mackay that had not been dealt with by the previous government. There were two old bridges with load limits on the way to the port of Mackay which were old and needed replacing, but did the LNP replace them? No, they did not. They did not invest in regional infrastructure in Mackay.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I hear them interjecting because they do not care about regional infrastructure and they do not care about Mackay. Julieanne Gilbert, the member Mackay, got in there very early and got funding for the Vines Creek Bridges. This is a \$28 million investment which will allow large sized trucks



to get into the port. I am very glad that I visited there recently with the member for Mackay to see that we have got the job half done. It is a big worksite. It is increasing flood immunity. It is increasing the strength of the bridge so there can be an extension of the large mass limit route all the way to the port from the mines for the very first time.

I congratulate the member for Mackay on her achievement in getting the funding and getting the work done that the Newman LNP government refused to do for three years—did not back in Mackay, did not back in the region. Recently, I was very happy to see a visit to Mackay by the federal opposition leader, Bill Shorten, who was very interested in the issue of regional infrastructure and the future. He could see that the Palaszczuk government is investing in the Mackay Ring Road.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Members opposite do not like to hear the truth. But the Palaszczuk government is investing in the Vines Creek Bridges and the Mackay Ring Road—the largest infrastructure project on roads in the history of the area—and Bill Shorten has committed \$102 million to stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, whilst we had the ceasing of very loud and direct interjections, we have now gone into a murmur. It is not helpful for Hansard or the chair.

**Mr BAILEY:** Bill Shorten has committed \$102 million to stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road, a fantastic commitment to the Mackay community. I call on Canberra to match Bill Shorten's commitment to Mackay, because it is on the table. He understands the future of road infrastructure in terms of the port, jobs and productivity in that whole region. What do we have? We have the federal member for Dawson sitting on his hands and we have members in Canberra sitting on their hands, not committing to future infrastructure for the Mackay region. Bill Shorten is leading the way. This government supports Bill Shorten's federal commitment to Queensland. He is backing in Queensland. Will those opposite support Queensland, or will they keep apologising for Canberra?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next member, I acknowledge that we have visiting us today in Parliament House students from Varsity College in the electorate of Mermaid Beach.

### **Renewable Energy**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. With reference to the affordability of solar power and the efforts of government to transition to renewable sources of power, will the minister advise what specific initiatives are being developed to facilitate a transition to solar power or alternatives for those households that cannot afford the initial outlay, nor take out loans to do so, or may be disadvantaged through increasing power costs during the transition?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I ask the member to please pay close attention to long preambles. I believe that is too long. I understand it is your first question in the House.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for the question and congratulate her on her first question and speech. It was a very good question as well regarding the renewable future for Queensland. This government has a 2030 50 per cent renewable energy policy for Queensland, but we have not forgotten those important people the member mentioned. We have renewable energy going to public housing. Lockhart River has renewable energy in place with battery storage as well, and we have not forgotten Cairns, Rockhampton, Logan or public housing having access to renewable energy, because we look after those people that we represent and know that they have a bright future in renewable energy in this state.

I also refer to no-interest loans for renewable energy. That is in progress with battery storage as well. Members of the member's community are able to access those no-interest loans for renewable energy such as solar and batteries for their home. We have not forgotten them either. We have an affordable energy plan that looks after people we really need to look after, such as rebates for asylum seekers, rebates for concession card holders and rebates for seniors. We are looking after those people as we progress towards our renewable energy future, with our affordable energy plan of \$50 rebates going back to families and a guarantee of no price increases above inflation. We are doing better than that, because the QCA competition report shows price decreases with typical small businesses of up to 4.3 per cent and households of 2.3 per cent in regional Queensland. We are on track to do better than our Affordable Energy Plan. We are looking after people in regional Queensland and in our cities because of our Affordable Energy Plan.

With our Powering Queensland plan and switching on Swanbank E, directives to Stanwell and renewable energy going back into the grid, we had an immediate 15 per cent reduction in wholesale power prices. We have the lowest wholesale prices on the eastern seaboard. The Queensland Competition Authority reports also said that network costs were coming down. We have the brightest, strongest retail competition in Australia here in South-East Queensland. Families can save up to \$600 on their bill simply by shopping around and looking at the retail competition in our state. That retail competition is reflected in regional Queensland, because members know that the prices in South-East Queensland dictate the prices in regional Queensland. No-one in Queensland misses out on our renewable energy policies.

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

## HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 107).

### Second Reading



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.16 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Our hospital foundations do amazing work. They work closely with the community to deliver projects they need. They complement our hospital and health services in the work that they do and raise money for vital services and research. They bring a lot of cheer to sick Queenslanders with community activities and events, but their act has not been updated in almost 40 years. The Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 will modernise how they operate and let them get on with the job of helping sick Queenslanders. This bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to support Queensland's burgeoning industrial cannabis industry.

The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee tabled its report into the bill on 15 March 2018. I thank the committee for its careful consideration of the bill. The committee made one recommendation in its report—that the bill be passed.

The legislation currently governing hospital foundations has not been substantially updated since the act came into force in the early 1980s. This bill will replace the outdated act with a contemporary legislative framework for Queensland's hospital foundations as they continue to provide invaluable support for our public health system. This will assist the foundations to manage their day-to-day business. Oversight of higher risk financial transactions will of course be retained.

The bill also ensures that the Minister for Health has appropriate powers to inquire into a foundation's operations should there be any concerns about the foundation's governance or financial viability. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to allow the industrial cannabis industry to diversify into food production in Queensland. Selling hempseed foods became legal in Queensland on 12 November 2017, but the current legislation prevents the existing Queensland based industrial cannabis industry expanding into domestic and export food production avenues. The bill will allow local industrial cannabis growers to develop the industry on a commercial basis while safeguarding against illicit activities. Allowing the production of hemp food products in Queensland will have a positive impact on rural and regional areas by creating new jobs right across the supply chain.

Over 4,000 Queenslanders volunteer in our hospital foundations. They raised an incredible \$74 million last financial year alone. I know the members in this House are excited to talk about the achievements of their individual foundations today, but I will mention a foundation that everyone in this House knows well.

The Children's Hospital Foundation held its fourth annual telethon in conjunction with Channel 9 in November last year. The Children's Hospital Foundation raised over \$12 million to fund lifesaving medical research, new equipment and to provide patient and family support programs. I acknowledge the former minister for health, the member for Woodridge, who kicked off fundraising at the launch of the telethon by pledging the government's support of \$1 million. Over the last four years, the telethon has raised a whopping \$46 million for Queensland kids. That is the kind of incredible work we want to support with this bill.

I will be moving amendments during the consideration in detail stage of this bill. These amendments have been circulated along with the explanatory notes. The amendments clarify the operations of the Mental Health Act 2016 and ensure that information sharing arrangements to support the Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court operate as intended. I will speak briefly to these amendments.

The Mental Health Act 2016 enables prisoners and persons involved in the criminal justice system to access mental health treatment. The 2016 act, which repealed the Mental Health Act 2000, made significant improvements to the delivery of mental health treatment and care services in Queensland. The new act places Queensland at the forefront of mental health legislation nationally. The amendments that I will move during the consideration in detail stage clarify that time spent in an authorised mental health service, known as an AMHS, under a classified patient admission, particular judicial orders or forensic and treatment support orders continue to be recognised as a period of detention or imprisonment. Section 543 of the repealed act expressly provided for periods spent in an AMHS to count towards time served.

I am advised by my department that there was no intention to change this policy. However, an equivalent provision to section 543 was not included in the new act. The government is satisfied that, even in the absence of an express provision stating that this time counts towards a sentence, the broader legislative framework still operates to ensure that this time is and should be counted as a period of detention or imprisonment. Queensland Corrective Services and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General have therefore continued to count time spent in an AMHS as time served in detention or remand. However, in the interests of clarity, I intend to move amendments to make this express in the Mental Health Act.

The amendments to the Mental Health Act 2016 expressly state that time served in an AMHS under these orders is considered time served in detention or imprisonment and retrospectively validate this provision's application to 5 March 2017, when the Mental Health Act commenced. The Mental Health Act provides for categories of forensic orders and treatment support orders which support recovery in the community. The amendments clarify that the time a person spends on this kind of order does not count towards time served.

The amendments will also enable the Chief Psychiatrist to share information about the pre-sentence detention of a person in an AMHS so that authorities can ensure only time served as an inpatient is taken into account. These amendments are beneficial. They clarify the longstanding practice under successive governments that time served in an AMHS is counted as time served. The new information sharing provisions are internal to government and are operational in nature to ensure that time served is calculated correctly. My department has consulted Queensland Corrective Services, Youth Justice and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General on the proposed amendments. These agencies support the amendments.

While I am talking about mental health facilities in this state, I want to thank our incredible, dedicated mental health workers. Last week the Palaszczuk government governed from the booming region of Ipswich. While I was fortunate to have plenty of wonderful experiences out there, the thing that really stood out was my visit to Wolston Park, now known as The Park. The Park is a 70-bed, high-security inpatient centre for mental health. It is the only service of its kind in the state. It provides highly supervised, supportive and secure inpatient services to people with very complex mental health needs. These are people who have committed a serious indictable offence or who are involved with the criminal justice system, so it is not always the easiest place to work.

I was fortunate to meet staff and patients and speak with them about their care. I saw firsthand the Consumer Companion Program, which has recently been introduced into the high-security setting following its success throughout all other mental health inpatient units within West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. It is a program for volunteers who have had their own mental health struggles to come and work with people in the facility, using their own lived experience of mental illness to offer meaningful support, encouragement, hope and mentorship to others facing similar situations. I met one volunteer who is teaching a young man to play bridge.

This program is a key initiative of West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. It gives the companions and patients time for one-on-one interaction, structured activities and peer support, but most importantly it provides them with hope for recovery. It is a credit to the staff at The Park that they are championing these kinds of initiatives that have a real impact on the lives of the people they work with. It is also a great example of how patients are at the heart of everything we do in our healthcare system and their input leads to better health outcomes for all Queenslanders. I wanted to make special mention of the staff here today, to say thank you for the sometimes difficult but very important work that they do.


I will also move amendments to support the operation of the re-established Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court. The Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court recommenced operations on 29 January 2018. The court is supported by a multidisciplinary review team. It is critical that information can be shared between agencies on this team. The Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008 include the Department of Health as a treatment order agency.

However, this does not capture hospital and health services, as they are statutory bodies. The amendments will ensure that hospital and health services are a treatment order agency for the purposes of the Drug and Alcohol Court. An amendment to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 will ensure chief executives of HHSs can delegate their functions to share information to appropriately qualified health service employees. The amendments will ensure the multidisciplinary review team supporting the Drug and Alcohol Court can operate as intended.

Queensland has a world-class public health system. This health system is supported by the amazing staff and volunteers of Queensland's hospital foundations. In 2016-17 foundations collectively reported revenue of approximately \$74 million. This revenue goes back into our health system to fund lifesaving research, sponsor doctors, nurses and other health professionals to complete further education and training, deliver specialised medical equipment and provide support services to patients and their carers.

This bill supports the operation of these foundations now and into the future. The amendments to be moved during the consideration in detail stage will ensure our criminal justice system operates as it was intended to. It is appropriate that these clarifications be made today to provide certainty to the agencies involved in administering the provisions. I again thank the committee for its detailed consideration of the bill. I also acknowledge the support provided by hospital foundations and hospital and health services during development of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Before I call the member for Mudgeeraba, I remind the following members that they are on warning and will continue to be until the next break: the Minister for Education, the member for Logan, the member for Everton, the member for Southport, the Minister for Health, the member for Glass House, the member for Kawana and the member for Broadwater.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.28 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 as the shadow minister for health. This bill seeks to repeal the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 and replace it with a new legislative framework. This new framework will allow for foundations to support the public health system in Queensland. This bill generally deals with the property that hospital foundations can hold and manage, how foundations and their boards are established, and how they are administered and overseen. Secondly, the bill makes amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to allow for industrial cannabis to be further developed. This follows a decision at the federal level to enable some hempseed products to be sold as food.

From the outset the opposition will not be opposing this bill. Hospital foundations do great work in this state by supporting their hospital and health services and supporting the Queensland public health system more broadly. They do this by raising funds that go towards improving facilities, supporting educational and training opportunities for HHS staff and funding research. Importantly, hospital foundations support and promote the health and wellbeing of their own local communities.

Currently, Queensland has 13 hospital foundations that work alongside our HHSs. These include hospital foundations in our regional areas, including in the Far North, Ipswich, Mackay, Toowoomba and Townsville. There are also metropolitan foundations such as the PA Research Foundation, the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation. There are also other foundations on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast and well as a Children's Hospital Foundation and an HIV Foundation. I particularly acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, which works hard to support our front-line health services on the Gold Coast.

Over the 35 years since the legislation was passed, foundations have undertaken a wide range of initiatives to support their local health services and improve health outcomes for Queenslanders, particularly through fundraising. Their support includes grants and in-kind support for medical equipment, life-saving research and professional development and travel opportunities for staff. Importantly, as we know, modern facilities are vital to having a world-class hospital and health system, and hospital foundations have provided facilities to support patients, staff and the community for the past three decades. In 2016-17 alone, the foundations collectively raised more than \$74 million for their HHSs—a huge sum that will go a long way. All of that has been achieved chiefly by volunteers who give up their time and devote their efforts to a very worthy cause—to achieve better public health outcomes.

The foundations are supported by a full-time-equivalent staff of over 180, but the vast majority of those who contribute are unpaid. In fact, collectively foundations have a volunteer workforce that is estimated to be at well over 4,000 people. That is 4,000 Queenslanders who routinely get out and about to assist with a hospital's fundraising efforts out of a genuine concern for their community and their health service. As a registered nurse and as the shadow minister, I personally thank the thousands of volunteers who have contributed so much to our health system through foundations.

In the 35 years since the Hospitals Foundations Act has been in place, a lot has changed. It is our hope that this bill will allow for a more streamlined approach to foundations and allow them to continue their vital work under a more appropriate framework for contemporary Queensland. Currently, hospital foundations are established as statutory bodies under the act. In fact, they are set up as bodies corporate that are governed by at least seven members. These members need to be appointed by the Governor in Council and a member of the hospital and health service, such as the chairperson of the board, or a nominee.

The current act also prescribes a specific membership requirement for foundations. At the moment, the act requires a body corporate to include an employee of a university or another educational institution. The act also requires bodies corporate to include an employee of a hospital within the associated HHS. The current act is considered burdensome and unnecessarily prescriptive. It is also considered to be not in line with current drafting standards. In essence, after 35 years, the current act no longer accurately reflects the needs of foundations.

This bill means that we can be more flexible when it comes to appointing members of foundations. Instead of specific requirements, members will be appointed based on their knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation. They will also be appointed based on their expertise in a relevant field. That can include expertise in areas including business, financial management, marketing, communications, health, law, or another relevant field.

In terms of the bill's amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, we know that last year the federal government amended the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code. This amendment allowed for the sale of food in Queensland made with low-THC hempseed. However, currently, the Drugs Misuse Act does not allow for the production of industrial cannabis seeds for the purpose of human consumption in Queensland. That means, to produce food made from hempseeds, these seeds will need to be sourced from other states. That is despite commercial industrial cannabis protection for things such as fibre already being licensed in Queensland under the act. Therefore, the amendment seeks to enable industry development, which is commercially led, within the cannabis industry while also dealing with some pre-existing issues within the act.

The bill was reintroduced after it lapsed when the previous parliament was dissolved. This new bill contains a number of minor and technical amendments that were identified by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel as being required. They include amendments to the hospital foundations provisions, including some minor grammatical corrections and word changes. Similarly, the clause to amend the Drugs Misuse Act provides for a number of minor word changes.

I thank the members of the committee for their consideration of bill, particularly my colleague the deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, as well as the member for Nicklin for their hard work in scrutinising this bill. I note the committee made one recommendation and that was that the bill be passed. During the committee's consideration of this bill two submissions by two stakeholders were given to the committee. One was from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, which supports the bill but raises concerns about proposals to change the composition of boards.

I also note that the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service raised a concern that this bill will mean that funds raised by the local hospital foundation may be diverted away from supporting the HHS and towards broader health services in that community. I will be asking the minister to clarify that in consideration in detail. Although it is encouraging to see this HHS contribute to the discussion, it is worth noting that this bill is not making changes to the way in which hospital foundations operate, or their broad principles. Instead, the bill is simplifying the membership of the board to allow for greater flexibility.

I understand the minister will be moving amendments to the bill that are outside the long title and I appreciate the briefing from the minister's office this morning on this matter. These amendments are technical in nature, but both fix up errors that were made by previous bills that were introduced last year that made changes to the drug court and the Mental Health Act. It is disappointing that these amendments have been rushed in and could not go through the committee process, but we understand the need for operational certainty for both the mental health system and drug rehabilitation and treatment orders. As I said, the LNP will not be opposing the amendments but note that they are retrospective in nature, which will close off any potential issues relating to the period of detention a person serves in an authorised mental health service.

Again, I acknowledge all of those who play a role in supporting their local hospital and health service. The LNP believes in providing a world-class hospital and health system for Queenslanders. The role that volunteers play in supporting their hospital foundations is absolutely vital.



**Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.37 am): As chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, it gives me pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. The bill was introduced in August last year in the previous parliament and was reported on by the former health committee in October 2017. The former committee recommended that the bill be passed and that during the bill's second reading the then minister for health and minister for the ambulance service clarify some items, which the department has done in advice to us. The bill lapsed when the parliament was dissolved on 29 October 2017 prior to its second reading. The current version of the bill is substantially the same as the previous version save for minor and technical amendments that were identified as being required by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

The committee had regard to the report of the former committee and information used by the former committee, such as written advice from the Department of Health and advice from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries during a public briefing. The committee called for submissions on the new bill and received two, one of which was identical to the sole submission received in 2017 by the QNMU. Given the similarities between the bills and that the committee received only one submission by the due date but accepted a late submission, the committee decided not to hold a public briefing or public hearing.

The bill proposes to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. The Hospitals Foundations Act provides for the establishment for and regulation of hospital foundations, of which there are 13 across Queensland, such as the Townsville Hospital Foundation, which help the hospital and health services support the Queensland public health system generally.

They do this by raising funds to improve facilities, support educational and training opportunities for staff, fund research and support and promote the health and wellbeing of communities. The bill further proposes to streamline the legislation, remove unnecessary prescription, ensure that legislation reflects hospital foundations' current operational practices and amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable industrial cannabis seeds to be grown for human consumption in Queensland. I suggest that allowing for the growth of industrial cannabis in Queensland could be good for jobs especially given the Queensland climate.

The former committee recommended clarification of two matters which the Department of Health very kindly provided. They explained that not requiring a hospital foundation to obtain ministerial approval to acquire a business by way of a gift but requiring ministerial approval to acquire a business by another means was acceptable because acquiring a business is considered a high-risk financial transaction and is not a transaction routinely entered into by hospital foundations. The department also explained that exempting hospital foundations from obtaining ministerial approval if a business is acquired by gift is based on practicality because in some instances it may be impossible for a hospital foundation to seek the minister's approval before acquiring an asset by gift.


The department also explained the intended interaction between clause 66 of the bill in relation to property invested in a hospital foundation and provisions of clauses 52 and 53 in relation to obtaining ministerial approval for certain special financial arrangements. It explained that clause 53 makes clear that the minister's approval is not required before a hospital foundation can acquire or dispose of particular property received by gift. It also explained that clause 66 applies to any property that is subject to a condition or trust and allows a hospital foundation to dispose of property that is subject to a condition or trust if the property is unfit for purpose, not required or of insufficient value. In effect, both clauses 53 and 66 alleviate the administrative burden for hospital foundations when dealing with assets.

I thank the Department of Health for its very helpful advice. The explanatory notes to the bill state the hospital foundations and hospital and health services, or HHSs, were given consultation drafts of the bill for comment and that the hospital foundations were supportive of the bill. The explanatory notes also state that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries held a forum with a range of industry stakeholders to discuss the proposed amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 and that stakeholders supported those proposed amendments.

Our committee was greatly aided in its examination of the bill by the work of its predecessor committee, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The former committee's work was invaluable to this committee. I would like to thank the former chair, the member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard, and the members of the committee, including my colleague the member for Caloundra, who continues in this parliament on that same committee as deputy chair. I thank all of my fellow committee members for their contributions on our first bill and our fantastic and very busy committee secretariat staff, Mr Rob Hansen, James Gilchrist and Lorraine Bowden.

I acknowledge the fantastic work of the members of the Townsville Hospital Foundation. Recently I met with the General Manager, Judy Higgins, as we had a general discussion on some aspects of the bill before us. Despite tough times in Townsville over recent years, our foundation has done remarkable work. The \$6.2 million paediatric ward development at the Townsville Hospital was helped enormously by over \$1.2 million being raised through the Townsville Hospital Foundation. They should each be acknowledged and commended for their outstanding work. I am pleased to advise members of the House that I shall not frighten them this year by wearing a bright pink floral number, as I did in 2015 as a dare by our hospital foundation. I raised thousands of dollars on that day, a day that is still in my mind. However, anything is possible. In a few weeks I will present our Townsville Hospital Foundation with a framed gift that I know will assist them in raising more funds for our foundation.

I note that the committee recommends the bill. In relation to the two amendments to be moved during consideration in detail that the minister spoke of, they are straightforward. I am glad to hear from the member for Mudgeeraba that there is no opposition in regard to this bill or the amendments. I support the bill and recommend it to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.44 am): I rise with pleasure to debate the bill before the House. I start by thanking the members of the committee: the member for Thuringowa, the chair of the committee, and the members for Maiwar, Nicklin, Rockhampton and Lytton. I also give a great deal of thanks to the secretariat. The secretariat actually makes this work much more enjoyable and much simpler as well. Mr Rob Hansen and his team have done a magnificent job. I also join with my colleague the chairman of the committee to pass on my thanks to the former committee and, indeed, to the former chairperson, the member for Nudgee, who is in the House at this point in time.

The bill does two things in essence: it replaces the current act and streamlines the operation of the foundations; it also clarifies whether the minister's consent is required for a foundation to buy a business or to accept a gift. That became a point of some contention during the debate. The department wrote explaining the distinction between the consent being required to buy a business and why it is not required to accept a gift. I have to say in relation to those issues—and with respect to the department—it is still somewhat unclear to me as to why the foundation is not required to seek the consent of the minister to accept a gift but it is required to seek consent to purchase a property or some asset. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act to allow industrial cannabis seeds to be grown for human consumption. At the end of the day the committee recommended that the bill be accepted and agreed to by the House and the LNP has agreed to that stand as well.

There were a number of issues raised by submitters, one by the Darling Downs HHS that raised a point that money could be used for other than supporting the local HHS or HHS operations. The department, in correspondence, dismisses that, stating that the foundations act for the benefit of a particular HHS, a specific hospital, or even for the health system generally. Foundations are manned at the board to the floor level by local people. There is no doubt about that. I have no doubt that if any problems arose in relation to how funds were given out or distributed or the fact that money was being diverted in a manner other than as required by the objects of the foundation that would become public knowledge with resulting fallout for the foundation. I have no doubt that foundations act in the best interest of HHSs, all their components and also those who live in the HHS precinct.

The QNMU also raised a concern about the removal of an employee of a HHS or a university sitting on the foundation board. The rationale for this was that there may well be no member with a health background who would sit on the board. That statement flies in the face of common sense because when one considers the board and the geographical spread they include Bundaberg, the children's hospital here in Brisbane, Far North Queensland, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Mackay, PA, Prince Charles, RBWH, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba and Townsville.

It is simply incredible to believe that across a spread of the areas covered by those foundations you would not find somebody who could sit on the board who has a qualification as required by the existing act. The department states that by removing this requirement it gives the board greater flexibility. In my opinion that is again flying in the face of reality in many cases. For example, who would not want to have somebody with knowledge of how the HHS operates within the hospital system advising the foundation as to exactly how best money could be used on the ground in the hospitals? Who would not want a doctor, a nurse or a CEO representative to advise how \$10,000 could go to renal or other initiatives at the hospital? It is simply a nonsense argument to say that having that person on the board would not satisfy the requirement of flexibility.

Quite simply, this issue flies in the face of reality. It is common sense that foundations do and should continue to seek the input of those who are qualified to assist them in making recommendations about where money should be spent. As I said, these foundations are spread right across the state. Four million people live in this state. It is hard to believe that we cannot find 13-odd people with a

medical or health background gained from a university or a hospital to sit on those boards and offer explanations and advice. I echo the comments of the shadow minister. Foundations do exceptional work; they do great work. As the minister said, last financial year some \$74 million was raised, which is a great effort by the boards and the foundations, and also by the people of this great state who recognise the role that they perform.

I highlight the Caloundra Hospital Auxiliary, which is not a foundation but a board that has been operating since 1991 and that works solely for the Caloundra Hospital. Since the time of its commencement to date, it has raised over \$2 million and all of that money has been spent on the hospital at Caloundra. In August of last year, they donated \$155,000 to the renal, palliative and ophthalmology units at the Caloundra Hospital. Ladies, if you want to get a good bargain, go to Bardo's Bazaar, the op-shop run by the Caloundra Hospital Auxiliary. They will give you a great deal on some wonderful garments and, no, I am not wearing any. They do magnificent work. If you want a good cup of coffee, get yourself into the Mary Rose Cafe at the Caloundra Hospital. Remember those two names: Bardo's Bazaar for a good deal and Mary Rose Cafe for a nice cup of coffee.

**An honourable member:** Proud sponsors.

**Mr McARDLE:** They are proud sponsors of the Caloundra Hospital Auxiliary and I am a great supporter of them.


As I said, all Queenslanders must be proud of their foundations and the great work that they do. This government should also be proud of the great work that they do, with \$74 million raised in the last financial year. I will explain why. The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service has a deficit of \$32.1 million. They have been propped up by the local Cairns foundation. The great work that that foundation does is helping the Cairns HHS obtain the outcomes that regional people need from their health services.

With a litany of disasters in relation to health, the government should be on its knees thanking the foundations for the great work that they do. In regard to that litany of disasters overseen by the Labor Party, the foundations have played a large part in assisting, including in the Bundaberg Base Hospital disaster, the dental waiting lists, the outpatient waiting list for the waiting list, the payroll debacle, the fake Tahitian prince issue and the ramping and access block, which were all brought to a conclusion under the stewardship of the LNP and Lawrence Springborg.

In the time left to me, I will turn to the amendments and, in particular, the amendment to the Mental Health Act that was dropped into the House today. I make the point that the minister said that, in total, the amendments are to provide certainty. I think he also said that the department believed that they were not really required but were put in just to make certain that we are covered in relation to the law.

If the department is certain that they are not needed, why put them in? The reason is this: we all know that, if this goes before a judge, under the current law the issue could well be that the process undertaken by the department is wrong and that the counting they are doing is incorrect according to the law as it currently stands. This is not just about the individual who is the subject of the application; every person impacted by the terms of the current law will be impacted if this particular amendment does not go through. That is the reality. We can have all the ideas that we want, but we can be absolutely dead wrong. Only a court will make a determination on the validity of the term of a statute, which is why this particular amendment has been placed before the House.

The bill should be supported. The foundations do a fantastic job. I simply say to all involved in the foundations: congratulations on the great work that you do.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.54 am): I rise to speak on the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. I thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services for introducing the bill to this parliament. I also thank the chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, the member for Thuringowa, and my fellow committee members for their consideration of the bill. I thank those who lodged written submissions on the bill and, of course, the committee secretariat. The only recommendation that the committee made was that the bill be supported. Therefore, it is interesting that the member for Caloundra stands here today and criticises the bill, given that these matters were not canvassed during the perusal of the bill.

The member for Thuringowa spoke very glowingly of the hospital foundation in his electorate, and all members of this House with a hospital board in their electorates speak very highly of them. The member for Caloundra talked about the makeup of the boards. In Townsville, for example, the foundation membership includes a registered nurse and Dr Matthew Bryant, the Director of the North Queensland Persistent Pain Management Service, as well as other health professionals. These changes will not preclude people with a medical background from being a member of a board.



I recognise the hard work of the former Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee of the 55th Parliament in examining this bill. Their endeavours gave our committee an excellent platform on which to work.

As I have already said, hospitals are a fundamental institution in Queensland communities. Throughout my time as a member of parliament, I have heard countless stories about how hospitals have supported families and friends during some of the most difficult times in their lives. I have heard stories of the contributions that they make to support local foundations. Like many members here, I have personal experience of different hospitals and I acknowledge the great work that our local hospitals and their staff do in supporting families.

Hospital foundations play an important role in supporting hospitals and improvements to the public health system by raising funds to purchase medical equipment, upgrade health service facilities, support educational and training opportunities for staff, and medical research. Across the state 13 foundations, run almost entirely by volunteers, go to great lengths to raise money for the benefit of individuals, families, hospital staff, local communities and the greater Queensland community. In fact, in the 2016-17 financial year, foundations collectively reported income raised of over \$74 million. Other members have mentioned that outstanding figure, which shows just how integral the foundations are in supporting our Queensland hospitals.

This bill was introduced in response to the outdated legislation regarding these important institutions, which have not undergone a substantial review since their introduction in the 1980s. The objective of the bill is to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982, to streamline the legislation, to remove unnecessary prescription and to ensure the legislation reflects the current operational practices of hospital foundations. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1984 to enable industrial cannabis seeds to be grown for human consumption in Queensland. The bill supports and improves Queensland public health systems by providing for the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property; the detailed outline of a foundation's powers, with a number of powers requiring the minister's approval; the establishment of foundations and boards for foundations; and matters relating to the administration and oversight of foundations.


Under the bill, foundations will continue to be established as body corporates. The board membership must comprise at least seven members—six members recommended by the minister and one person who is a hospital and health service board member. However, it does not mention anywhere that health professionals are precluded from being members. The bill removes the specific membership requirement in the current act and, instead, provides that, when nominating members to the board, the minister may have regard to whether the person has a significant understanding of legislation applying to foundations and the skills, experience or expertise the minister considers relevant or necessary to support the board in performing its functions. The bill also includes new powers to ensure that the minister has appropriate oversight where there are concerns about a foundation's governance or financial viability.

The board is required to give the minister written notice of a matter that raises a significant concern about the foundation's financial viability or their administration or management. Regardless of whether the board has given the minister notice about a matter of significant concern, the minister may ask the board to give information or documents relating to the board's functions under the bill.

As I have already said, the bill introduces amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. An amendment to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, which took effect on 12 November 2017, allows for the sale of low-THC hempseed foods in Queensland. However, without amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act all industrial cannabis seeds used in hempseed foods in Queensland must be imported from interstate or overseas.

Due to the increasing popularity of foods made from hempseeds, which are grown by the cannabis plant, the production of hempseed foods will be legalised in Queensland. This aligns Queensland with other Australian jurisdictions and ensures that Queensland businesses can participate in this growing market, instead of purchasing the product from overseas or interstate. This will again create the opportunity for new industries in Queensland and create more jobs for Queenslanders.

This bill recognises the importance of ensuring that the legislative framework around the hospital boards reflects their current work and operational needs so that they can continue to service our community and support Queensland's public health system. It also supports local Queensland businesses by ensuring they can participate in a growing new market and industry. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.01 pm): I rise to speak to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. As other members of this House have already outlined, this bill, and ultimately the act, provides for the establishment and regulation of hospital foundations. We all know that those foundations help our hospital and health services—and, as a result, the public health system more broadly—by raising funds to improve facilities. They support education and training opportunities for staff. They fund research. They support and promote the health and wellbeing of communities.

The electorate of Glass House is well represented by the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation as well as the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation as part of the Brisbane Metro North Hospital and Health Service. I want to spend a moment reflecting on the spin-off from those foundations. These foundations started 35 years ago. Thirty-four years ago the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital auxiliary commenced its operations. The Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital does not have a full-blown foundation. It comes under the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and therefore the Sunshine Coast Hospital Foundation.

This incredibly formidable band of women have done incredible things for the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and for the broader Maleny community over the course of 34 years. I had the privilege of attending their AGM on 20 February this year. If we want something done in Maleny we give it to this group of women. They are very friendly, but they are formidable. They achieve so much. I want to acknowledge outgoing president, Val Bridger, and outgoing secretary, June Dunn. Both of them have done a stellar job over many years in their roles on the executive. In providing her report, Val listed some of the activities that the auxiliary got up to in the last year.

One of their primary fundraising activities is providing morning teas or catering for various activities. They held Fashion and Flowers at the Maleny showground hall. They catered for the Maleny Garden Club's Gardening on the Edge event. They catered for one of our significant fundraisers for men's health, Muscle on the Mountain. They helped out for the Maleny Garden Club's friendship luncheon. They held a hospital fete, albeit in appalling conditions as the rain pelted down in Maleny. They have had memorial afternoon teas as well. They have raised over \$17,000 in the past 12 months.

Val talks about the comradery that comes from working together as a team to deliver this catering and deliver these fundraising opportunities. She goes on to talk about some of the highlights and some of the lowlights of the year. The 2016-17 year was certainly a challenging year for the auxiliary. In July 2016 they lost Glennis Manning, the former president, who passed away after a lengthy illness. She is sorely missed. On a brighter note, they continue to welcome more and more members to the auxiliary. As a result they are able to do more and more for the community.

To give members some indication of what they actually achieve I point out that for the year 2017 they raised over \$86,000 through catering and through donations from the broader community. As a result of that they were able to put more than \$75,000 worth of donations into the hospital during that year. That included the purchase of: three VersaCare beds; an ECG machine and trolley; a Cocoon patient warmer; two resus trolleys for the emergency rooms; an ER storage trolley; a special patient chair; and a donation to the Delta Therapy Dogs program. Many of us know the benefits that those programs provide. On top of that they purchased catering equipment for the auxiliary, including coffee machines, tablecloths and various kitchen needs, to the value of \$2,000. All of that was done through their efforts as a group of wonderful women in our community.


I think the best way to acknowledge that great work is to read the comments of the Senior Medical Superintendent of Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Dr Ted Chamberlain, in responding to Val Bridger's report. He said—

... thanking all Members of the Auxiliary and expressing gratitude for the assistance given in so many ways. He commented that he was profoundly touched by all that Auxiliary members do. The Hospital exists because of its engagement with the community and assistance from Auxiliary members makes so much possible. He also commented that the word 'auxiliary' comes from the Latin 'auxilium' which means to support and encourage and that encompasses what the Auxiliary does. He expressed his gratitude to the Executive, and all members for the great work done, the money raised, and the support given to the Hospital and he hoped that the Hospital returned its gratitude.

As members would expect at an AGM, we had a bit of a changing of the guard. As I said, president, Val Bridger, and secretary, June Dunn, stood down. Val did not go far, though. She came back as vice president. The new president, Louise Hickey, whom I have known for many years in the Maleny community, has stepped up into the role of president. Paula Richardson has carried on as treasurer. Lily Reid continues on in her role as the secretary. I pay special thanks to Lily for providing a copy of the AGM minutes ahead of schedule so that I could incorporate some of it into my contribution today. The general committee members are Linda Costello, Barbara Purcell, Margaret Ingram and Judy Findlay. Together that group of women will lead the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital auxiliary throughout the remainder of 2018.

I think all members in this House have reflected on the role that hospital foundations play in our broader health services and in the broader community. I reflect on the contribution made by the member for Caloundra when he was talking about the Caloundra Hospital. It is often the volunteers and the foundations and auxiliaries that go above and beyond.

I know that the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital has found a particular niche within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. It does a lot of work with stroke patients in terms of their rehabilitation. It has won a number of awards as a result. One of the biggest reasons they continue to provide such a fantastic service to stroke patients or general community members who require health assistance is because of the work of the ladies of the hospital auxiliary. I commend them for everything they do and may they long continue their service to the hospital and to the broader Maleny community.


 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.08 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. This bill was introduced into the previous parliament in August last year and reported on by the former Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in October 2017. The bill lapsed when parliament was dissolved on 29 October 2017, prior to its second reading. The current version of the bill is substantially the same as the previous version, except for some minor amendments identified by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

The committee had regard to the report of the former committee and information from the former committee, such as written advice from the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, provided during public hearings. The former committee recommended clarification of two matters which the Department of Health has kindly done. I thank the department for their very helpful advice.

The bill proposes to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 to streamline the legislation, remove unnecessary prescription and ensure the legislation reflects hospital foundations' current operational practices, and amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable industrial cannabis seeds to be grown for human consumption in Queensland. The explanatory notes to the bill state that hospital foundations and hospital and health services were given consultation drafts of the bill for comment and that hospital foundations were supportive of the bill. The explanatory notes also state that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries held a forum with a range of industry stakeholders to discuss the proposed amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 and that stakeholders supported the proposed amendments.

I would like to acknowledge the great work of our health foundations throughout Queensland. The bill, more importantly, will give health foundations the ability to operate with increased flexibility in their local area. Also, I support amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 allowing the growth of industrial cannabis in Queensland. Some people suffering from chronic or terminal illness believe that conventional medicines do not work or do not work as effectively as medicinal cannabis. Also, for some patients conventional medicines may work but cause debilitating side effects that cannabis can help to relieve. Cannabis can also be described as a superfood. It has omega-3 and omega-6 in the right mix for the human body. It also has something like 20 amino acids in it, including nine essential oils for human development, and it is also really high in protein.

Given Queensland's tropical climate, the growing of industrial cannabis would be extremely useful for our farmers and would create jobs. It was not just those in the health and food industries who welcomed the change. Cannabis is a good rotational crop between seasons. It is fast growing, uses little water and even helps with land management. Cannabis is a very aggressive summer crop. The shady nature of the plants help enormously with weed resistance and thus using less or no chemicals. It has a very aggressive rooting structure and that again helps to break up the subsoil and improve the soil quality. Finally, from an irrigation point of view, water use efficiency is incredibly good for this crop. The committee recommends that the bill be passed, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.13 pm): I, too, want to make a short contribution to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. It goes without saying that our hospital foundations are critical pieces of funding infrastructure for our health facilities right across the state. I pay tribute to people who serve on hospital foundation boards. They are usually people who tirelessly give up their time. They are usually busy people but they know that hospital foundations need to exist and that they need to raise critical funds, whether it is for cancer research, whether it is for additional equipment in hospitals or whether it is for making sure that everybody in Queensland has the opportunity to have a first-class health system.

The bill looks at two key objectives: to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 with a more streamlined and contemporary legislative framework. This is achieved by providing for the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property; the establishment of foundations and

boards for foundations; and matters relating to the administration and oversight of foundations and boards for foundations. I note that the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service expressed concerns that the money raised by local foundations will be diverted away from supporting the local HHS and put towards broader health services in the local community. Sure, broader health services in the local community are important but we also have to make sure that we have the facilities and funds to run our hospital and health services.

If we take Central Queensland for example, one of the biggest issues we face in Central Queensland is that Emerald has the second highest uptake of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme in the state. However, the administration of the scheme needs urgent review and the framework is outdated. We have to continue to have the funds to make sure that the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme works.

Another issue where these hospital foundation boards play a critical role and where we need additional services, taking into account the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service's concerns—and this is one of the biggest issues we face in Central Queensland, certainly in Emerald and in Longreach in the central west and Central Queensland hospital and health services—is the dire need for dialysis machines. These people should not be forced to travel all the way to Rockhampton multiple times per week to undergo dialysis. I think it is incredibly important that we provide additional funds to make sure that people in Western Queensland have the services of dialysis machines.

I had a constituent whom I have known for a very long time—a big contributor to the community in Emerald—come to see me about two years ago about a situation where he needed to undertake dialysis. He is forced to jump on a bus in Emerald on a Monday and travel to Rockhampton to receive dialysis and then travel back to Emerald on a Tuesday. He then has to do that again on a Thursday and Friday and does not get back to Emerald until the weekend. He is away from his wife and family and he is at an age where it is getting a little harder to get around.

The concerns raised by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service that funds raised by the local foundation will be diverted away from supporting the local HHS is something that we need to consider—that we do not divert those funds away. Right now, if we could get a home dialysis machine placed in the Emerald Hospital, people would be able to stay in their local community and receive their dialysis. I think that is important. I think that is a very serious thing that we need to consider.

I have a couple of constituents in Longreach who have to receive dialysis treatment and they have to travel all the way to Rockhampton to receive that dialysis treatment. That is a nine or 10-hour trip by bus. They then have to stay overnight, receive their treatment and then get back on a bus and head back to Longreach. That is a 20-hour round trip. A dialysis machine would take away that unnecessary travel. Longreach is the hub of the central west. It is the hub of the Central West Hospital and Health Service and board. There are people living at Stonehenge, Jundah and in the outback, in the Channel Country, who will need that sort of treatment later in life. Rather than them moving away from their community and having to live on the coast, we could keep them in our community and give them that sort of treatment.

Rural and regional Queensland has some of the most talented medical staff in the state, but we have to continue to fund the infrastructure upgrades. It means making sure that hospital services and hospitals such as Emerald continue to have those upgrades. There seems to be evidence of a backlog for elective surgery at Emerald. Some constituents are reporting having to wait up to three months for elective surgery. We are very fortunate that Emerald can receive elective surgery. I would like to thank the former member for Southern Downs and former health minister, Lawrence Springborg. When he was health minister he had a huge focus on rural and remote health. He made sure that people living in Emerald or Longreach received the treatment that they needed to receive.

**Ms Pease:** It is a pity that he didn't worry about the people at Wynnum-Manly when he shut down the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit.

**Mr MILLAR:** I am talking about regional and rural areas, and this is important to people in regional areas. I take that interjection from the member. I do not know whether the member has been out in rural or remote areas, but we do not have the specialists that there are here. We do not have instant access to health facilities.

**Ms Pease** interjected.


**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! I remind members to stick to the long title of the bill. Let us proceed and let us not be so noisy.

**Mr MILLAR:** As I was just explaining, people who live in rural and remote areas do not have access to specialists. Whether it is dialysis, cardiology or mental health issues, we do not have access to specialists. We have a huge issue in rural and Western Queensland with children who have special needs whose parents have to travel to Brisbane to see a specialist. I take the interjection from the member, but just remember that people who live in Western and rural Queensland do not have the instant access to the population of specialists that there are down here.

What I am trying to explain is that we are lucky that some elective surgeries can be done in rural and Western Queensland. I thank former health minister Lawrence Springborg for his focus on rural and remote health because that was important. It had been lacking for a very long time. In places like Emerald Hospital prior to the actions of Lawrence Springborg, the former member for Southern Downs and a former health minister, people could not have their babies in the Emerald Hospital. Maternity facilities were in Rockhampton and they had to travel from their family, friends and loved ones to be able to give birth. I acknowledge Lawrence Springborg, a former health minister, for his focus on rural and remote areas. He should be acknowledged for that and we should thank him for that because he had a focus on that.

It is important that the health needs of everyone in Queensland are met. I pay tribute to the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board, their members and staff and the Central West Hospital and Health Board as well. They do a fantastic job in such a big area. I think they do the best they can, but we need more funds and more infrastructure placed in those health and hospital areas to ensure that people in rural and remote areas receive the treatment they need when it comes to medical treatment or health specialists.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. The bill repeals and replaces the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 that will provide for the establishment, administration and oversight of entities to hold and manage property for particular objects to benefit public health in Queensland. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable appropriate further development of the industrial cannabis industry following a national decision to allow low-tetrahydrocannabinol hempseed and seed products to be sold as food.

The current act has not been substantially updated since it was introduced in the early 1980s. In this ever-advancing society, it is important that the legislative framework for foundations reflects their current work and operational needs. The Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 streamlines governing and operational provisions for foundations to ensure they reflect contemporary practices including provisions relating to financial transactions. This will provide foundations with more flexibility to manage their operations and finances. The new legislative framework will be easier to understand and apply in practice, ensuring hospital foundations can continue to focus on their important work supporting Queensland's public health system.

Hospital foundations support Queensland's world-class public health system, funding initiatives like new and improved facilities, state-of-the-art medical equipment, training and development opportunities for staff and lifesaving medical research. Last financial year foundations raised over \$74 million for our public hospital and health services. There are 13 foundations across the state, run almost entirely by dedicated volunteers who do great work raising money for our hospitals to the benefit of patients, staff, families, carers and communities.

I recently had the privilege of meeting with Robyn Boundy in Mareeba in my electorate and acknowledge Ida Portella, the chair of the Mareeba friends of the hospital foundation. Mareeba Hospital has been friends of the hospital foundation for six years. The hospital foundation is based in Cairns and allows Mareeba to use their branding and insurance. Robyn told me of the amazing work of the hospital foundation to successfully raise funds according to the hospital's wish list. Due to this relationship, to date \$500,000 has been raised for Mareeba Hospital which funded TVs for all beds that have nurse assist buttons; a covered playground for the paediatric area; probes that go on ultrasound machines; chairs that can be converted to beds for family and friends to stay with patients overnight; a controlled passive movement machine used by physios for rehabilitation; breast pumps for the maternity ward; and A&E equipment. They are currently working on funding for a purpose-built kitchen for patients undergoing rehabilitation.

As I make my way around our hospitals and health facilities, there is one thing that is obvious to me: no matter where we are, every community we visit has its own special connection with its health facility. The physical location where health care is delivered to a community and the people who provide that care become part of the very fabric of the community, and there is probably no greater example than Mareeba. We certainly know how passionate this community is about this hospital. It is a

well-acknowledged fact that our facilities in the far north owe so much to the fundraising efforts of the foundation and to the friends of the hospital. From speaking with our volunteers, I know that they all have their own special stories about what has led them to be involved—associations borne out of personal connections and sometimes years of involvement with our health facilities. The simple truth of the matter is that our hospitals would not be what they are today without that support.

I would like to acknowledge the work of foundations across Queensland, particularly in my neighbouring electorate of Cairns. In 2017 the foundation announced it would contribute \$1.4 million towards a second cardiac catheter laboratory at Cairns Hospital, matching \$1.4 million in state government funding for the facility. The foundation raised the funds through a fundraising cardiac challenge, cycling events and donations from the local community. The second cardiac catheter laboratory will allow the cardiac team at Cairns Hospital to perform ablations of abnormal heart rhythms rather than send those patients to Townsville or Brisbane. They will also be able to perform life-saving implantable defibrillators into people who need them, saving them having to go to Townsville or Brisbane.

I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers and the very important role they play in raising valuable funds to not only assist our public health system but also help the many men, women and children who rely on the public health system for quality health care. The foundations work closely with their local communities to deliver better public health outcomes. The dedicated work they undertake to raise funds is driven largely by volunteer local community members. In 2016-17 foundations reported a total full-time-equivalent staff of over 180 and a volunteer workforce estimated at over 4,000 people. The foundations' work has the associated benefit of positively promoting the high standards of care and health services delivered within the public health system. The important role of foundations in delivering outcomes for the health of Queenslanders requires a legislative framework that reflects their work and current operational needs.

The bill also includes amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. In November 2017 the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code was amended to permit some hempseeds to be sold as food or used as an ingredient in a food for sale in Australia. This change followed a comprehensive review of the safety of hempseed foods by Food Standards Australia New Zealand and was endorsed by all Australian ministers responsible for food regulation. Food Standards Australia New Zealand found that low-THC hempseed foods contain protein, dietary fibre and polyunsaturated fatty acids, particularly omega-3 fatty acids, which are recognised as being healthy. However, the Drugs Misuse Act currently prohibits industrial cannabis being grown for food.

Without amendment to this act, the Queensland industry will not be able to grow industrial cannabis seed for use in hempseed foods and would instead need to import seed from interstate or overseas. The amendments in the bill not only align Queensland with the legislation of most other Australian jurisdictions, including New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, but also allow the Queensland industry to have access to the food export market.

Debate, on motion of Ms Lui, adjourned.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Before we move on to private members' bills, I would like to acknowledge in our gallery today the Hon. Rachel Nolan, a former member, and a delegation from the Indonesian Financial and Development Supervisory Agency who have joined us today. Welcome.

## SAFER WATERWAYS BILL

### Introduction



**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.31 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Crocodile Authority and for related matters. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Safer Waterways Bill 2018 [392].

*Tabled paper:* Safer Waterways Bill 2018, explanatory notes [393].

The Safer Waterways Bill 2018 has multiple policy objectives. The bill places greater value on human life than the lives of crocodiles and seeks to responsibly reduce the risk of crocodile attacks. It aims to eliminate all crocodiles that pose a threat to human life from our waterways, while maintaining an appropriate level of protection to prevent crocodiles from becoming an endangered species.

The policy of prioritising human life over the lives of crocodiles is a response to community outrage at the lack of action taken to protect North Queenslanders from the risk crocodiles pose to visitors and residents. Communities across North Queensland are constantly reporting significant increases in crocodile numbers. Once popular waterways are now infested with crocodiles. From 1985 to 2015 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection recorded 25 crocodile attacks in Queensland, seven of them fatal. In the last three years there have been nine attacks, three of them fatal. This means a third of all attacks and nearly half of all deaths over the past 33 years have occurred in the past three years, and this does not include attacks on stock or domestic animals.

An effective crocodile management strategy requires a balanced approach. The current strategy is biased towards protecting the lives of crocodiles against human life. The increase of crocodile numbers in populated areas not only endangers human lives but also adversely and significantly affects the way North Queenslanders live. In the *Cairns Post* recently, an article highlighted how lifesaving, rowing and skiing clubs are struggling because crocodiles are driving their members away. According to the article, the great Australian tradition of children learning how to become a lifesaver is under threat in the north because parents are afraid for their children. Clubs have reported a 13 per cent fall in registrations among five- to 13-year-olds. Nearly 40 per cent of parents said they had taken their children out of the junior lifesaving program because of concerns about crocodiles.

The Safer Waterways Bill 2018 provides a practical, balanced solution which will remove crocodiles from urban or public areas commonly used by people for recreation. This removal may involve killing or relocating the crocodile to an authorised farm, which is a policy position similar to the Northern Territory crocodile management strategy. If managed responsibly, crocodiles have the potential to be a great asset for Queensland rather than just a danger to people.

As well as protecting human lives, the Safer Waterways Bill 2018 aims to create a significant and sustainable crocodile industry in Queensland through controlled egg harvesting. The Northern Territory currently has a successful egg harvesting program. Evidence suggests that egg harvesting can help sustain crocodile populations rather than diminish them. This creates a huge economic opportunity which is currently untapped in Queensland.

Significantly, the Safer Waterways Bill provides landowners with the opportunity to apply through the Queensland Crocodile Authority for authorisation to manage crocodiles on their land. Indigenous landowners have a connection with and understanding of the land and should be empowered to manage that land as they see fit. Non-Indigenous private landowners can apply for the same rights.

As well as empowering landowners, this bill places a value on crocodiles and creates an unprecedented economic opportunity for landowners. Authorised landowners will be given authority with regard to all aspects of crocodile management on their property. If a crocodile is on their property, they may choose whether to kill it, have it relocated to a farm or let it remain on their property. If they choose for it to be killed, they may do this themselves or accept payment from another person who wishes to kill the crocodile.

By placing value on crocodiles, landowners are unlikely to simply kill all the crocodiles on their land unless this is necessary for them to safely live and operate on that land. The landowner will likely see the value in crocodile eggs and the income that can be generated from a healthy crocodile population on their property. If there are crocodile eggs on their land, they can choose to leave the eggs, harvest the eggs and sell them, or have someone else pay to come on their land and harvest them.

Ultimately, people who live in North Queensland are best placed to manage crocodiles and people with experience managing crocodiles should have input into their ongoing management in Queensland. It is hoped that any time a crocodile is killed, whether it be on private property or on state land, the crocodile's carcass is fully utilised by, for example, selling teeth, meat or skins or producing blood and bone from unsaleable parts of the carcass.

The bill achieves the policy objective outlined above by creating a Queensland Crocodile Authority. Under the bill, the Queensland Crocodile Authority would be required to remove all rogue crocodiles by killing them or moving them to an approved crocodile farm. Rogue crocodiles are defined as crocodiles posing a threat to human life and include crocodiles in urban areas or waterways commonly used by people for recreation.

The bill legalises egg harvesting for permit holders and allows people to pay to hunt crocodiles on private land with the landowner's consent if the landowner has the Queensland Crocodile Authority's authorisation to so manage the land. The bill ensures that the Queensland Crocodile Authority is based in Cairns and it is expected that all staff would live in the area rather than fly in and fly out.

The bill also creates a board to provide recommendations to the Queensland Crocodile Authority. The board is to be made up of people with relevant experience in crocodile management to ensure that Queensland is getting the best possible advice on managing crocodile populations and creating a crocodile industry that will benefit the state and its landowners for many years to come.

There has been extensive consultation undertaken in the preparation of this bill, including detailed engagement with affected communities through public forums and private engagement. Other major stakeholders consulted include Indigenous groups, local government, crocodile experts, professional fishing communities, federal members of parliament and other community groups.

The bill creates a new authority within the Department of Environment and Science to enable several activities for the management of crocodiles in Queensland waterways. State based crocodile management frameworks exist in other states and territories and include some of the activities contemplated in this bill.

There may be some areas of the bill that may encroach on the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. However, consultation with the relevant Commonwealth government ministers has indicated a willingness to consider mechanisms that will ensure no conflict between this bill and the Commonwealth act exists. It is also to be noted that other jurisdictions allow for the killing of crocodiles. Some views were expressed during consultation that no crocodiles should be killed or relocated. This does not align with the policy objectives of keeping people safe from crocodiles. Other views were expressed that the policy objective of keeping people safe from crocodiles could be achieved by relocating any problem crocodile to other locations.

Consultation with experts suggests that crocodiles may become more dangerous once they have been relocated. Therefore, crocodiles should be relocated to farms or properly managed reserves. The consultation also reveals that because there are so many crocodiles that require removal to keep people safe, it is very unlikely that there would be a desire from existing crocodile farms to house all those crocodiles. Based on this extensive consultation it has become clear that the combination of killing and relocating to farms is the best way to achieve the policy objectives. The costs associated with implementing the bill relate to the establishment of the operation of the Queensland Crocodile Authority. These costs will be met within the existing department's allocation.

The bill has been drafted with regard to the fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the Legislative Standards Act 1992 and is consistent with fundamental legislative principles. With regard to the extensive consultation that we have undertaken, we visited the communities of Innisfail, Port Douglas and Mareeba. The member for Mount Isa has consulted with communities and Indigenous groups in Burketown and Normanton. There were also public consultations in Cairns and with local councils. There was great concern expressed about the explosion of crocodile numbers. Concerns were raised about the impact on our international tourism market. When tourists are confronted by popular beach closures, crocodile warning signs and hear of crocodile attacks, it is no wonder they do not want to come back.

I grew up in North Queensland and swam in our beautiful inland lakes and rivers and on our beaches. Not once did I ever see a crocodile sign. Fear of crocodiles never entered my head nor that of my parents because crocodiles were not in the popular swimming holes and waterways. Under the current management policy the solution is to put up a warning sign, monitor their behaviour and distribute pamphlets warning locals and tourists to be crocodile wise.

We have introduced this bill to the House because people in North Queensland are sick and tired of ignorance of the issue, hearing about more studies and being told what they already know about crocodile numbers. The communities want action and they want action now. This bill deals with the problem. It approaches the challenges by protecting human life. Most importantly, the Safer Waterways Bill 2018 fulfils our duty of care to the communities that elected us to represent them and demonstrates that we, as a parliament, are willing to make hard decisions when it comes to protecting residents and visitors in our communities. I commend this bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.41 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.



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

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

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (CLEARING FOR RELEVANT PURPOSES)  
AMENDMENT BILL****Introduction**

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.42 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Vegetation Management Act 1999 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 (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018 [394].

*Tabled paper:* Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [395].

There has been a sustained attack by the government on rural Queensland with regard to the activities included in this bill. I speak not just about farmers and cattle producers but also people in the towns who rely on the surrounding agricultural industry to survive. People who live out there are at the forefront of this issue. On the back of four or five years of drought those people can ill afford any disruption to the way they manage their farms and cattle stations. We are proposing sensible and rather discreet amendments to provide a sensible alternative to the existing regime. We are asking members of this House to consider amendments to the Vegetation Management Act that have come from people who live out there and work in the industry, not from another ideological pursuit from the south-east corner. I think that is a sensible option to offer members of this House.

The bill seeks to amend the act by inserting these words—

If the chief executive decides the development applied for is not development mentioned in subsection (2)(a) to (1), the chief executive must give the applicant an information notice about the decision.

That first amendment gives people the right to appeal. In many cases it seems terribly unfair that when people are trying to achieve the outcome that everyone wants in terms of sustainable development, a judgement is made that people disagree with and there is no right to appeal. I think that makes for a poor piece of legislation, no matter the issue, and it needs to be addressed. That is the first amendment we would like to make.

The second is a fairly discreet change to the definition so that high-value agricultural clearing is defined to include grazing activities. At the moment if someone in Cape York has a million acres and wants to put 300 acres of that into highly productive hay paddocks or fodder crops from which their cattle can eat, if that is not irrigated it is not classed as high-value agriculture. However, they would have performed all the duties they normally would for an irrigated crop except for irrigating. We believe that the definition of grazing still fits the purpose of high-value agriculture.

Honourable members need to bear in mind that we confront huge issues which I am of the strong view come from the imposition of government and regulations as to how water is made available to us from river systems. This makes it very difficult for us to irrigate some of this land that we are allowed to clear. However, we are not allowed to let cattle graze on that land. We can grow fodder for that crop, bale the hay, take that hay into the paddock next door and give it to the cattle. We can clear for that purpose, but under this definition we cannot grow that same crop and let the cattle go into that paddock and graze on it. This is an anomaly within the existing rules.

This amendment is a sensible way to tidy things up and allow for the effective operation of the original intent of this legislation, which, I might argue, both sides of the House have accepted in the past. These are quite sensible amendments and they cut to the core of the issue of sensible vegetation management. This has been aggressively approached in this House many times. We are trying to provide some discreet and sensible solutions derived from the areas that are most affected by the legislation.

In relation to the studies and science that we often hear quoted—and one is the SLATS report—the data is terribly misleading to someone on the ground who can see how this is applied. Yesterday in an interview I was asked if I acknowledged that 300,000 hectares of clearing has been undertaken since the last changes to vegetation management and I acknowledged that. I also acknowledged that there are 430,000 hectares in addition to that 300,000 that is regrowth. There were some

700,000 hectares of regrowth, 300,000 hectares of which was cleared, but there was still a net gain of 400,000 hectares of trees. That is the figure that is thrown around. The media questioned me about it as early as yesterday. That is the belief that is propagated and I believe the premise on which a lot of these laws are predicated, and it is very misleading science. There needs to be some adequate debate and sensible decision-making upon applying these laws. That is what we are trying to achieve through these amendments that I am introducing today.

The SLATS data that is so often referred to in this House has been vulnerable to manipulation and misuse in quite mischievous ways to achieve a political outcome. Opponents of what we are trying to achieve would say that the use of clearing data for reasonable clearing is also extremely questionable. In recent times it has been almost impossible to find any data on regrowth. That is why it is very difficult to make informed judgements on any of the evidence that has been brought before us in arriving at these decisions. In our view that certainly needs to be challenged.

Another issue that will come up in this debate is the impact on the Great Barrier Reef, which is invoked just about every time we talk about vegetation management issues. This is of great interest to me because almost my entire electorate, which is almost 25 per cent of Queensland, flows into the gulf. None of it flows into the reef. If that were a large driver of our amendments then it should not be subject to areas that flow into the gulf. We often hear the Great Barrier Reef invoked in these discussions, I think quite irresponsibly, when the vast majority of the land affected will have zero impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

Unreasonable restrictions on land clearing deny economic opportunities to parts of North Queensland and Western Queensland, especially places like the Einasleigh uplands, gulf plains, Cape York desert uplands, north-west highlands, mulga land, Mitchell grass downs and Channel Country. In moving these amendments we are mindful of the fact that in the history of our state there has been a lot of development in southern Queensland. As we move up to Central Queensland there was the Brigalow Belt clearing scheme. A lot of good work was done there, but when we move up to North Queensland hardly anything has happened. The laws have now been changed and we are being denied even minor opportunities to develop that land.

I recall a discussion that I had recently—I do not think he would mind me using his name—with Alister McClymont, who is one of the champion gulf cattlemen in north-west Queensland. I said, ‘Alister, if you had a million hectares up there in the cape would you benefit from one or two per cent clearing?’ He said, ‘That would be fantastic. I could feed my weaners and I could manage things better in a drought and have better control in the markets. I would produce a lot more revenue for Queensland in terms of taxes and growth.’ You and I would not notice that flying over in a plane. Over a million hectares, one or two per cent, is a pinprick on the map.

I would remind the House that an estimated 95 per cent of the forest in the gulf and Cape York is remnant forest, and that is why we have the amendment with regard to using it for grazing purposes and high-value agriculture. It would make an enormous difference and it could make or break some of these operations. Taking only a tiny little bit makes an amazing difference, but that gets lost in these discussions. When there is misleading use of the data it clouds the overall vision of what we can do with just a little bit of a concession that can be managed quite well.

What also needs to be taken into account in the discussion of these amendments is the historical nature of the land we are talking about. Since we have been following it with satellite mapping, the amount of regrowth that has occurred over the history of white man’s settlement in these areas is in some cases phenomenal. The landscape has changed dramatically. I recall driving around Charters Towers and asking my father why these places were called Fanning Downs and Burdekin Downs when they were moderately to heavily timbered large cattle stations. That is because they were downs property. When the white man went out there and settled in those areas it was open country, but the landscape changes dramatically and we keep trying to redefine it.

The principle behind the amendments we are proposing to the House is that those people who live out there amongst it are in the best position to judge. They should be listened to very closely with regard to how we manage it going forward. I think it is rather condescending and paternalistic of this House to impose laws without having great input from people in those areas, and that is why we have engaged them in the consultation process with regard to these amendments.

We feel that we can send a positive signal to those people in rural Queensland who are coming off the back of five years of some of the worst drought Queensland has ever experienced. We are just getting back on our feet, and we need to have sensible changes and amendments to the Vegetation Management Act. We do not need to be slapped in the face and knocked back down. We can ill afford that in our towns, and I am sure that farmers and producers themselves can ill afford it.

### First Reading

**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.54 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

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


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

## HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

### Second Reading


Resumed from p. 587, on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.55 pm), continuing: The amendments in the bill not only align Queensland with the legislation of most other Australian jurisdictions including New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia but also allow Queensland industry to have access to the food export market. Hemp based foods are a growing industry, and the amendments in this bill will allow Queensland to be part of this growth industry.

The amendments in the bill will also tighten the regulatory control of researchers, as they can grow high-THC varieties of cannabis by requiring applicants for a researcher licence to submit a plan outlining proposed risk management strategies, including the supervision of contracted growers. The two existing categories of researcher licence will be replaced with a single researcher licence. The amendments also provide more flexible options for responding to breaches of the Drugs Misuse Act, including specific regulatory offences for a breach of recordkeeping, notification requirements or a licence condition. The bill will make it an offence to fail to comply with a compliance notice issued by inspectors, and breach of a licence condition is grounds for cancelling or suspending a licence.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee for its consideration of the bill to date. I commend the bill to the House as amended.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. This bill seeks to make a number of amendments to the act which enables the establishment of hospital foundations. These foundations raise funds in our communities to support and promote the health of our communities, fund research, and support staff education and training opportunities. In my own region this is achieved through the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation, which supports the Sunshine Coast Health and Hospital Service.

The two policy objectives of the bill are to repeal and replace the current act with a more streamlined and contemporary legislative framework and to amend the Drugs Misuse Act to enable appropriate further development of the industrial cannabis industry. The proposed changes to the cannabis industry follow a national decision to allow hempseed and seed products to be sold as food. The modernisation and simplification of the framework for foundations will be achieved by clarifying the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property; the establishment of foundations and their boards; and matters relating to administration matters and oversight.

I pay tribute to the hospital foundations and, more importantly, the legion of thousands of volunteers and supporters who have supported their health services during the last 35 years. Regional communities rely on many groups to step up to fill the gaps left by health services. In Gympie there is Little Haven Palliative Care, which assists the terminally ill and their families in our region who would otherwise be an additional burden on Queensland's health system. Currently it only receives 35 per cent of its funding from Queensland Health. With an ageing population and increasing rates of complex chronic illness, the service assisted more than 200 local patients and their families in the last financial year.

There is also the Cooloola Coast Medical Transport Service, which provides a valuable door-to-door service by carrying patients and clients to out-of-town medical appointments. The service picks up where patient transport is outside the scope of the Queensland Ambulance Service and where

it cannot be supplied by private or public transport. There is Supporting Chemotherapy in Cooloola, which raises funds for equipment in the public and private hospital sector for use by chemotherapy patients. It also builds accommodation units to enable those undergoing chemotherapy treatment to stay in Gympie. It does not discriminate between public and private healthcare patients. There is also Wishlist, which runs the cafeteria at our local hospital and raises valuable funds to support our health services. Just like hospital foundations, these groups rely on the support and fundraising activities of many volunteers to plug the gaps left in local health services.

Foundations are an important part of the fabric of our local health networks delivering to communities through grants and in kind support for additional medical equipment, lifesaving research and the provision of facilities to support patients, staff and the community. They represent one of the largest volunteer groups, with their work to raise funds driven largely by local community volunteer members. In the last financial year, they collectively reported raising more than \$74 million. The 13 foundations across Queensland employ more than 180 full-time-equivalent staff and call on the services of a volunteer workforce estimated at over 4,000 people. That is a volunteer workforce of more than 300 people for every foundation. They are integral to our local health networks.


Debate, on motion of Mr Perrett, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

### Nomination

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the House resolved to meet at 2 pm today for the purpose of the election of a senator under the provisions of standing order 288. I note that a quorum of members is present. Before calling for nominations, I remind members that every nomination must be accompanied by a declaration by the nominee of qualification and consent to be nominated and to act if elected. I now call for nominations.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.01 pm): I nominate Amanda Stoker for election to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant through the resignation of Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC. I produce and table Amanda Stoker's declaration of qualifications and consent.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding the nomination of Ms Amanda Stoker to fill the casual Senate vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. George Brandis QC, and a declaration of qualification and consent to act in accordance with schedule 4 of the standing rules and orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly [\[404\]](#).

**Mr SPEAKER:** Are there any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I call the Premier.

### Election of Senator

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.03 pm): I move—

That Amanda Stoker be elected to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth rendered vacant through the resignation of Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC.

It gives me great pleasure to speak in this debate to elect a candidate to fill the place in the Senate of the parliament of Australia caused by the resignation of Senator George Brandis. I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Brandis on his appointment as Australia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and I wish him well in this very important posting.

The Leader of the Opposition has written to me confirming that the LNP has preselected Ms Amanda Stoker to replace Senator Brandis and has formally notified me that she should be nominated for election to hold the place in the Senate. I welcome Ms Stoker to the parliament here today. I note her attendance here today in the gallery and I also am delighted to welcome her husband, Adam, and their children Mary, Jane and Emma. To Ms Stoker's mother, Connie, her sister, Susan, and other friends Rebecca and Rachel and family members who are also present today, we welcome you for this very significant ceremonial occasion. I produced and tabled Ms Stoker's declaration of qualification and consent prepared in accordance with schedule 4 of the standing orders of this House.


Today the House is being asked to elect a senator for Queensland to fill a casual Senate vacancy and it is my pleasure to move that Ms Stoker be elected to hold that place in the Senate. In accordance with the conventions of our federal system of government and since the commencement of the Constitution Alteration (Senate Casual Vacancies) Act 1977 and the provisions of the Australian Constitution, the person to fill the Senate vacancy caused by Mr Brandis's resignation should come

from the same political party. The election of a replacement senator is an important constitutional function and the conventions of our federal system of government and our Westminster system are things that I take very seriously and treat with the utmost respect. Consequently, the government supports the election of Ms Stoker.

I note that Ms Stoker was born in Campbelltown in New South Wales—we will not hold that against her—and that together with the honour of representing Queensland in the Senate there also is a corresponding obligation to support Queensland in the State of Origin! Ms Stoker attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School. After leaving school, she studied at Sydney University and Griffith University where she received a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice. She was admitted as a solicitor in 2006, commenced at the bar in 2011 and has worked widely throughout Queensland. She has also been a prosecutor with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and is a former associate of then justice Ian Callinan of the High Court of Australia and then justice Philip McMurdo of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

I also note that Ms Stoker is a lecturer in the business and law faculty at the Central Queensland University and, among other appointments, is vice-president of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland. She is currently a barrister here in Brisbane and lives in Auchenflower with her husband, Adam, and her three daughters.

I have previously spoken of the characteristics that I believe people look for in a good politician. I believe that the electors expect representatives who have a number of qualities—honesty, integrity, compassion, humility and honour. I am confident that Ms Stoker will embody those characteristics and be a strong advocate for Queensland in the Senate of the parliament of Australia. I am delighted to see another woman senator representing Queensland. The march of progress may be slow but it is determined. I commend Ms Stoker's nomination and this motion to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.07 pm): It gives me great pleasure to endorse the nomination of Amanda Stoker to fill the Senate vacancy created by the resignation of the honourable George Brandis QC. Of course I am also very proud to support the election of another LNP woman to a high office in our democracy. From one working mum to another, I say: welcome to the world of politics, Amanda, and good luck. The two of us have a lot in common. We both came to politics from law and both have been blessed with three wonderful daughters.

The opportunity to serve the public in parliament is a great honour, but being a mum is the most important job in the world. It is not easy to balance these two roles although it is made easier by the loving support of family, friends and our husbands. I know Amanda has the same love and support from her wonderful husband, Adam. Adam is in the chamber today, along with Mary, Jane and Emma. We also thank and acknowledge Bec and Rachel for their assistance with the girls. Emma is only six months old, Jane is two and Mary is four. A bright group of young girls they are. Amanda's mum, Connie, is also here in the gallery today and unfortunately Amanda's dad, Mark, was unable to make it at the last minute. We also have Amanda's younger sister, Susie, in the gallery. The whole family are incredibly proud of Amanda, and rightfully so. She is a remarkable woman with a bright future ahead of her.

I must put on the record my appreciation of the service of Amanda's predecessor in the Senate. After a prestigious legal career, George Brandis was chosen to fill the Senate vacancy created by the resignation of the late Hon. Warwick Parer in 2000. Senator Brandis served as minister for arts and sport in 2007 in the Howard government and in 2013 was appointed attorney-general in the Abbott government, a role he held up until his recent resignation. A man of principle, he robustly supported the rule of law throughout his time as attorney-general. Senator Brandis is a proud Queenslander and the state's most senior member of the coalition government. He will become Australia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom next month and will continue to serve this country with distinction. I can assure this parliament that Amanda will serve Queensland as diligently as her predecessor did.

Let me take a moment to explain why Amanda is such a remarkable woman. She was born in south-west Sydney in 1982 to Connie and Mark Fell. Amanda's devoted mum and dad passed on strong values to her which helped shape her view of her life and her world. Mark was a plumber and a gasfitter and Connie worked in an optical shop. The couple worked hard for their kids but things did not always go their way. Amanda was still a young girl when the economy went into recession and unemployment started to soar. Mark was one of the many who lost money owed to them when his business started going bust. Things got tough for the family and Amanda can still remember her dad getting a job on garbage trucks to make ends meet. After a lot of work and worry, the Fells pulled through and they have never looked back, but the tough times saw Amanda aware of the hardship that poor government can cause for ordinary families. Even then, she was thinking hard about the world and how it could be made better.

Amanda was an exceptional student at her local state high school and it was clear that she would become the first member of her family to attend university. Amanda did not just win a place at university; she won a scholarship to study law and the arts at the University of Sydney after her academic results placed her among the top 20 students in the whole state. She studied hard and she worked just as hard outside university too. At one time she was holding down four jobs—a waitress, a bookkeeper, a paralegal and a shop assistant.

After graduating with a first-class degree, Amanda was hired by MinterEllison and soon became an associate to then justice Ian Callinan. This was when Amanda began coming regularly to Queensland and decided—and why not?—that this would be the best place to live and raise a family with Adam. This was a wonderful decision not just for Amanda but also for the Liberal National Party. After another associateship with then justice Philip McMurdo, she joined the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Brisbane. Vile individuals involved in the production and distribution of child pornography were jailed thanks to Amanda's work. Fraudsters and drug traffickers were also successfully prosecuted thanks to her determination to see justice done.


In 2011 she became one of the youngest women ever called to the bar in Queensland, and one of the most successful. She has contested cases in every corner of Queensland, from Cairns to Goondiwindi, and she has taken cases to the High Court and the Court of Appeal, where she acted for Police Commissioner Ian Stewart.

Throughout her career Amanda has supported women in the legal profession, especially after the birth of her first daughter, Mary, four years ago. She is a leading figure in the Women Lawyers Association and was very proud to order the first bar jackets for pregnant barristers to wear into court. Equality of opportunity is a principle that Amanda fiercely believes in and she is an inspiring example of how individuals, whatever their background or gender, can succeed in our society.

She was chosen as the LNP's next senator from an impressive short list of six women and six men. She was chosen because she was the best candidate for this office of senator. The LNP believes the people of Queensland should be represented by the best and brightest Queenslanders. Talent, ability and integrity are what we look for in potential MPs and senators. The LNP does not pay lip-service to our democracy. Our candidates have to take on all comers and convince their party colleagues of their worth. We believe in the ballot box.

As a professional working mum of three, Amanda Stoker has blazed a trail in Brisbane and she will blaze a trail in the Senate too. Amanda Stoker will follow Joanna Lindgren as the LNP's latest woman senator. An Indigenous woman, Joanna broke down barriers too—just as her grand-uncle Neville Bonner did when he became the first Indigenous Australian to sit in the federal parliament in 1971.

I am very happy to support the nomination of Amanda Stoker. She has seen life as millions of ordinary Australians and Queenslanders see it. She has been successful in her career to date but has not forgotten those who have been less fortunate. Amanda has already fearlessly served the people of Queensland as a public prosecutor and she will continue to serve them with distinction as their new senator. I know Amanda will bring the same understanding and compassion to her new role that she has shown throughout her career. The Senate will be a better place with Amanda Stoker in it and I hope she stays there for many years to come. I commend the motion and I wish Amanda the best of luck.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.12 pm): I, too, want to congratulate Amanda Stoker on her selection to represent Queensland in the Senate. I acknowledge Ms Stoker in the gallery today with her family, who must be extremely proud of her.

As many here will already know and as has been mentioned, Ms Stoker has enjoyed a rapid rise in her legal career in both her home state of New South Wales and more recently here in Queensland. She has already worked in places where women have, in decades past, been kept largely on the sidelines, and that clearly is as a result of determination, hard work, intelligence and, I am sure, a whole range of other characteristics that I am not even aware of. She has shown a capacity for serving the law as a Commonwealth prosecutor and as an associate to former justice Ian Callinan of the High Court of Australia and then to the former justice Philip McMurdo of the Supreme Court of Queensland. I note that Ms Stoker has also lectured in business and law at Central Queensland University and has shown leadership as the vice-president of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland.

As the Minister for Women in Queensland, it is pleasing to see the LNP appoint a woman to represent Queensland in the Senate. In fact, in the lead-up to the LNP's preselection it was Queensland Women's Week and we talked a lot that week of the strength that comes with having a diverse range

of voices at decision-making tables and at tables where gender parity exists. With diverse voices around the table where decisions are being made, we are better able to deal with risks, to grasp opportunities with both hands and to foster innovation.


In Queensland we are very proud to be in a parliament that has a female Premier and Deputy Premier and a female opposition leader. Some 48 per cent of the women in the government caucus are women and 50 per cent of cabinet are women. As a woman now in a very prominent position as a senator for Queensland, Ms Stoker will no doubt be acutely aware of the responsibility that comes with being in a position of leadership and prominence.

As female leaders we have a responsibility to the next generation of women and girls to show them that women in leadership is normal rather than the exception and that that presence at the decision-making table—that direct and active involvement in the negotiations, the consultation and the actual making of decisions—makes government better for all of us. It can only be better for women in Queensland to have another female voice in the Senate and in the federal parliament.

I can only imagine the battles that Ms Stoker must already have fought in making her way to such a prominent position through the legal profession. Our young women cannot be what they cannot see, and I am sure that already in the strides that Ms Stoker has made in the legal profession she has been a wonderful role model for young women, and her appointment to the Senate is another opportunity to model what women in public life can bring to the table.

Like so many men and women who have represented Queensland in public life, it is the example that we set that establishes and hopefully enhances our parliamentary life both now and into the future. That comes down to how we conduct ourselves, the behaviour we exhibit in parliament and elsewhere, our ability to respect a diverse range of beliefs and opinions, and our willingness, where possible, to allow others to live according to those beliefs.

Since her nomination for the Senate vacancy, Ms Stoker has spoken of her passion for improving regional educational outcomes and international competitiveness for Australian students and of standing up for freedom of speech and equality of opportunity for all. You might forgive me if I anticipate that we might not always agree on how these and other goals can be achieved. However, these are positive and important ideals. Once again I want to personally congratulate Ms Stoker on her selection to represent Queensland and I wish her well for her time in the Senate.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.17 pm): It is a privilege to speak on the motion to support Amanda Stoker's appointment to fill the casual Senate vacancy created through the resignation of Senator George Brandis. I also join with my colleagues in welcoming Amanda here today with her husband, Adam, and her three beautiful daughters—Mary, Jane and Emma. Her proud mum, Connie, is also here with her younger sister, Susan.

Amanda's family are immensely supportive of her as she takes her place in the Senate and public life. Family is and will be a great source of strength for her. The support and encouragement Amanda receives from her husband, Adam, will be essential to her success as a senator. Amanda and Adam share the responsibility of raising their three daughters. Adam is general counsel for the Brisbane Airport Corporation and Amanda tells me that he is a wonderful, involved and helpful father. The support, encouragement and love from family is essential to public life. Like Deb and Jason and their three girls and Gayle, me and our four children, the Liberal National Party is all about family. We wish Amanda and her family the very best as she takes on the responsibilities of a senator and I am confident that she will be an extremely strong voice in Canberra.

Let me add why I think Amanda will make a great Queensland senator. Amanda is full of conviction and holds strong to her values. Amanda has served as an associate for then justice Ian Callinan in the High Court and then justice Philip McMurdo in the Supreme Court. She has also spent time as a Commonwealth prosecutor. As a prosecutor, Amanda worked to bring about justice in horrible cases of child pornography, corporate fraud and drug importations, and as a barrister Amanda has brought cases to the High Court and the Court of Appeal, where she once acted for Police Commissioner Ian Stewart.

Amanda's track record as a lawyer and bringing criminals to justice speaks for itself, but she tells me that she is most proud of how she has assisted other women, particularly women with children like her, establish themselves at the bar. The credentials and experience that Amanda has suggest that a strong and effective force is now entering the Senate. Amanda tells me that she will fight to improve the education system and uphold values of freedom of speech. Amanda will fight for equality of opportunity and a responsible approach to our economy.


As the Leader of the Opposition said, I am very proud to support the election of another LNP woman to high office in our democracy. Amanda is transitioning from one important area of the law to another. The Senate is powerful in shaping legislation. Just as Amanda has had to respect the court, she will now have the necessary respect for the Senate as a house of review for the passage of legislation.

I want to put on record my appreciation for the services of Amanda's predecessor in the Senate, George Brandis—a proud Queenslander who served with distinction. He will become Australia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom next month. We wish George all the best in his next chapter of service to Australia.

The Liberal National Party has a long and proud history of senators who have upheld the responsibilities of high office. Dame Annabelle Rankin was the first woman from Queensland to sit in the parliament of Australia. Sue Boyce was a senator for seven years and a strong advocate for disability. As the opposition has already mentioned, Neville Bonner was the first Indigenous Australian to be a member of the Australian parliament. Amanda will follow Neville Bonner's grand-niece, Joanna Lindgren, as the LNP's latest woman senator. Amanda will join four other LNP representatives from Queensland in the Senate working hard for this country. Matt Canavan, James McGrath, Barry O'Sullivan and Ian Macdonald proudly represent our state in the Senate.

I also want to back the words of the opposition leader in saying how proud I was Saturday week ago to be involved in a true democratic process where 12 very suitably qualified candidates made themselves available to the state council of the Liberal National Party to show their credentials, to state their claim, to answer questions from the floor, to go through a thorough process to make sure that we have the best candidate to represent this great state. Six men and six women—an incredibly impressive short list—went through that democratic process. I am proud of that process and I am proud to be involved in a party that supports that democratic process.

The LNP voted for Amanda Stoker over the other 11 candidates because of her story, her experience and her convictions. I look forward to working with Amanda and continuing to work hard for all Queenslanders. Amanda has a remarkable story behind her and a bright future as an LNP senator ahead of her. We wish Amanda and her family good health and long service in the federal Senate.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to nominate Amanda Stoker to replace George Brandis as a senator for Queensland. I, too, acknowledge Ms Stoker in the chamber this afternoon with her family. I would like to add my personal congratulations and best wishes to those that she will receive today.

It is a rarity to be nominated for a casual Senate vacancy by the parliament of Queensland. Since 1901, there have been only 17 such nominations. They include some notable individuals, such as Neville Bonner, who was mentioned by the member for Everton, and, of course, the late Florence Bjelke-Petersen. I am sure Ms Stoker will be feeling a tremendous sense of pride today and perhaps also a touch of trepidation at the prospect of representing our great state in Canberra.

As the Queensland Minister for Education, I note with some enthusiasm that Ms Stoker has spoken of her intention to work for better educational outcomes for our students. Ms Stoker is already on the record in the *Brisbane Times* announcing her intention to fight to improve the international competitiveness of Australian students' school performance and to ensure that there are high-quality education opportunities available in regional Queensland. I certainly share those sentiments and I wish her well in her advocacy. On this side of the House, we welcome any initiatives in Canberra that will bolster and improve educational outcomes in this state, as I am sure will those opposite.

I am sure Ms Stoker recognises that Queensland's size and decentralised population brings unique challenges for the delivery of equitable educational services. I welcome any advocacy that she can provide on behalf of Queensland to persuade the federal government to take those challenges into account when negotiating funding models. I hope, too, that our new senator will share my view that, after 10 years of operation, it is time for a systemic re-evaluation of NAPLAN. It is timely to re-evaluate any unintended consequences to ensure that NAPLAN delivers outcomes in the best interests of all.


I am sure Ms Stoker will be in Queensland's corner fighting to secure long-term funding certainty from Canberra for early learning education centres. As a mother of three young daughters—we have heard their names today but I will repeat them because they would probably like to hear their names—Mary, Jane and Emma, I am sure Ms Stoker fully appreciates how important it is that all Queensland children have access to high-quality early learning opportunities.



Having another female representative in the Senate can only be a good thing. I would like to congratulate—yes, congratulate—the LNP on following Labor's lead in promoting women and working towards—

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Ms GRACE:** Sorry, I could not help myself—a more equitable gender balance in its parliamentary representatives. On a serious note, Ms Stoker has already proved herself to be a proud high achiever surrounded and supported by a loving family. In addition to being a working mum, which a lot of us in this House are, we have heard that Amanda is a barrister, a university lecturer and the vice-president of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland. That is a proud record. We look forward to seeing her prosecuting Queensland's case, advocating for Queensland's advantage and standing up for Queensland's interests. I commend Ms Stoker's nomination to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to nominate Amanda Stoker to fill the casual Senate vacancy that has been created through the resignation of Senator George Brandis. Like our leader, Deb Frecklington—the first female opposition leader of the LNP in Queensland—I, too, am very proud to support the election of another LNP woman to high office in our democracy. I wish to welcome Amanda to the Queensland parliament today as well as her husband, Adam, whom I have known for a long time; her three beautiful daughters—and I am sure they would again like to hear their names—Mary, Jane and Emma; her proud mum, Connie; and her younger sister, Susan.

It is a pleasure to talk about Amanda—a mother, a lawyer and a friend—whom I have watched grow professionally and politically within the LNP. It is also appropriate that I acknowledge Senator George Brandis for his service to this state as a senator and also in his roles with the federal government as attorney-general, minister for the arts and sport, and the leader of the coalition in the Senate. Many members of this House may not know that Senator Brandis has a strong connection with my electorate through his family members at Dunkeld and his ancestors at Quilpie. Senator Brandis was a frequent visitor to my electorate, the south-west region and many other places in regional Queensland. I wish Senator Brandis well in his forthcoming role as Australia's High Commissioner to London. It is good to have a Queenslanders in that role.

There is no doubt that Amanda Stoker is a remarkable mother, wife and professional who will serve Queensland with distinction and compassion in her new role as a Queensland senator. I know that many of her values and her motivation at a very early age came about because of economic management and recession and the impacts that that had on her family while she was young. Amanda comes from humble beginnings that, no doubt, will drive her conviction and her fearless advocacy to achieve outcomes for our state of Queensland. Amanda has always sought to excel by working hard and walking in the shoes of those who have aspirations and have experienced the struggles of middle Australia. Amanda grew up in a small business family and now runs her own. Amanda knows what it is like to take risks, to come from a little to build something great.

As a candidate Amanda has already taken to the roads in Queensland and visited St George in my electorate where she talked to many locals and I thank her for doing so. I am very sure she will not forget those roads to regional Queensland as she makes the journey to the Senate in Canberra. I know that Amanda shares a passion for regional Queensland. I have already seen that firsthand. I look forward to her servant leadership in the Australian Senate. I commend the motion and look forward to working with Amanda Stoker in the future as one of Queensland's senators.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.29 pm): It is a great delight to stand to endorse this motion before the House. It is a further endorsement of a process already undertaken by the Liberal National Party in selecting Amanda Stoker as the replacement for Senator George Brandis at his resignation, creating a Senate vacancy. Amanda truly is an outstanding person. She has worked hard. Her quite impressive list of achievements has been outlined by those who have spoken ahead of me, but it should be mentioned again that it is no easy task to come to the roles that she has already held. She has come to those roles because of her great intellectual ability and her capacity for hard work, acknowledging also the support that she has around her from loving family and friends who also share the same passion and values that she does.


Amanda is far more than her academic CV: she is a person of compassion, integrity and character. I know that she will not only be a great friend of Queensland in the Senate but also be a fighter for Queensland in the Senate. That alone is something we welcome very much, upholding that fine tradition on behalf of Queenslanders to take forth those issues that we hold dearly in our state and in our nation. Amanda, at 35 years old, has already achieved quite an impressive list of outcomes in

respect of the work she has undertaken as a barrister. She has worked as an associate to former justice Ian Callinan AC in the High Court and former justice Philip McMurdo in the Supreme Court, as well as being a Commonwealth prosecutor.

Her beautiful young girls are here with her today, Mary, Jane and Emma, and also Adam, and they are quite a team. We acknowledge also Amanda's parents, Connie and Mark, while Mark cannot be here today, and her sister Susan and other friends as well.

Amanda's story is one of understanding what it is like growing up in a family that has had to work hard. She has experienced the struggles when economic downturns have hit so hard that families, hers included, did not know how they would keep a roof over their head. It is to the credit of her parents that through hard work, determination and great love they achieved that outcome. It is a story that other Queenslanders, those who have had their own small businesses and those who have been in the employment of small businesses, know. When tough economic times hit and governments do not fight for them it can really hurt. This is a personal story that Amanda has grown up knowing, but it is also one of understanding that through hard work and opportunity there can be great outcomes.

I and a number of my colleagues have seen Amanda take it upon herself to ensure that her leadership is not just for her own benefit but is about raising up other people. We have seen it in the work she has done quite actively in leading young people in our community and our party who need that extra help and going the extra mile with compassion and integrity. It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak on this motion, and it will be a great pleasure when we see Amanda sworn into the Senate of Australia as Senator Stoker and the latest fighter for Queensland. Well done, Amanda.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.33 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise today to support the motion with respect to Liberal National Party senator-elect Amanda Stoker. The Liberal National Party recently conducted a rigorous and exhaustive Senate preselection process. Two hundred and forty-eight Liberal National Party state councillors, including myself, from across Queensland heard from 12 outstanding candidates who had diverse backgrounds and a lot to offer with respect to public service. Following a number of rounds of voting, senator-elect Stoker was chosen. Senator-elect Stoker was chosen not for her gender but because of her many great skills and great abilities. The LNP is a grassroots democratic party and Amanda was selected via a very democratic process.

Amanda was born in Campbelltown, New South Wales, in 1982, the eldest daughter of Mark and Connie Fell. She excelled not only academically but also at gymnastics, competing at a national level. In senator-elect Stoker's final year of school she was school captain and also a qualified gymnastics judge. Amanda graduated in 2000 and at the time was on the New South Wales premier's list for being in the top 20 statewide for all-round academic performance. She received an HSC grade of 99.8 out of 100. Subsequently Amanda studied at Sydney University on a full academic scholarship studying arts majoring in history and government as well as law. This was also when Amanda joined the Liberal Party. It was during this time that Amanda also met her husband Adam. They were married in 2005 and are parents of three daughters, as we have heard today, Mary, Jane and Emma, and I acknowledge them, one and all, in the gallery, as well as other family and friends, sister Susan and, in particular, Amanda's mother Connie.

Adam has also made a great contribution to the Liberal National Party as a regional chair and served on the state executive of the party. Senator-elect Stoker graduated in 2005 with a combined Bachelor of Laws/Arts degree with first class honours. Following her admission as a solicitor Amanda served as an associate to then justice Ian Callinan. The honourable Ian Callinan AC QC, former justice of the High Court of Australia, describes Amanda as—

... quick-witted, articulate, well liked and courteous. She quickly earns respect for her work and her intelligence. I have observed that she is driven by an ethic of public service in all of her political and community service activities. There is no doubt that both the party and the Senate would be greatly enriched by Amanda's sensitivity and her compassion, her skilful advocacy and her deep interest in policy.

Following this period with then justice Callinan, Amanda and Adam relocated from Sydney to Brisbane where senator-elect Stoker worked as an associate for then justice Philip McMurdo. Amanda was then appointed as a Commonwealth prosecutor in the Director of Public Prosecutions office serving in both Brisbane and Townsville. In 2010 Amanda commenced on the LNP Policy Standing Committee and worked as the Young LNP treasurer. Denver Beanland, historian, honorary LNP life member, former Queensland attorney-general and former member for Indooroopilly has acknowledged Amanda's abilities by saying—


In Amanda, the party has a person who has the ability and readiness to make an immediate and long-term contribution to the direction of the nation. It is time to make a strategic choice. Amanda has the ability and intellect to advocate for our beliefs, policies and values and the courage to make that case in a hostile environment. I am always impressed by her good-humoured patience and perseverance in turning ideas into actions.

In 2011 Amanda was called to the bar and as such she has worked widely throughout Queensland. Amanda has worked as a lecturer at the Central Queensland University and in 2015 received the Central Queensland University Student Voice Award for distance educator of the year. That same year senator-elect Stoker became vice-president of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland. In 2017 Amanda was appointed honorary legal adviser to the LNP. She is determined to make an impact and improve the lives of Australians. Senator-elect Stoker has vowed to fight to improve the international competitiveness of Australian students' school performance and to ensure there are high-quality education opportunities available in rural and regional Queensland. Amanda is unwavering in her defence of the values that underpin our society: freedom of speech, equality of opportunity and a reasonable approach to our economy.

I will leave my final comments to Don Cameron AM, the former federal member for Moreton, and his wife Lila—

As active and separately awarded honorary life members of the LNP, with 122 years combined membership, we recognise that our Senate is vital to our country's very future. We have a duty to ensure we select someone who possesses the energy, skills and competency to make their mark in our name, along with a genuine commitment to what the LNP represents. We believe Amanda Stoker more than fulfils the criteria and is the ideal choice.

Amanda will enrich the fabric of the Australian Senate. She will make a thoughtful and important contribution to public life. I support and commend the motion to the House with respect to Liberal National Party senator-elect Amanda Stoker. I conclude by thanking former senator George Brandis for his service, not only to our party but to the Australian Senate and to public life, and wish him all the very best in his new role as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.38 pm): I am very pleased to support the motion in relation to Amanda Stoker who will be an outstanding senator for Queensland. I am confident that Amanda will be a strong voice for Queenslanders across this state. As we have heard, Amanda is a lawyer, a daughter, a wife, a proud mother to three young daughters, Mary, Jane and Emma—who have been so well behaved in the gallery today—and a successful barrister.

The LNP has an open, transparent and democratic process where our everyday party members have their say. Amanda is a great example of what happens when talented female candidates put up their hands to seek preselection in the LNP. Throughout our process, you get the best person for the job out of a field of highly qualified individuals.

Amanda's background is an impressive story. After growing up in Campbelltown, completing high school and studying law and arts at the University of Sydney, she graduated with two degrees with first class honours. She went on to work at MinterEllison in Sydney and became an associate to then justice Ian Callinan in the High Court and then justice Philip McMurdo in the Supreme Court. Shortly after, she decided that Queensland is the best state in which to live, work and raise a family, as we all know. She moved up here with her family and worked for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions as a prosecutor based out of Brisbane. She went to the bar in 2011 and has worked across Queensland.

Amanda is a passionate advocate of freedom of speech, equality of opportunity and responsible economic management. She brings with her a deep interest in and understanding of the law and our legal system. As the shadow minister for women and the patron of LNP women, I am very proud to be part of a party that will continue to promote opportunities for women to get involved and put up their hands. We will continue to recruit the best people for the job from all walks of life who reflect the experiences and values of everyday Queenslanders. I congratulate you, Amanda, on your new role and look forward to working with you in the future.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the motion has been agreed to and Amanda Stoker has accordingly been elected to fill the vacancy in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

### Notification of Election

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.42 pm): I also pass on my congratulations to Amanda Stoker on being elected to fill the vacancy in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth. I move—

That Mr Speaker inform His Excellency the Governor that Amanda Stoker has been chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth occasioned by the resignation of Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

### Second Reading


Resumed from p. 593, on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.42 pm), continuing: Among a number of other changes, the bill proposes to change membership criteria to improve flexibility. The minister will be able to recommend appointments based on whether that person has a sufficient understanding or ability to acquire an understanding of the legislation that applies to the foundation and the skills, experience or expertise in business, financial management, marketing, communications, health, law or another area the minister considers relevant or necessary to support the board in performing its functions. Let us hope this will not be used to legitimise the government's addiction to appoint Labor Party and union functionaries and spin doctors.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system. Unfortunately, what is being delivered is far from world class. Instead of knuckling down and getting on with the job, all we hear from this government is excuse after excuse. In Gympie, for no legitimate reason, the previous health minister delayed the release of our hospital master plan by 12 months. It identified a number of improvements so that local infrastructure matches with the health and welfare needs of residents. The delay of the plan meant that our CT scanner was only installed in May 2017, that is, last year. Written requests to the minister for an update on progressing the matters outlined in the master plan have been ignored. There was not a single word in response, despite the requests being made three months before the state election was called. Questions on notice were given token answers, leaving residents to ask why we were treated with so much contempt and disdain. It is now more than two years since the release of the master plan and I trust that the new minister will be more receptive to the needs of the Gympie community.

There is a growing health crisis in this state, with almost one in three patients not being seen within clinically recommended times. The latest hospital performance data shows that in February in Gympie, 26 per cent of emergency department patients were not seen within clinically recommended times. It was shown that, in January, 16 per cent of patients waited in an ambulance longer than the designated 30 minutes. Those are not just numbers: they are real people in real emergencies, struggling to get the health care they need. It is no wonder that we need foundations to plug the gap in health services. I do not oppose the bill.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.44 pm): I support the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. I thank both the current and former committees for their work on this bill and I thank the submitters. The bill is fundamentally about modernising and updating the legislative frameworks to support the fine work of hospital foundations. Generally, foundations start as volunteer-run outfits, established to raise much needed funds to support the good works of their local public hospital. Foundations are still fulfilling that role, but the way that they do it has changed greatly.

Let us consider the fine PA Research Foundation and its amazing achievements. It started in 1984 and, since then, its achievements are truly staggering. Let us consider the legendary Russell Strong and the work he did in the field of liver transplants. Just a few years after he developed what became known as the Brisbane technique, I had the great privilege of looking after some of the infants who had received liver transplants using that very technique. I saw firsthand the lives saved through the work of Russell Strong, funded by the PA Research Foundation. There have been many other significant developments. No doubt the development of artificial corneas for transplant has saved the sight of many people.

Recently I met Professor Ranjeny Thomas, whose research into rheumatoid arthritis has been funded over the past 24 years. Professor Ranjeny is a member of the congregation at Faith Works United Church in my electorate. She took me on a tour of the Translation Research Institute. The work she is doing in relation to rheumatoid arthritis is having significant flow-on benefits for a whole range of autoimmune disorders.

I doubt anybody in this House would be unfamiliar with the name Professor Ian Frazer and the incredible work he did developing a vaccine against cervical cancer, which is an incredibly difficult and devastating disease. His research was funded by the PA Hospital Research Foundation. The vaccination has led to Professor Frazer confidently making the statement that Australia will become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer. That is an amazing achievement by the hospital foundation.

I could go on to describe many more achievements, as the array of research funded by the foundation is truly incredible. It has gone on to establish and run the Translational Research Institute, behind the PA. I have had the opportunity to visit that truly incredible institution and I encourage all members to consider going there.

To achieve all of this, the foundation requires a good deal of money. To raise that money, it is run by a modern and professional team, supported by an army of volunteers. The foundation's fundraising activities are run professionally and certainly raise invaluable funds. I have no doubt that that story is repeated around the state. Therefore, it is only appropriate that we modernise the legislation to reflect the changing nature of these foundations. For example, the existing legislation requires that a foundation has a secretary who must be a senior officer of the associated hospital. The bill establishes the position of a managing executive officer and recognises this is, in fact, how most foundation management structures have evolved. The existing legislation is quite prescriptive of the powers that a foundation can exercise. The bill proposes a less prescriptive approach, giving the foundation all the powers of an individual, including the power to enter into contracts and agreements. This reflects practices that would be accepted in any modern philanthropic organisation.

While the bill proposes less prescriptive terms in terms of powers, I am pleased that it contains provisions that will lead to greater transparency and accountability, ensuring that the minister has the appropriate oversight where there are concerns about a foundation's governance or financial viability. I note the concerns raised by the QNMU regarding the composition of the board, particularly that there is no requirement to have people on the board with nursing or midwifery experience. I also note the committee's comment in relation to this matter. I cannot support that comment. I note the department's response which says that there is nothing that precludes people with health expertise from being on a board. I have no doubt that most boards will contain people who have health experience.

I also note that this bill places obligations on board members to act in an impartial manner in the best interests of the foundation. I have been around nurses, doctors and allied health professionals much of my working life so I understand the passionate advocacy that nurses, midwives, doctors and other health professionals are capable of on behalf of their patients. I understand the sentiments of the committee.


I will always strongly advocate for nursing, midwifery and allied health clinical practice research because I believe it can be conducted and implemented more quickly and cost-effectively than research into new pharmaceuticals or medical equipment. However, I believe the provisions in this bill would require me, if I were a board member, to act impartially and balance my personal biases against the best interests of the foundation and its objectives.

This bill streamlines the legislation to support hospital foundations. It will make it easier for foundations to get on with the job of gaining support from the community for health research. The community understands the importance of health research and is prepared to back it with funding.

The role of these foundations in supporting research is increasing in importance as we see the Turnbull government slashing billions of dollars from the university sector—another source of health research. The public fundamentally get the need to fund health research. Sadly, the Turnbull government does not have the insight of the general public. Their refusal to pay a fair share of GST funding for hospitals will have broad-ranging implications. Sadly, these foundations may be left to carry the load in terms of funding for health research.

I support this bill so the foundations can get on with their job of raising money to support hospitals, particularly in the area of health research. I would call on the Leader of the Opposition to end the silence and call on Malcolm Turnbull to pay us a fair share of GST and tell him to stop the cuts to university funding. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Before I call the member for Maroochydore, I would like to acknowledge that we have in the gallery today school leaders from Balmoral State High School in the Bulimba electorate. We welcome them.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.52 pm): I am delighted to be able to speak about my local hospital foundation, the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation, which is usually known as Wishlist. It supports our local hospital and health service. This foundation, which commenced in 1998, has been amazingly successful.

The bill before the House is fundamentally altering the legislation for health foundations which was created in 1982. The Sunshine Coast Health Foundation really came into its own in 1998 when then health minister, Mike Horan, ensured it had an income stream and had the opportunity to not only

establish itself but also do outstanding work. His foresight meant that the revenue from the hospital car park was given to the health foundation so that it could operate without any of their administrative costs coming out of their fundraising dollars.

All the hardworking local charities and people who wanted to partner with the health system had the complete assurance that administrative costs would not chew up their donor dollars. It was a brilliant idea that got the best out of the community and those wanting to supporting our health services while making sure that administrative costs did not chew up the very hard-earned charitable dollars. That is the origin of the money that came from the car park that was established at Nambour Hospital.

In terms of our beautiful new \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, there is some concern that the health foundation will not have the same income stream from the car park at Nambour Hospital because of the addition of this new hospital. I have been assured by those who are working hardest with the health foundation that they are determined to do all they can to ensure administrative costs do not come out of the hard-earned community dollars.

I want to acknowledge the work of Wishlist, the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation. It has been outstanding. In the last year alone they gave more than a million dollars to health services on the Sunshine Coast. Since their inception they have raised more than \$16 million. This money has gone into research and services to support patients and equipment. The list is incredible. From money to fund research projects to staff scholarships and educational opportunities, their legacy has been profound.

I want to acknowledge some of their specific efforts. Recently they have funded a sensory garden for the mental health and older persons unit at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital. They have funded edible and therapeutic gardens for Glenbrook Aged Care. While that only cost about \$5,400, it is practical help. The foundation can give money for something that someone has seen a need for and they know it will make a huge difference to the experience of patients. It is not just about clinical care but also about wraparound care—that is, truly understanding that they can relieve the stress, the worry and the dislocation that comes from being in a health facility by bringing something that is a little more personal and comforting to the experience.


There are so many examples that I have seen. In our new hospital we have a room fitted out for the parents of very sick babies who have been in hospital for sometimes months or even since birth so they can learn how to care for their babies. It can be terrifying for these parents. Wishlist, the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation, ensured the fitout of this particular room on the hospital site for parents to learn to look after their babies on their journey to health. That means that when they make the transition home it is not as scary.

I know parents will say it is scary enough taking a well baby home, let alone taking a baby home who has been in hospital for a long time as a result of a traumatic experience, such as a difficult birth or a health complication. For parents to have the opportunity of a guiding hand in a safe setting is incredibly important. The health foundation has made that opportunity possible.

There is a long list of equipment and things that have been achieved by the foundation. It has been impressive how the Sunshine Coast community has supported our health service and not said it is all up to the government. The community is partnering with our health professionals and all those who work in the health sector to make sure that people not only have access to good clinical care but also have an experience that maximises their opportunity for good health or maximises their opportunity to experience as much normality as they can when they are going through what can be very difficult times.

In acknowledging the work of the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation I also want to acknowledge long-time CEO Lisa Rowe. She has been an outstanding head of that organisation. She commands an amazing team who work with her. As I have mentioned, the community has rallied to the cause. I cannot put a multiplier on the benefit to the community. They have leveraged great value out of every dollar they have received. They have ensured great value for money for the community and those people dependent on our health services. We will always fight for better services and better funding for our health services.

It is so wonderful to see that, as a community, people will stand alongside others in need and contribute to the cause, ensuring that it is about more than just clinical services—that it is about health care as a whole and wraparound services. That is why these foundations do such an outstanding job.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.59 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. It is great to be here on Harmony Day and see so much harmony in the House in support of this particular bill.

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the member. There are a few other members yet to make contributions so the harmony could be shattered, but I hope that is not the case.

This bill proposes to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. The point of the bill is to streamline the legislation, remove unnecessary prescription and ensure the legislation reflects hospital foundations' current operational practices. The other key objective of the bill is to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable industrial cannabis seeds to be grown for human consumption in Queensland.

I commend the work of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and the chair, the member for Thuringowa; the deputy chair, the member for Caloundra; and the members for Rockhampton, Nicklin and Maiwar. As we know, the former committee examined the 2017 bill thoroughly. In fact, the committee did not consider it necessary to duplicate the work of the former committee, so the former committee's report on the former 2017 bill is attached to the 2018 report which I think is quite an appropriate way to move forward on an important bill such as this.

A key aspect of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 is to modernise the operational framework for Queensland's hospital foundations. The importance of this is to make sure that it meets the operational needs of hospitals. As has been said, the legislation that currently governs hospital foundations has not been updated in a substantive way since the act came into force in the early 1980s. As we have heard in some of the first speeches in this House, some members of this House were born in the early 1980s, so I think it is high time that update occurred. One of the important things is that red tape which is considered to be unnecessary is being taken away which will leave foundations free to manage their day-to-day business.

As has been discussed at length by some members, one of the key items of business of hospital foundations is to raise money to support important causes and improve health outcomes in our society. Just as we all support P&Cs and the wonderful work they do supporting our local schools—

**Ms Grace:** Hear, hear!

**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Education. Just as P&Cs do fantastic work in our local communities supporting our schools, so do the hospital foundations, supporting our health services in this state and achieving fantastic outcomes for our community.

We heard from numerous members about their local hospital foundations and the contributions that have been made here. I note that the member for Cook spoke in great detail about the hard work of the Mareeba Friends of the Hospital Foundation. Her knowledge of her local hospital foundation and the contribution it makes to her community shows how much work she has done in the short time she has been a member in this House and also the great connection that she has with her community. I note that a range of other members spoke about the contribution of their hospital foundations as well.

I attended the annual telethon last year of the Children's Hospital Foundation. The Children's Hospital Foundation raised over \$12 million to fund new equipment and lifesaving medical research and provide patient and family support programs. I think that is really great. I note that the government contributed \$1 million to that telethon which, I think, is fantastic.

In conclusion, this bill will support our hospital foundations. It will modernise and streamline their processes. It will remove unnecessary red tape and create a legislative framework that enables the local industrial cannabis industry to develop on a commercial basis while also very importantly providing safeguards against any potential illicit activities which, I think, is an important consideration as well. I hope and trust that the harmony on this bill continues for the rest of this debate. I commend the bill to the House.



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.04 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Hospitals Foundations Bill 2018. This bill aims to modernise how Queensland's hospital foundations operate. This bill has two main objectives—the first objective being to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 to provide a more streamlined and cohesive legislative framework which will ultimately support and improve the public health system in Queensland. This aim is primarily achieved by providing for, firstly, the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property; secondly, the establishment of foundations and boards for foundations; and, thirdly, matters relating to the administration and oversight of foundations and boards for foundation purposes.

The second objective of this legislation before us is to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to further enable the development of an industrial cannabis industry here in Queensland. This follows a national decision to allow low-dose tetrahydrocannabinol hempseed and seed products to be sold as

food. The bill before us is similar to the Hospitals Foundations Bill 2017, which was introduced by the former minister for health and ambulance services in August 2017. That bill lapsed with the dissolution of the 55th Parliament. The differences between the 2017 and 2018 bills are minor, with only several technical amendments, as outlined to the relevant parliamentary committee by Queensland Health. The parliamentary committee recommended that the bill be passed. There were no recommendations or a statement of reservation.

The Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 provides for the establishment and regulation of hospital foundations. Such foundations, as we have heard via a number of speakers today, help their hospital and health services and support the Queensland public health system more generally. Hospital foundations do this by raising funds to improve facilities and by supporting education and training opportunities for staff. They also fund research and support and promote the health of communities. There are currently 13 foundations in Queensland.

Having previously worked clinically in a number of hospitals associated with these foundations, including in Brisbane, at the Sunshine Coast and in Toowoomba, I know how important they are to patients, staff and the broader community. Over the past 35 years, hospital foundations across Queensland have undertaken initiatives to support their local health services and improve health outcomes for the communities they serve. This includes providing grants and in-kind support for additional medical equipment and life-saving research and the provision of facilities to support patients, staff and the community.

In health care, as we all know, there are technological advances, there are innovations and there are changing clinical service models and types of workforce that deliver care. It is very important that our foundations are provided with the necessary legislative support and enabling framework to continue to support that vital work. I know the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow minister, the member for Surfers Paradise and many other members in the House support that. The member for Stretton was talking about Harmony Day before. I know that the member for Stafford, the Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham, also understands the importance of hospital foundations to our public health system.

In 2016-17, hospital foundations reported collectively income of over \$74 million. Having also worked in hospital administration and the public health system, I know firsthand the significant contribution such foundations make to strengthening governance arrangements. Foundations are an important part of the fabric of our local health networks. The work undertaken by foundations is largely driven by volunteers and local community members. In 2016-17, hospital foundations reported a total full-time-equivalent staff of over 180 people and a volunteer workforce of over 4,000 people. Foundations and their staff and volunteers work closely with their local communities to deliver better public health outcomes.


In repealing and replacing the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982, this bill provides that the board must comprise at least seven members, consisting of at least six persons recommended by the minister and one person who is either the chairperson of the hospital and health service board for the foundation's associated hospital and health service or a hospital and health service board member nominated by the chairperson, known as the HHS member. The current Hospitals Foundations Act prescribes specific membership requirements for foundations, including a requirement for the body corporate to include an employee of a university or other educational institution and employees of a hospital within the HHS. To improve flexibility, the current bill before us removes these requirements.

As I mentioned previously, this bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. Commercial industrial cannabis production for fibre and seed production in Queensland is licensed under the Drugs Misuse Act. The act does not currently allow the production of industrial cannabis seeds for the purpose of human consumption. An amendment to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, which came into effect on 12 November 2017, allows the sale of low-dose tetrahydrocannabinol hempseed food in Queensland. Industrial cannabis has low concentrations of the psychoactive component of THC and therefore has little value as a recreational drug.

The amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act will enable commercially led industrial cannabis development here in Queensland. I also noted the amendments the minister has foreshadowed with respect to the Mental Health Act 2016, the Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. I would simply offer my view that the re-establishment of the Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court is in the interests of Queensland, and the proposed amendments to strengthen representation with respect to review teams and the capacity to share information more extensively is a positive development. This is contained within the amendments.



I conclude by offering my congratulations to all hospital foundations across Queensland, the volunteers that work with those and the clinicians that contribute to part of that. I again acknowledge the benefits of those foundations to individual hospital and health services and to patients right across Queensland.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill, which repeals and replaces the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. Queensland's hospital foundations do important work in communities supporting our public health system. This new bill provides a streamlined framework which removes unnecessary red tape and makes legislation easier to understand and apply so that foundations can continue to focus on their core business.

In supporting this bill, I would like to give an overview of the fantastic work the Ipswich Hospital Foundation performs in supporting our West Moreton Hospital and Health Service in Ipswich. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation does not see itself merely as a fundraising body. It plays an important role in the Ipswich community to promote and deliver initiatives that support patient care, and it delivers a number of programs that encourage people to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Ipswich Hospital Foundation is committed to supporting the public health system in a wide range of areas—notably, children's health, education and nutrition, patient support, healthy events, medical research, Health staff development and digital health services. It has an army of over 170 volunteers who dedicate almost 20,000 hours of volunteer time each year.

Some of the achievements the foundation is most proud of is their work supporting children's health and caring for child patients in Ipswich Hospital. Last year, for example, the Ipswich Hospital Foundation installed a decorative wall in the Sunshine Circle children's ward at Ipswich Hospital so that children would feel less threatened by their hospital stay. That was through some state government funding too. The foundation also provides over 5,000 activity packs annually to children staying in the Sunshine Circle ward to help them feel more comfortable and relaxed during their stay.

The foundation has put funding into redeveloping the Sunshine Circle ward's playground and has installed new play equipment and built a new covered play area for kids. The foundation also encourages young children to adopt healthy eating habits through the Kids Kitchen Project. Delivered in local primary schools and partnering with TAFE Queensland, the Kids Kitchen Project teaches children about cooking and healthy eating under the supervision of a trained nutritionist.

Another fantastic initiative started by the Ipswich Hospital Foundation is the wig library, which provides low-cost wigs to more than 120 women and children undergoing intensive cancer treatment. The wig library is an invaluable service for cancer sufferers in Ipswich, helping to boost their self-esteem and confidence.

The foundation's goal is for Ipswich to become the healthiest community in Australia. To this end, they play a crucial role in our community to promote healthy, active lifestyles which help prevent chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The foundation's Fit4Life program is helping Ipswich meet this goal with low-cost fitness sessions for the community. All proceeds raised go towards financially supporting the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. The Fit4Life program averages over 500 participants per week in programs such as running, walking, yoga and aqua aerobics.


The foundation supports the annual Park2Park community fitness event in Ipswich. It is a hugely popular event run in July. Last year it raised over \$10,000 and all of that money went to the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Other great programs and initiatives the Ipswich Hospital Foundation have delivered include providing brand-new iPad devices in Ipswich Hospital's ICU to enhance communication between patients and staff; partnering with West Moreton Health and the University of Southern Queensland to deliver the All Things Healthy Expo; proudly supporting local Indigenous health by being the major sponsor of the Kambu Warriors sports day each year; and partnering with Mount Crosby Lions Club to hold the Ipswich 100 bicycle event that raised \$74,000 for local charities and \$13,000 for Ipswich Hospital Foundation's investment in sun protection, distributing sunscreen sachets to schools, public events, swimming pools and parks.

There are many other programs which the Ipswich Hospital Foundation has delivered over the years. I want to take the opportunity to thank the foundation for their work supporting Ipswich health and the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Hearing some of the things that they have done gives us an indication of how pivotal these foundations are not just to our community but also to our health service.

Queensland's world-class public health system is supported by the invaluable work that hospital foundations all over the state provide. Queensland's hospital foundations legislation has not changed substantially in over 30 years. This bill removes unnecessary red tape, providing an appropriate balance

between business autonomy and ministerial oversight. It removes inflexible measures such as requiring board members to have particular qualifications in order to reflect the diversity of work that foundation board members now perform.

In 2017 foundations collectively raised \$74 million, which went back into our health system to fund life-saving research, sponsor further education and training of health practitioners, deliver specialised medical equipment and provide support services to patients and carers. At a time when Canberra still owes Queensland \$1.1 billion for health services that we delivered as far back as 2014, including \$39 million allocated for West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, we need to support our hospital foundations now more than ever.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.17 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. We just heard from the member for Ipswich and the member for Maroochydore that people are very proud of their hospital foundations. In my community on the Gold Coast the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation is no exception. It does some excellent work raising money to fund support services, education and research. They have a very good website that I was just looking at where you can make grant applications and scholarship applications.

The CEO is Kim Sutton, who has been in charge for a couple of years. The chair is Wayne Hunt, and he is ably assisted by the deputy chair, John Fradgley, a prominent local lawyer. The people on the board possess a range of skills. Board members include former community services city council executive Colette McCool; sports administrator Anna Carroll; and Colette Gallagher, who was an executive of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, amongst others. They have experience in media, marketing, legal and accounting—a range of skills that we would want to have on boards such as these. The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation was formerly chaired by Gary Baildon, a former mayor, and Lex Bell, a former mayor and my predecessor in this place.

The point is that the hospital foundation has changed over the years in terms of how it has promoted its activities. That is why it is important that the legislation be updated. I want to acknowledge a couple of services which the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation provides funding for, or administrative assistance to, those in need in our community. The Cancer Patient Transport Service makes 10,000 journeys per year to provide much needed stress-free transportation for patients seeking assessment and treatment.

Emergency accommodation is the other main thing for people struggling to afford accommodation with loved ones seriously ill in hospital. I have spoken recently with Reverend Jon Brook and his volunteers at the St John's crisis care in central Surfers Paradise, and I understand that the financial burden of having an illness or a loved one having an illness can result in financial stress or poverty.

The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation website outlines addressing this as one of their key priorities, along with preventing cardiovascular disease. That is why the foundation is so valuable to our community—it is a vital part of the melting pot of local organisations that help those in need.

There are 35 other community based Gold Coast health services, such as aged care and mental health services, which are supported by the foundation. As I have mentioned, the hospital foundation also arranges scholarships for nurses to further their education and it provides funds to purchase medical equipment. This ensures that our staff and equipment are the best they can be, which is what the Gold Coast community needs and deserves. I know on the Gold Coast there is a great sense of pride in the Gold Coast University Hospital, just as has happened now on the Sunshine Coast with a very impressive hospital which is, most importantly, staffed by very impressive people.

In terms of the foundation's fundraising, they have had a number of different social functions to call attention to the services they provide. Just last Friday at Palazzo Versace in my electorate, the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation had its fundraiser, which was a Care for Cancer luncheon. The star of the day was Georgia McLennan, who shared her amazing story in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 19 March 2018, titled 'The day Georgia McLennan was diagnosed with cancer came as a shock not just to her but the medical experts doing the diagnosing' [\[405\]](#).

Despite looking completely healthy, Georgia, who is now 24, was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in her lungs and abdomen. She is now in remission after undergoing chemotherapy every day for three months and weekly spinal injections. I think everyone in our community is amazed at how positive she was, and today she is raising funds for the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. She said in the article—

You don't realise how much you appreciate a comfortable chair until you are forced to spend some of your most difficult hours in them.

Together with the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, 12 other foundations contribute to the patchwork of hospital support services in our state. These foundations are: Bundaberg Health Services Foundation, Children's Hospital Foundation Queensland, Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, HIV Foundation Queensland, Ipswich Hospital Foundation, Mackay Hospital Foundation, the PA Research Foundation, Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation, Sunshine Coast Health Foundation, Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and Townsville Hospital Foundation. A total of \$74 million was raised in 2016-17 by the foundations.

One of the things the foundations have to do is raise money when there is some sort of shortfall, and we have heard from members about some of the concerns. There is no doubt that recently there has been some significant publicity about whether there is enough money going into our health system, with comments from those opposite in the state government implying that the federal government are not paying everything they should be under their health agreements. It is a bit rich to go back to the agreements that are signed between federal and state governments through the COAG process, whether they are health or education agreements, and suggest that the federal government are not putting in the money they said they would.

It is pretty easy to look at Budget Paper No. 2 from a couple of years ago to see that the federal contribution has increased over time yet the state contribution has not increased at the same rate. That means our hospital foundations are having to find more money through their volunteers to try to make up the deficit so that our patients can get the treatments they need. I want to table an article from the *Daily Mercury* from the other day which says that patients in hospitals are waiting longer for surgery after the state government quietly took a scalpel to funding.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Daily Mercury*, dated 20 March 2018, titled 'Health cuts mean waits' [406].

As I have said, less money from Labor means that hospital foundations have to raise more money to support our hospital and health services in different ways.

I am also concerned that under our former minister, Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, ambulance ramping made an unwelcome return. On the Gold Coast, recent figures show that 39 per cent of emergency department patients at Robina Hospital and 52 per cent of emergency department patients at Gold Coast University Hospital were not seen within the clinically recommended times, yet we have seen nothing from the Labor government to fix this. We constantly hear the government channelling *Game of Thrones*, saying, 'Winter is coming,' or, 'Winter is here,' to justify the blowout in waiting times and ramping. They are not the first government to deal with the flu season, but they are one of the only governments to use it as an excuse for not being able to manage our health system.

The bill before us aims to streamline the legislation which foundations are established and regulated under. The people I have spoken to on foundations are very appreciative of anything that will remove some of that red tape. It does repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act, which does not currently reflect the needs and functions of the foundations. Given that there has been no comprehensive review of the act since its introduction, there are a number of issues with the existing legislation, and I wish to quote from the committee report. It states that the act—

... does not reflect the nature of modern financial transactions.

...

- the drafting of the Act creates confusion
- the Foundations themselves wanted the Act to be modernised, and
- a key reason for change is for Foundations to have an Act that can be understood.


The new streamlined act will remove provisions that are now considered redundant. The bill states that the board must comprise a minimum of seven members. A minimum of six members are put forward for appointment by the minister to the Governor in Council. One is the hospital and health services board chairperson for the corresponding hospital and health service or the HHB member nominated by the chairperson. The bill no longer necessitates that members should include university or hospital employees within the corresponding HHS. The committee report states that the minister can consider that the person has—

- a sufficient understanding, or ability to acquire an understanding of, the legislation that applies to the Foundation, and
- the skills, experience or expertise in business, financial management, marketing, communications, health, law or another area the Minister considers relevant or necessary to support the Board in performing its functions.

In addition, the Bill requires the Minister to consult with the relevant HHB chairperson before recommending a board appointment.

The second part of the bill makes amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act. This will give the green light for industrial cannabis seeds to be grown for human consumption in Queensland. Last year, changes to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code were enacted by the Commonwealth government, which ticked off on the low-tetrahydrocannabinol, THC, hempseed foods being available for sale in our state. The amendments ensure that industrial cannabis seeds do not need to be imported.

I conclude by congratulating our volunteers in our foundations. I encourage people to apply, especially at the Gold Coast, via the website. I commend the foundation staff and the work that they do in taking care of our patients throughout Queensland.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.26 pm): It gives me immense pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak on this bill because my community of Mackay has one of the hospital foundations. Volunteering undertaken at the Mackay Hospital Foundation raises vital funds so that they can donate equipment and services and aid the recovery of patients. The Mackay Hospital Foundation volunteers are the kind face that you see when you walk into the hospital. They greet patients and visitors, and they also give directions and information. It just makes it a nicer place to be in. The Mackay Hospital Foundation makes an enormous difference to the experience that patients and their families have at a very distressing point in their lives.

I was honoured to be invited to open the brand-new gift shop at the Mackay Base Hospital as one of my first official duties as a newly elected member of parliament in the last government. It was great to see how the Mackay Hospital Foundation had set up this brand-new gift shop. Staffed solely by volunteers, the shop was stocked full of gift items for patients and new baby arrivals. It also had a large range of toiletries for the ease and comfort of those patients who did not have families and friends around them to bring them basic items. This is very important in a place like Mackay where we have a lot of FIFO workers coming and going and also a lot of tourists. They do not have people at hand to bring them items if they suddenly become unwell.

The Mackay Hospital Foundation has a lot of varied services, all solely carried out by volunteers. Some of these services include the operation of vending machines not only in the Mackay hospital but also in our rural facilities. The Mackay HHS covers from Bowen out to Clermont and everything in between so the work that they do is vast. They also have a wheelchair service and they do small administration jobs to help out the nursing staff, like stuffing envelopes and laminating, because they believe the nurses should be left to do the job of nursing. They operate a daily trolley service delivering free newspapers to keep patients connected with the outside world. They also have a selection of drinks and chocolates for purchase.

They run a daily playgroup for children in the children's ward, they entertain the patients and they also allow the siblings of patients to join in to give parents and caregivers a break. The volunteers are the friendly faces in the oncology ward and also at breast screening. They offer patients some care and hope as they receive treatment. They also raise funds to improve services at the hospitals. Tracey Byron told me that they like to fill the gaps of government funded services to make it just a little bit more comfortable. It is a shame that the member for Surfers Paradise was not calling today for the federal government to pay hospitals like the Mackay HHS for services they have already delivered instead of making excuses for them.

In more recent years the Mackay Hospital Foundation have purchased televisions, chairs for ICU and physiotherapy units, a draft shuttle to transport neonatal babies that need treatment and a supine bike that can be pedalled in bed, which helps in the patients' recovery physiotherapy. They have also purchased blanket warmers. The foundation is fortunate to have long-term volunteers who give their time to the hospital foundation. They were doing this even before it was a formal foundation. These volunteers include Lavern White, who started volunteering in 1989, and Bill and Greta Thomas, who have been volunteering since 1981 and are still continuing their service.

The Mackay Hospital Foundation is one of 13 foundations in Queensland that have worked tirelessly to support their local hospitals, collectively raising \$74 million. This bill will repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. The act is unnecessarily prescriptive, inconsistent with contemporary drafting standards and does not adequately reflect the needs of foundations.


The bill continues to provide for foundations to be established as bodies corporate. The Hospitals Foundations Act provides for the body corporate to comprise members but does not expressly establish a board for the foundation. The bill makes it clear that the governing body of the foundation is the foundation's board. The functions of the board are to: manage the foundations generally; ensure the

foundation achieves its registered objectives effectively and efficiently; sets out strategies and policies for the property managed by the foundation; and any other function given to it under the bill or legislation.

The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. The Drugs Misuse Act currently only allows for commercial industrial cannabis production for fibre, and seed production in Queensland is licensed under the Drugs Misuse Act. The Drugs Misuse Act currently does not allow for the production of industrial cannabis seeds for human consumption.

Without amendment to the act, Queensland will not be able to produce seeds in Queensland allowable under the amendment to the Australian and New Zealand Food Standards Code, which took effect on 12 November 2017, allowing for the sale of low-THC hempseed foods in Queensland. Without this amendment, Queensland would need to import industrial cannabis seeds used in hempseed foods in Queensland from interstate or overseas. The industry will be able to grow low concentrations of the psychoactive component of the THC and, therefore, have low value as a recreational drug. There is an opportunity to develop a commercially led industrial cannabis industry.

This bill will replace the current authorisation of seed denatures and seed suppliers with a seed handler's licence. The requirements for seed handlers are simplified through the bill. I support the mental health amendments flagged by the minister in his second reading speech. This bill makes sense. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. If there is one thing we know in Toowoomba it is that we need a strong relationship between the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. For over 27 years now the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation has worked hand in glove with our local hospitals and health services. They have supported the Toowoomba Hospital, the Mount Lofty Heights Nursing Home and Baillie Henderson Hospital and they have worked hand in glove with the hospital service and provided substantial lifesaving equipment and resources right across the health network in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

Over those 27 years a significant contribution—over \$9 million—has been handed over to the health service of Darling Downs and Toowoomba. It has been handed over by the great governance of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation through its maintenance and operation of the car park and cafeteria at the Toowoomba Hospital. Beyond and above that, what we see with the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation is an extraordinary community support. Today on their Facebook page we saw a very generous community donation to the foundation in recognition and remembrance of a stillborn sibling. That family's sibling was stillborn in 1946. The contribution that the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation makes to the broader health network in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs is inestimable.


I want to pay tribute to the leadership of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service through the chairman and one of my predecessors, Mike Horan, and also the CEO of the service, Mr Peter Gillies, who serve on the board of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. Both organisations want to work closely together.

The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation would not be the extraordinary organisation it is without the leadership of its CEO, Alison Kennedy, who has really pushed the organisation forward right through to the heart of the community of Toowoomba over the three years that she has been there. I also acknowledge longstanding chairman, Mr Ray Taylor, a renowned Toowoomba businessman but also a very long-term chairman of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. That leadership team has worked very closely with the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. This bill, which supports the governance of hospital foundations, is to be applauded.

I want to finish my brief contribution talking about the future of health services in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service form the basis of our health service. Toowoomba, however, is the base service centre for much of Western and Southern Queensland. Construction of this hospital started in 1880 and was pretty much completed in 1927, but there have been extensions in the years since. However, it is an old facility and the community of Toowoomba is crying out for some longer term planning.

A significant survey has been undertaken across the health services in Toowoomba—and the community has been surveyed—and it is clear that there is an appetite for the construction of a new hospital at a site, most likely at the Baillie Henderson Hospital site. There have been significant discussions with government, with the bureaucracy, about funding this particular project. Funding has been allocated and it is my understanding that the minister was considering potential master planning. I encourage the minister to consider that as a matter of some urgency.

Toowoomba is a service centre for health right across Southern and Western Queensland. Its people deserve the very best health services. Not only could it be a fine centre for health services but it could be a centre of excellence for rural health serving not just regional and rural Queensland but rural and regional Australia. I believe that Toowoomba has that capability and it has the appetite. I believe the time has come for a significant investment in Toowoomba health services.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.39 pm): Before I begin, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to acknowledge your contribution: getting your head shaved for a worthy cause. My wife was diagnosed with leukaemia some years ago and it was an enormous challenge, so I recognise the contribution that you have made. May I say, what a lovely cranium you have!

The Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 provides a legislative framework for the establishment and operation of hospital foundations. The bill repeals and replaces the existing Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 with contemporary legislation. The main purpose of the bill is to establish a legislative framework under which entities may support and improve the public health system in Queensland. This purpose is primarily achieved by providing for: the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property; the establishment of foundations and boards for foundations; and matters relating to the administration and oversight of foundations and boards for foundations.

These are pretty fundamental changes to organisations which are key. We have heard there are 13 areas, and I can speak for the ones in Far North Queensland which I will talk a little bit about in a minute. These changes reflect the first significant changes to the legislation since it was introduced to the House. These amendments reflect current practices and, very importantly, they also provide flexibility at a local level. There are a couple of notable things.

Firstly, the charitable status of foundations by registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission will not be impacted by this bill. I think that is well worth noting. Under the act the minister has limited powers available to address circumstances where a foundation experiences financial or other difficulties. The bill provides the minister with greater visibility where there are concerns about the governance or financial viability of a foundation. The bill also requires foundations to notify the minister in writing immediately after becoming aware of a matter that raises significant concern regarding the foundation's financial viability or governance. As I have said before, these are sound and important changes that need to be made.

The amendments will also open up the food export market to create a new industry, and this has been touched on by members on both sides of this chamber. An August 2016 report from the international technology research and advisory company Technavio estimated the global market size of hemp based foods at \$215.8 million, with growth forecast at around 20 per cent annually during the 2016 to 2020 period. There are foundations for an industry here and there are very real opportunities.

The bill amends the Drugs Misuse Act to also enable the seeds to be grown for human consumption. The bill includes appropriate measures to reduce the risk of diversion or lawful dealings with industrial cannabis seed being used as a front for marketing high-THC varieties. The Drugs Misuse Act already allows industrial cannabis to be grown for fibre and seed. The changes will bring Queensland into line with the approaches and the laws of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and, just as importantly, South Australia.

The bill also addresses some pre-existing issues with the Drugs Misuse Act; for example, it tightens regulatory control over researchers who can grow high-THC varieties by requiring applicants for a researcher licence to submit a plan outlining proposed risk management strategies, including the supervision of contracted growers. The bill also provides for more flexible options for responding to breaches of the Drugs Misuse Act.

One of the important things about the hospital foundation is its community engagement, and this is where I will talk about the facility that we have in Cairns. The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation has raised \$15 million in 20 years. It is an essential organisation. The community can certainly embrace the challenges that our hospitals face and contribute to resolving them. It is a very important organisation and it has ingratiated itself throughout the fabric of our community. I recognise Dr Ken Chapman, the chairman and all of the members there: Patricia Bailey, Steve Russell, Desley Boyle—who served in this chamber for number of years—Professor John McBride; John Andrejic; Clare Douglas; Ali Davenport; Dr Edward Strivens; and Jodi Peters. Each one of those people, including previous members of the board, have made outstanding contributions.

I would like to touch on a couple of areas that I think are important: \$1.4 million was raised for a second cardiac catheter laboratory in Cairns Hospital. The Far North Queensland community raised \$1.4 million towards a second laboratory at Cairns Hospital. Funds were initially raised through the

Mount Franklin Cardiac Challenge bike ride from Cairns to Cooktown, and I believe this is an annual event. I encourage all members of the chamber to come up to Cairns, relax and go for a bike ride. They are more than welcome. I think it is a couple of hundred kilometres. Looking around, some of us could use it.

**An honourable member:** That's harsh!

**Mr HEALY:** It is a harsh world that we live in, but I do this purely with regard to health and I am thinking of everyone's best interests. The project is on track to be completed by 2018. It will mean that fewer patients have to travel to Brisbane and Townsville. That is one of the beauties of this organisation, because we in Cairns do not have to go south for treatment. That is no different to what my wife had to go through when she did not have to leave Cairns for her treatment.

We also have a paediatric playground for which \$1,285,000 was raised. Our paediatric playground opened in time for Christmas 2015. It is a state-of-the-art playground, and it was built adjacent to the children's ward at Cairns Hospital in conjunction with the hospital redevelopment. The playground benefits the entire family. Patients have access to a new all-weather playground designed to maximise rehabilitation, education and having fun.

We also have a PET-CT scanner thanks to a \$700,000 contribution from the foundation. Construction of the facility to house the PET-CT scanner began in March 2015. This is a huge milestone for our health services. It will ensure that patients will not need to travel to receive this service now that the machine is operational. As a foundation they are extremely proud to make a continual contribution to services in our region and I, as their elected member, cannot support them strongly enough.

We also have an integrated patient system. The contribution of the foundation in this regard was \$1.6 million. As part of the Cairns Hospital redevelopment the foundation contributed \$1.6 million—which is their single biggest spend to date—towards the latest innovations in patient entertainment systems. The new systems enable patients to access free-to-air television and radio as well as their personalised healthcare plan.

The importance of this is fundamental to our community, particularly in regional areas. I would like to recognise the hard work of those on the committee towards building stronger communities. This is one of those organisations that contributes to a stronger community. I would like to recognise the committee's hard work and thank all members of the chamber who participated in that. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a brief contribution in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. Needless to say, this is not a contentious piece of legislation. It is similar to the Hospital Foundations Bill 2017 which was introduced by the former minister for health and ambulance services in August 2017 and considered by the former committee in report No. 46. That bill has been noted by a number of members in the House this afternoon. It lapsed when the 55th Parliament was dissolved on 29 October last year.

As has been outlined, the bill before us has two key policy objectives. One is to replace and repeal the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 with a more streamlined and contemporary legislative framework. In layman's terms, we are bringing our hospital foundations into the 21st century. The second objective here that should not be lost on members is to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable the appropriate—and I stress appropriate—further development of the industrial cannabis industry following the national decision to allow low-tetrahydrocannabinol hempseed and seed products to be sold as food.

I am very proud of the work of the Mackay foundation. It is one of those 13 across the state of Queensland that does such great work for our community. It would be remiss of me this afternoon not to acknowledge the board of the Mackay foundation, and that includes the chairman Peter Tait. I do not want to embarrass Peter, but he comes from a very respected family in our city, the city that I represent in this place. He is the grandson of SH Tait, who started that local accounting firm SH Tait & Co in 1924. Peter and members of his family before him selflessly gave a lot of time and resources to some very charitable organisations over many years. George Street Neighbourhood Centre comes to mind, the mines rescue people, and on it goes. Under Peter's leadership, the Mackay Hospital Foundation board went from strength to strength in a very short period of time.

I also acknowledge Annabel Dolphin, the deputy chair, Robin Nikolsky, Antoinette Morton, Margaret Birch, Professor Pierre Viljoen, Jill Grant, Terry Johnson and Tim Mulherin, of course the former long-serving member for Mackay in this place who is the hospital and health board representative. I might add that although Mr Mulherin comes from the other side of the political divide,

I always had great respect for Mr Mulherin and his family. In fact, my late mother cared for the former member for Mackay when he was a baby. I was not aware of that until a number of years ago and before I came in to this place. I remember him saying to me that was the story when we caught up at Beef Australia some years ago. He has always been very courteous since he has been in the role as chairman of the board.

The Hospital foundation board has done a tremendous job. I looked at some numbers in terms of their fundraising capacity in the Mackay-Whitsunday community. I make the point that this is not just about the Mackay Base Hospital; this is about the hospital and health services across the greatest place in the greatest state in the greatest nation on earth, the Mackay-Whitsunday region—and that is the Mackay Base Hospital and other hospitals including the Proserpine Hospital in my electorate of Whitsunday. Many people who live in my electorate of Whitsunday go to the Mackay Base Hospital for important specialist services for which we are very grateful. I might add that that came on the back of a public campaign years ago to basically rebuild the Mackay Base Hospital. It came at the cost of selling the airport. We have moved on from that; we have not forgotten.

I pay tribute to David Fisher, former editor of the *Daily Mercury*, who really led the campaign when he was in charge of our regional daily newspaper. It is not famous for campaigning for a lot, but under David Fisher he drew a line in the sand and forged a very good campaign to deliver a great outcome, a lasting legacy, for people in Claremont, Cannonvale, Carmila and Collinsville. As colourful as that might sound, those communities and many others benefit from the base hospital and the work of the Mackay Hospital Foundation Board.

We have been a very benevolent community for a long time across Mackay and the Whitsundays, our region built on the spirit of private enterprise going back to the early days of cattle, cane, tourism and on it goes. People have been very giving, including to the Hospital Foundation. I looked at some numbers before. Revenue in the 2016-17 report for Mackay Foundation up to almost \$1.6 million; fundraising at \$43,000, grants and donations, \$1.3 million. To give a snapshot, there was one bequest in the 2016-17 year for the Mackay Foundation of \$950,000.

We punch way above our weight. This is across only three local government areas, namely Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac. These are very impressive statistics recognised by the good people who run organisations like the Humpty Dumpty Foundation and Variety, because they are willing to say, 'You know what? They are doing a good job in Mackay. We need some extra equipment.' They have been very forthcoming in putting up money for vital medical projects and equipment.

Under Mr Tait's leadership, as deputy chair in his latest report for 16-17, vital medical equipment increased in terms of investment by 15 per cent. I am very proud of the work of the board but also of the 130-strong volunteers. It is really impressive when I walk in there with my colleagues. The member for Surfers Paradise, in a previous life, saw the work and the community-mindedness of the 130-strong purple army that are there to greet people and to help people, the many people who come from out of town to the Mackay Base Hospital. That hospital foundation board does a tremendous amount of work indeed.

In summing up, the work of the 13 hospital foundation boards across Queensland is terrific. I am a bit biased, but we do a terrific job in Mackay. Of course, it is the chief fundraising body for the Mackay Hospital and Health Service. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge some of the other community partners across Mackay and the Whitsundays, including the Lions Club of Mackay, Woolworths and the good people from Southern Cross Austereo, my former colleagues Jay and Dave from Triple M with their Give Me 5 for Kids campaign. It is synonymous with a number of the regional MPs in the House today in terms of the Southern Cross Austereo radio network providing those extras for sick kids, not only at Mackay Base Hospital but Proserpine Hospital.

Certainly, we are no stranger to the Proserpine Hospital. It does an important job across the greater Whitsundays. There is no child birthing these days at the Bowen Hospital, so a lot of expectant mums come to Proserpine for that once-in-a-lifetime experience. It does cause concern for some parents who cannot have babies in Bowen. It has been documented before in this House, but there is terrific work in our hospitals in both Mackay and the Whitsundays, including Proserpine Hospital. As I said, this is a non-contentious piece of legislation. There is a bit of history to it and, in summing up, it brings our hospital foundations into the 21st century. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. This bill will repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. The new legislative framework proposed by the bill will make it easier to understand the framework and apply it in practice, ensuring hospital foundations continue to focus on their important work supporting



Queensland's public health system. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to allow industrial cannabis to be grown for use in hemp based foods following a change to the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code which commenced in November 2017.

I thank the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, the committee secretariat and the submitters. Having reviewed the bill in its report No. 3 of the 56th Parliament, the committee made only one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

As to the provisions of the bill that deal with the hospital foundation, these foundations help their associated hospitals provide improved facilities, education, opportunities for staff, research funding and opportunities that support the health and wellbeing of communities. They are administered by voluntary boards appointed by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the health minister.

In Queensland, we are very fortunate to have 13 foundations. Over the past 35 years, hospital foundations in Queensland have undertaken initiatives to support their local health services and improve health outcomes for Queenslanders generally. This support includes grants and in-kind support for medical equipment, lifesaving research, travel, professional development initiatives and the provision of facilities to support patients, staff and the community.

We are very fortunate in Ipswich that one of those 13 hospital foundations is the Ipswich Hospital Foundation which supports the Ipswich General Hospital and West Moreton Health. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation is a well-respected and well-run Ipswich community group led by chairman Neil Harding and chief executive officer Phillip Bell. Phillip Bell took over as CEO in May 2017, taking over from Tom Yates who had been CEO of the foundation since it was established in 1997. The foundation manages the Ipswich Hospital car park, holds regular events and provides a range of services focussed on improving the health of people in the Ipswich community. I cannot praise them enough for their good work for the Ipswich communities.

The Queensland hospital foundations work closely with their local communities to deliver better health outcomes and dedicated staff undertake projects to raise funds, driven largely by volunteer local community members. In 2016-17 foundations reported a total full-time-equivalent staff of over 180 and a volunteer workforce estimated at an incredible 4,000 people across Queensland. The foundations' work has the associated benefit of positively promoting the high standard of care and health services delivered within the public health system in Queensland.

The important role of foundations in delivering outcomes for the health of Queenslanders requires a legislative framework that reflects their work and current operational needs. Foundations are established as statutory bodies under the current Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 which governs many aspects of foundations' operations including functions, objectives, powers, constitutions, meetings, financial matters, dissolution, winding up and amalgamation.

The Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 is considered unnecessarily prescriptive and inconsistent with contemporary drafting standards and does not reflect the needs of foundations. This bill before the House will repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act with legislation that reflects contemporary drafting standards and streamlines the legislation by removing unnecessarily prescriptive provisions.

The bill provides that foundations will continue to be statutory bodies under the bill. They will still have charitable status of foundations by registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and will not be impacted by the bill. Ministerial approval is no longer required for transactions that are not associated with a high level of risk and foundations are considered to have the financial expertise to manage without oversight such things as the holding or disposing of shares. However, any borrowing undertaken by foundations under the proposed bill will be subject to the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and require the Treasurer's approval.

I will now move on to those provisions of the bill that deal with the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. Commercial industrial cannabis production for fibre and seed production in Queensland is licensed under the Drugs Misuse Act. The Drugs Misuse Act currently does not allow the production of industrial cannabis seeds for the purpose of human consumption. An amendment to the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code which took effect on 12 November 2017 now allows the sale of tetrahydrocannabinol, otherwise known as THC, hempseed foods in Queensland. However, without amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act, all industrial cannabis seeds in Queensland must be imported from interstate or overseas and hence why we need this bill.

Industrial cannabis that can be grown by industry has low concentrations of THC and therefore has low value for potential drug use. However, low-THC and high-THC varieties are visually indistinguishable so there is a risk that lawful industrial cannabis production could be used as a front

for illegal activities. Licensed research to support the development of the industry can involve high-THC varieties. There is a risk that the plant material or seed, which does not contain THC but could be used to grow an unlicensed crop, could be diverted to illegal activities. Even unlawful diversion of THC plant material or seed would be a policing concern.

The amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act would enable commercially led industrial cannabis industry development, minimise associated risks and address pre-existing issues with the Drugs Misuse Act. The proposed amendments open up the possibility of cannabis being grown in Queensland as a food crop and as a fibre crop which would go into commercial production. Industrial cannabis fibre and seed comes from cannabis plants specifically bred with low levels of THC of no more than one per cent. I know that anything this government does to allow and encourage the commercial production of commercial cannabis for fibre or seed will be welcomed by our farming community. In closing, I commend the bill to the House with its amendments.



**Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill 2018. As we have heard from many other members in the House today, there are two key policy objectives in this bill. One is to repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 with a more streamlined and contemporary legislative framework under which entities may support and improve the public health system in Queensland. This purpose is primarily achieved by providing for the objects for which foundations may hold and manage property, the establishment of foundations and boards for foundations, and matters relating to the administration and oversight of foundations and boards for foundation.

The second policy objective of this bill is to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to enable appropriate further development of the industrial cannabis industry following a national decision to allow THC hempseed and seed products to be sold as food. Without the amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act, all cannabis seeds used in hempseed foods in Queensland would have to be imported from interstate or overseas. These amendments enable commercially led industrial cannabis industry development within Queensland and minimise associated risks and address pre-existing issues with the Drugs Misuse Act.

I particularly want to speak about the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation and its absolutely stellar history as an organisation. I note that in the current list of objectives one of its primary objectives is to enthusiastically raise funds to help the community overcome hardship caused by illness and disability. Its mission is to raise funds to relieve distress of illness, promote wellbeing and further medical advancements. Its ultimate vision is to ensure that no-one in the community experiences hardship caused by illness or disability.

I have had a long association with the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. In a previous life as a radio station manager on the Gold Coast, we were invited to get involved with the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation one year with some fundraising activity. Earlier today the member for Whitsunday spoke about the great work of the Triple M network across Queensland and its annual Give Me 5 for Kids appeal. At the risk of being a little immodest, that particular concept—Give Me 5 for Kids—was started at 92.5 Gold FM back in the late nineties by the then breakfast morning announcer, a guy called Richard Fowler, and his team.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** No, not the same 'Chooky' that the member for Mermaid Beach referred to yesterday as the former member for Noosa. Over the years Give Me 5 for Kids has raised millions of dollars for hospital foundations and children's wards across Australia and particularly across Queensland. To further build on that, in 1996 92.5 Gold FM was approached by the then previous chair of the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation and then mayor and councillor Gary Baidon—a great Gold Coast citizen, a great contributor to the community. He suggested that the radio station might like to get involved in launching an art union to help raise funds for the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, which the radio station did at the time. I think in the first year over \$100,000 was raised through that art union.

I have to acknowledge the incredibly generous support of Steve Cavalier, the state manager of Harvey Norman and the principal operator of Harvey Norman on the Gold Coast at Bundall, because every year since then Steve Cavalier and the team at Harvey Norman have donated over \$10,000 worth of shopping sprees and prizes as the major prize for art unions that have continued year after year in support of not just the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation but also the Gold Coast Community Fund which was established in 2000 with great people like Ian Cousins, the former general sales manager of Sea FM and Gold FM; Simon Bennett, a local principal lawyer from O'Keefe Mahoney Bennett; and of course the current chair, Rutland Smith, who is a former Harvey Norman franchisee. He has done an

incredible job of driving the fund forward in recent years, and the Gold Coast Community Fund continues to support not only some of the great work of the hospital but many other charities and disadvantaged individuals on the Gold Coast.

I digress. Let me get back to the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. The foundation has grown out of an incredible legacy, which was the old Southport hospital women's auxiliary that for many years ran the canteen, the gift shop and the flower shop. That hospital went on to become the Gold Coast hospital. As the hospital grew, it became a little too big for that group to manage. Eventually, in the late 1990s, the foundation was established. That auxiliary—that incredible group of women—continued to work very faithfully running the snack bar and the coffee shop at the old hospital. With the movement to the new Gold Coast University Hospital, the women of that auxiliary stepped aside and took on other volunteer roles within the precinct.

The other great work of the old auxiliary and the original hospital foundation was to build the chapel at the old hospital. When the old hospital was being torn down, there was a request that that chapel be saved. I acknowledge James Kennett and Michael Byrne, two members of the Rotary Club of Southport, who led a team of people who were instrumental in removing the chapel. It is now located in the middle of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games precinct on the Broadwater. It has been beautifully restored. The chapel is now rented out for weddings and all sorts of other special occasions and raises money for some of the great work that Rotary does on the Gold Coast and, in turn, supports some of the work of the hospital foundation.

The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation is also very famous for its balls. Over the past 10 or 15 years I have had the pleasure of going to almost every single ball. Members will be pleased to hear that, for the past six years, I have had the pleasure of donating a dinner in the Strangers' Dining Room as a prize to be raffled or auctioned. I have been surprised at the generosity of some of the local businesspeople. I am sure they were not paying \$1,000 or \$2,000 just to come here to have dinner with me; they were simply wanting to support the great work of the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. I ask members to please not tell them that it costs us only about \$40 a head to cater for them and that there are cheaper ways to arrange to have dinner at Parliament House.

I want to praise the work of the foundation. With the move to the Gold Coast University Hospital, a new foundation CEO was appointed, Kim Sutton. She has a tremendous profile on the Gold Coast. She is beloved and well known by many throughout the business community and many people at the hospital. Kim and her team have done an incredible job in taking the foundation from its very humble beginnings to being an organisation that raises upwards of \$1 million a year to support families and provide equipment. The foundation particularly does a lot of work in the children's ward in working with disadvantaged and struggling families. I praise their efforts and acknowledge the great work they do.

In closing, I want to talk about the ball that occurred a few weeks before the Gold Coast University Hospital opened. It is a magnificent facility. It has an incredible atrium. On the night of the ball, people were seated within the foyer reception area of the hospital. It was an inspiring evening with incredible music and great singing. We were also greeted by the traditional owners with an incredible dance routine and some amazing didgeridoo playing, with the sound wafting up that 11-storey atrium at the hospital.

I commend the bill. I especially want to praise and congratulate the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation on its incredible and enduring work over many years. I am pleased that these changes in the bill will make it easier and a lot simpler for the hospital foundation to function in the future and ensure that it continues to enjoy great leadership.



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.14 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contribution to the debate and for their support for the bill. Hospital foundations are an important part of our state's public health system. It has been great to see the work undertaken by foundations, which was highlighted by so many members during this debate. Foundations raise funds to improve facilities, support educational and training opportunities for staff, fund research and support the health and wellbeing of communities. The bill before the House supports the hospital foundations to continue their important work by providing a modern and streamlined legislative framework.

In developing the new legislative framework, foundations told us that they wanted a new and improved act to enable them to run their day-to-day operations more efficiently. This bill does that by replacing the 35-year-old Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. Business processes and operations have changed a lot in those 35 years. This bill reflects contemporary practices.

This legislation delivers an appropriate level of business autonomy and government oversight. It provides for ministerial oversight of higher-risk financial matters while removing the need to obtain the minister's approval for low-risk financial transactions, such as receiving or disposing of gifts. Foundations have the financial expertise that is needed to manage these types of transactions without oversight.

The bill provides for the composition of the board of a foundation, but removes the current level of prescription requiring board members to have particular qualifications or hold specific positions. That will improve flexibility. The bill also recognises the diverse and unusual role that foundation board members perform as they govern a statutory body that is also a charity. The changes before the House today will allow Queensland's hospital foundations to focus on their core business: supporting Queensland's public health system to deliver world-class health care.

The amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act and the regulation follow changes to the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code, which came into effect on 12 November 2017. The change will bring Queensland into line with New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia by allowing low-THC hempseed to be grown for human consumption.

I would like to thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her consideration and the constructive approach that she has taken to the amendments to be moved during consideration in detail and for her advice that the opposition would not be opposing these amendments. The amendments to be moved during the consideration in detail will make important clarifications to ensure that Queensland's criminal justice system operates as intended. It is appropriate that these changes be made quickly. I assure the House that the amendments proposed to the Mental Health Act will have no impact on offenders. In fact, the amendments will provide clarity for both offenders and the authorities involved on the calculation of time served.

I would like to thank the members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and the staff of the committee for their detailed consideration and report on the bill. I acknowledge that the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union and the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service took the time to provide feedback on the bill to the committee. The bill was the subject of extensive consultation with hospital foundations and hospital and health services prior to its introduction into the parliament. I thank the foundations and the HHS officers who provided feedback on the draft bill, which has ensured that the bill reflects the operational needs of both the foundations and the HHSs. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): I note that the minister's amendment No. 1 proposes to amend clause 2 and relates to proposed new clauses in a later amendment. Therefore, consideration of clause 2 and the minister's amendment is postponed until after all other clauses and amendments have been considered.

Clause 2 postponed.

Clauses 3 to 155, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



**Dr MILES** (4.19 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Dr MILES:** I move the following amendment and table explanatory notes to my amendments—

#### 2 After clause 155

Page 91, after line 12—

insert—

#### **Division 5 Amendment of Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011**

##### **156 Act amended**

This division amends the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

##### **157 Amendment of s 34 (Delegation by health service chief executive)**

Section 34(1), after 'under this Act'—

insert—

or another Act

**Division 6 Amendment of Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008****158 Act amended**

This division amends the *Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008*.

**159 Amendment of schedule (Dictionary)**

- (1) Schedule, definition *chief executive*, of a treatment order agency—  
*insert—*

(f) a health service chief executive under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

- (2) Schedule, definition *treatment order agency*—  
*insert—*

(f) a Hospital and Health Service established under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*, section 17.

**Division 7 Amendment of Mental Health Act 2016****160 Act amended**

This division amends the *Mental Health Act 2016*.

**161 Insertion of new ss 497A and 497B**

Chapter 12, part 6, division 3—  
*insert—*

**497A Prosecuting authority to give chief psychiatrist notice of ending of order**

The prosecuting authority for the relevant offence must, within 7 days after the forensic order or treatment support order for the person ends under section 497(2), give the chief psychiatrist written notice that the order has ended under that section on a stated day.

**497B Disclosure of particular information on ending of order**

- (1) The chief psychiatrist must, within 7 days after receiving notice under section 497A of the ending of the forensic order or treatment support order for the person, give the chief executive (justice) written notice under subsection (2).
- (2) The notice must state each period for which the category of the forensic order or treatment support order, or of any previous related order, was inpatient.

*Note—*

See section 797A for the effect of a period for which the category of a forensic order or treatment support order is inpatient.

- (3) The chief executive (justice) must, within 7 days after receiving the notice, give a copy of the notice to—
- (a) the director of public prosecutions; and
  - (b) if the person is a child—the chief executive (youth justice); and
  - (c) if the person has at any time been in, or immediately after the relevant appearance is in, the custody of the chief executive (corrective services) in relation to the relevant offence—the chief executive (corrective services).

*Note—*

See the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, section 7 for when a person is taken to be in the custody of the chief executive (corrective services).

- (4) In this section—

**previous related order**, in relation to a forensic order or treatment support order (each a **relevant order**), means—

- (a) a forensic order that ended or was revoked on the making of the relevant order; or
- (b) a forensic order that ended or was revoked on the making of the forensic order mentioned in paragraph (a).

*Notes—*

- 1 See section 461 for the making of a forensic order (mental health) or forensic order (disability) for a person subject to a forensic order (Criminal Code).
- 2 See section 457 for the making of a forensic order (disability) on the revocation of a forensic order (mental health).
- 3 See section 450 for the making of a treatment support order on the revocation of a forensic order (mental health).

**relevant appearance**, for a person who was subject to a forensic order or treatment support order that ended under section 497(2), means the appearance of the person at the mention of the proceeding for the relevant offence that resulted in the ending of the order.

**162 Insertion of new s 797A**

After section 797—

*insert—*

**797A Particular periods counted as imprisonment or detention**

- (1) This section applies to a period for which a person—
- (a) is a classified patient in relation to an offence; or
  - (b) is subject to a forensic order or treatment support order in relation to an offence, if the category of the order is inpatient; or
  - (c) is detained in an authorised mental health service, in relation to an offence, under—
    - (i) a court examination order; or
    - (ii) an order made under section 124(1)(b), 183(c)(ii), 193(2) or 551(4)(b).
- (2) The period is—
- (a) for the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*—taken to be imprisonment already served by the person under the sentence for the offence, unless the sentencing court orders otherwise; or

*Note—*

See the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 159A in relation to time held in presentence custody.

- (b) for the *Corrective Services Act 2006* or the *Youth Justice Act 1992*—counted as part of the person's period of imprisonment or period of detention for the offence.
- (3) However, subsection (2) does not apply to a period for which the person is granted bail for the offence.

**163 Replacement of ch 20, hdg (Transitional provisions)**

Chapter 20, heading—

*omit, insert—*

**Chapter 20 Transitional provisions for Act No. 5 of 2016****164 Insertion of new ch 21**

After chapter 20—

*insert—*

**Chapter 21 Transitional provision for Hospitals Foundations Act 2018****864 Application of s 797A to particular periods**

- (1) Section 797A applies, and is taken always to have applied, as if the reference in section 797A(1) to a period included a reference to a period during the designated period.
- (2) If section 797A(2)(a) or (b), as applied under subsection (1), applies in relation to a person for a period during the designated period, the period is—
- (a) for the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*—taken to be, and to have always been, imprisonment already served by the person under the sentence for the offence; or
  - (b) for the *Corrective Services Act 2006* or the *Youth Justice Act 1992*—counted, and is taken to have always been counted, as part of the person's period of imprisonment or period of detention for the offence.

*Note—*

See also the repealed *Mental Health Act 2000*, section 543 in relation to particular periods taken to be imprisonment already served by a person or counted as part of a person's period of imprisonment or detention for an offence.

- (3) In this section—
- designated period** means the period starting on 5 March 2017 and ending immediately before the commencement.

**Division 8 Amendment of Penalties and Sentences Act 1992****165 Act amended**

This division amends the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*.

**166 Amendment of s 151B (Definitions for part)**(1) Section 151B, definition *review team*, paragraph (b)—*omit, insert—*(b) a representative of each treatment order agency, other than a Hospital and Health Service established under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*, section 17; and(c) a representative of 1 Hospital and Health Service established under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*, section 17.(2) Section 151B, definition *treatment order agency*, paragraph (c)—*omit, insert—*(c) a Hospital and Health Service established under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*, section 17;**167 Amendment of s 151T (Review team obligations and requirement for court to consult)**

Section 151T(2) and (3)—

*omit, insert—*

(2) In administering a treatment order, the review team may—

(a) give a direction that is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the treatment order; and

(b) consult with and be assisted by the chief executive (health).

(3) In making an order or taking an action under this division in relation to a treatment order, the court—

(a) must consult with the review team for the order about whether the order or action is appropriate; and

(b) may consult with and be assisted by the chief executive (health).

(4) In this section—

**chief executive (health)** means the chief executive of the department in which the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* is administered.*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Steven Miles's amendments [407].

**Ms BATES:** I thank the minister for the briefing from his staff earlier today, but can he assure the House that a period of detention of a person imprisoned during the time span from 5 March 2017 until today has not been challenged successfully by legal counsel representing a patient in custody and is not in response to any threat for a legal challenge? Secondly, can the minister assure the House these amendments are not in response to the loophole that was exposed last year where a member of the Mental Health Tribunal was not qualified to make determinations about forensic patients in custody? I table the article. It is about amendments to mental health law where decisions made by the tribunal could have been open to challenges.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *ABC News* online, dated 28 February 2017, titled 'Queensland rushes through mental health law changes after "colossal legal mess"' [408].

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her queries. On the latter I can assure her that this matter is unrelated to the Mental Health Tribunal matter that the member refers to. On the former query, I am advised that there are no legal proceedings that would meet the criteria she raised in her question.

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House will now consider postponed clause 2.

Clause 2—



**Dr MILES** (4.21 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Dr MILES:** I move the following amendment—

**1 Clause 2 (Commencement)**

Page 10, line 9, 'and 2.'—

*omit, insert—*


and 2;

(c) part 10, divisions 5 to 8.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.23 pm): I move—


That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.23 pm): I move the following amendment—

#### 3 Long title

Long title, from 'and the' to '2009'—

*omit, insert—*

*, the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008, the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*

Amendment agreed to.


Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 80).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.23 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its report tabled on 15 March this year on the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. I also thank those stakeholders who made submissions to the committee on the bill and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I acknowledge the committee's one recommendation, which was that the bill be passed.

The Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 established a legal regime to facilitate third-party access to significant infrastructure facilities. The object of the act is to promote the economically efficient operation of and investment in significant infrastructure, thereby promoting effective competition in upstream and downstream markets. This is a very complex area of public policy, but it is vital to ensure that third parties can fairly access significant economic infrastructure that could otherwise be operated as a monopoly. What this boils down to is making sure owners of significant economic infrastructure cannot prevent access to that infrastructure. By way of example, it means that we do not have many different competing railways all going to the same port because fair access is not allowed to existing infrastructure.

This bill amends part 5 of the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997, which contains Queensland's third-party access regime. It is an important bill because Queensland's access regime regulates the services associated with several billion dollars worth of infrastructure assets, like Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network, Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight rail network and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. I will guide the House through the key provisions of the bill and the reasons for them.

The first component of the bill focuses on the access criteria. These amendments are contained in clause 4 of the bill. The access criteria form the threshold test for the application of access regulation. Only those services that satisfy all of the criteria can be subject to the regime. For example, if a railway satisfies all of the access criteria, it can be declared and a third-party operator can seek to use its own trains on that railway as an alternative to building an entirely new piece of infrastructure. These



amendments are required to clarify the law after a High Court decision changed the interpretation of the 'uneconomic to duplicate' criterion. The changes that are proposed are consistent with those made to the declaration criteria at the national level in October 2017.

A nationally coordinated and consistent approach to access regulation is important to avoid any overlap of jurisdictional access issues. This increases regulatory certainty for key infrastructure and investment incentives in the state. The central change to the access criteria is clarification of the interpretation of the 'uneconomic to duplicate' criterion. The bill confirms that a natural monopoly test is to be applied for this criterion so as to prevent inefficient and needless duplication of costly infrastructure in Queensland. This is consistent with the original intent of the law.

The second component of the bill makes various amendments to improve regulatory processes under the QCA Act, particularly concerning the development of access undertakings. Clauses 5, 7 and 9 of the bill comprise provisions for the Queensland Competition Authority if it does not meet statutory decision timeframes for particular decisions under the regime, including the approval of draft access undertakings. The authority will now be required to publicly detail reasons for not meeting certain timeframes and set out the action it proposes to take to make the decision as soon as reasonably practicable. This will improve performance by boosting the transparency and accountability of the authority.

I turn now to amendments that the bill makes to what are termed pricing principles. The act contains principles that the authority must have regard to in particular access decisions. It is fair to say that there has been confusion and differing views amongst stakeholders about how the pricing principles are to be considered. Clauses 6, 8 and 10 of the bill remove certain references to the pricing principles. This will assist the draft access undertaking process by confirming the application of the pricing principles in the act, in light of differing views amongst stakeholders about how the act requires the authority to apply these principles when deciding whether to approve a draft access undertaking.

Pricing principles are, and will remain, an important consideration for the Queensland Competition Authority. The authority must consider the pricing principles as one of many factors it must have regard to when making regulatory decisions.

Finally, the remaining clauses in the bill modernise and remove obsolete references in the act. Clause 17 deals with the transitional application of amendments made by the bill and ensures that processes underway are not forced to restart. The result of the entire package of changes in the bill will be improved processes under the QCA Act and greater regulatory certainty, improving investment certainty and bringing benefits to the Queensland economy.


I acknowledge the submissions made by Aurizon, the Queensland Resources Council and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group, the DBCT User Group. I will briefly address some of the key points raised in those submissions. The QRC and the DBCT User Group requested that the bill be expanded to include a provision to legislatively extend the declaration of the Central Queensland coal network for a period of at least 10 years on the basis that the upcoming declaration review process would be distracting and costly, and create regulatory uncertainty.

Following the passage of this bill, I would expect the authority to commence work on the declaration reviews that are due to expire in 2020. The legislation requires the authority to give its declaration recommendations to the minister for the QCA Act between September 2019 and March 2020. The government considers that it would remain regulatory best practice to ensure that the impacts of regulatory intervention, such as the declaration, are transparently assessed by the authority rather than to simply extend a declaration by legislation.

In its submission, Aurizon raised concerns regarding the pricing principle amendments. The pricing principles are an important consideration in that the authority must have regard to these principles when deciding whether to approve a draft access undertaking or make an access determination, along with other matters to which regard must be had under the legislation. The weight that should be given to the pricing principles is a matter for the authority to determine.

The authority is not required to satisfy each pricing principle in deciding whether to approve a draft access undertaking or make an access determination. This is also consistent with how the corresponding pricing principles are applied by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in the Commonwealth government's National Access Regime. I advise the House that the bill includes a specific transitional provision that ensures that the pre-amended act will continue to apply to any draft access undertakings or draft amendment access undertakings currently on foot.

In conclusion, I place on record my thanks to the officers in Queensland Treasury for their diligent work in relation to the preparation of this bill. I again thank the members of the Economics and Governance Committee, as well as the committee staff and all those who made a submission or appeared to give evidence before the committee. As I said at the outset, whilst the ground covered by this bill is complex, it is vital to ensuring the efficient operation of our economy. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.31 pm): As per the committee's recommendation, the LNP will not be opposing the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. However, it is ironic that we are debating this bill introduced by the Labor Party because two of the three bits of declared infrastructure under the QCA Act were sold off by the Labor Party. First, they sold off the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal in 2001, under Peter Beattie.

**Mr Hart:** They don't sell assets!

**Mr MANDER:** I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh. In 2011, the Bligh Labor government, for which the Premier and other current members sat around the cabinet table, sold off QR National, now Aurizon, and the Central Queensland coal network. Let the House know clearly that the only side of politics in Queensland government history that has sold off assets has been the Queensland Labor Party. Let us go through the hall of shame of the Labor government's sale of assets over the past 20 years. This is an important issue, as this bill is necessary because the government sold state owned assets and two of the assets named in this bill were sold off by the Labor government. In 2002, the Rocklea markets were sold for \$74 million. In 2006, Allgas Energy was sold for \$521 million—

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order. This bill may be complex, but it has nothing to do with the Rocklea markets. It may be too complex for him to talk about, but if he cannot talk about it he can sit down. It has nothing to do with the Rocklea markets. This is not relevant to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Thank you for that, member for Logan. Member for Everton, stay relevant to the bill.

**Mr MANDER:** Billions of dollars worth of assets were sold off by the Labor side of the House, including Sun Retail—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take the interjection from the minister. Can she name one asset that was sold off between 2012 and 2015? Not one asset was sold. We did the right thing and took a policy to the electorate, to get a mandate. We did not get a mandate. What did those opposite do? Three months after being elected, the Bligh government sprung on asset sales without telling anybody, which brought that government undone. Was it the asset sales that brought them undone? No, it was not! It was the lie.

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your guidance concerning the narrow title of the bill. It is for particular purposes. I ask that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition remain relevant to the bill.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I was accepting an interjection from the minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There was an interjection that the member for Everton took. We now return to the title of the bill.

**Mr MANDER:** Despite selling billions of dollars worth of assets, we still have an \$80 billion debt—

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, again I seek your guidance regarding the narrow title of the bill. It is for particular purposes. I seek your guidance in relation to the relevance of the contribution being made by the member opposite.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, come back to the title of the bill.

**Mr MANDER:** I know it is embarrassing for the other side of the House. I know they do not want to hear the truth or the fact that they are the only ones who sold off assets.

**Ms BOYD:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, come back to the title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** I rise to a point of order. Three times now the member for Everton has been directed back to the narrow title of the bill. He is refusing to do so. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your guidance in terms of the future contribution he will be able to make in this place.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, return to the title of the bill, please.

**Mr MANDER:** As I said earlier, the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and QR National, now Aurizon—two elements of monopoly infrastructure that are a part of this bill—were sold off by the Labor government. If that is not relevant, I do not know what is. Those are only two of a multitude of assets sold by the Labor government over the past 20 years.

**Mr RYAN:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, for the fourth time the member has strayed from the title of the bill, ignoring your rulings. In considering your further action, you need to consider how to bring the member back to the bill. I respectfully inquire, what will it take to warn the member?

**Mr HART:** I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the bill is about Dalrymple Bay and Aurizon. The member is being entirely relevant to the bill—entirely relevant. Labor is raising frivolous points of order because they do not like this particular argument.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, please continue.

**Mr MANDER:** There is a strong argument that this bill is necessary to bring back some balance to the original agreements that were made, when the Labor government of the day gave ridiculously over-generous conditions to the monopoly holders to fatten them up for sale. That is what they did. They fattened them up for sale, which is why we are having this debate about what private companies can charge other companies for access to monopoly infrastructure that was once owned by the Queensland people, but was sold off by the Labor government of the day. Dalrymple Bay and the Aurizon Network are key parts of the coal industry in Queensland. The Queensland Resources Council outlined to the committee just how much this industry contributes to the Queensland economy.

I know the other side of the House do not like hearing these figures, but in 2016-17 the coal industry produced \$3.4 billion in royalties. In fact, there has been a royalty bonus given in the last 12 months, which this Treasurer gleefully accepts while at the same time by stealth undermines the coal industry. She is happy to take the extra billion dollars of coal royalties. The coal industry also paid \$2.7 billion in wages to 21,200 full-time employees and made more than \$11 billion in purchases from over 8½ thousand local businesses. They estimate that indirectly the coal industry contributes 12 per cent of the state's economy.

That is why it is important that the monopoly infrastructure that supports this industry is regulated in a fair way. Nobody wants coal companies and other rail providers taken advantage of by monopoly infrastructure owners. In the same vein, nobody wants to see these ports and rail lines neglected because the owners are not able to recover enough to properly maintain and upgrade the infrastructure.

That is where the independent Queensland Competition Authority comes in. The bill amends the access criteria used by government to declare a monopoly piece of infrastructure something, as the act says, which is of state significance and would be uneconomical for somebody to duplicate. The bill seeks to confirm the natural monopoly test as part of the criteria, that is, it would be uneconomical to develop another infrastructure service if existing infrastructure could provide society's reasonably foreseeable demand at a lower total cost than two or more facilities. I understand in recent times courts may have expanded this criteria and the amendments seek to implement what was originally intended and has stood as part of the act for many years.

This bill makes a number of other changes which simplify the criteria or align it to the national regime. The act also establishes pricing principles for others to access the declared infrastructure. The current principles cover off on the fact that the price should generate expected revenue sufficient to meet the cost of providing the access and allow for a return on investment. The principles also provide protection for operators which may seek to benefit themselves by charging more to others against the spirit of competition.

The government is seeking to remove these principles from the provisions dealing with the differential treatment of service users. Aurizon has raised concerns that the QCA will seek to restrict them to a non-commercial rate of return which in turn will affect their ability to invest in the asset. Through the committee process Treasury asserted that these changes are more akin to housekeeping and returning to the original intent of the regime, which other stakeholders have supported.

We will take the government on its word that these principles will continue to be considered and that the access arrangements will remain fair. The resource council and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group were supportive of the bill but wanted to see the government extend the current declaration in the interest of certainty. I look forward to the government outlining its process and intentions in that regard.



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.42 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I intend, under your direction, to stay strictly within the long title of the bill. I know that the fine deputy chair and other members of the committee will do the same because they have respect for the chair, unlike some others who strayed into material that has nothing to do with the bill before the House and was in contravention of the rules of the House.

Imagine a few scenarios involving a coalfield, rail transport and a port. In one scenario each coalmine might have to build their own rail line and their own port, duplicating lines, adding costs, creating environmental damage and preventing the development of some mines due to high costs. Another scenario is a single, unregulated line monopolises all of the rail traffic, extracting monopoly profits, limiting development and resulting in unfair competition. The third scenario is where there is some regulation that provides for fairer access to the rail line and port for all of the mines that are using it, better environmental and social outcomes and a return for the owners of the underlying rail and port access. That is what this bill attempts to do. It addresses the legal interpretations outlined by the Treasurer.

I am the chair of the Economic and Governance Committee which was charged on 15 February to report to the Legislative Assembly on these issues by 15 March. During its examination of the bill, the committee invited written submissions from the public and identified all of the stakeholders and subscribers. As a result of that process four submissions were received. They were received from the Queensland Law Society, Aurizon Network Pty Ltd, the Queensland Resources Council and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group.

We invited those submitters to appear at the public hearing which was held on 5 March 2018. We had representatives from Queensland Treasury give a public briefing. At the public hearing the Queensland Resources Council was ably represented by Ian Macfarlane, the chief executive, and representatives from the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group and Aurizon Network also appeared. We received written advice from Queensland Treasury on the issues raised. All that material is available on the committee's website. The submissions, correspondence and transcripts are also available.

As the Treasurer outlined, the committee recommended that the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 be passed. We did so without any statement of reservation or any further recommendations. We noted that there needs to be a balance between attracting investment and managing an asset fairly but innovatively to get a fair return to allow access at economically sustainable rates for all users.

I wish to thank the members of the committee: the member for Mermaid Beach, from whom we will be hearing soon and whose commitment to the long title of the bill will be admirable; the member for Pine Rivers; the member for Bonney; the member for Ninderry; and the member for Redlands. I thank them for their participation in the committee process.

This is a highly technical bill, so much of what I will reference is from the committee's report. I wish to speak in the spirit of the report that we presented to the parliament. Our third-party access regime, administered by the QCA, allows third parties to access services provided by significantly important infrastructure facilities that are owned and controlled by others. We allow an access process only for infrastructure facilities that are significantly important to the state of Queensland.

The purpose of the regime is to ensure that competitive forces, that we recognise as having an important place in our marketplace, are not unduly stifled in industries where there could be a natural monopoly. The report states—

In cases of natural monopoly, one facility meets all of a market's demand more efficiently than a number of smaller and more specialised facilities. Accordingly, it is not socially desirable that the infrastructure comprising a natural monopoly be duplicated. At the same time, the absence of competition enables a natural monopoly infrastructure owner to extract excessive profits through exercising market power.

This regime aims to address the persistent lack of infrastructure competition resulting from a natural monopoly by enabling a process whereby third parties can use that significant infrastructure, on commercial terms, to regulate that access. This regime is also comparable with the national access regime.

This brings me to the technical details of the bill in that we have to set up a series of access criteria. Under the current requirements of the QCA Act, the QCA may only recommend the declaration of a service and the minister may only declare a service if the five access criteria outlined in the report that we have given are met. Under criteria (e), the public interest test, the QCA must have regard to the regime's objective to promote effective competition by promoting the economically efficient operation,

use and investment in significant infrastructure; legislation and government policies relating to ecologically sustainable development, occupational health and safety, and industrial relations; social welfare and equity considerations; economic and regional development issues; the interests of consumers; the efficient allocation of resources; and the need to promote competition. The test under criteria (b), which is that it would be uneconomical to duplicate the infrastructure for the service, was looked at very carefully through the process.

In my remaining time I wish to reference some of the stakeholders who presented before our committee. There was general support from submitters and witnesses for the changes to the access declaration criteria. For example, Aurizon Network submitted that it 'supports the sets of amendments proposed in the bill in relation to changes for the declaration criteria', and that was a common theme. However, Aurizon did have queries about or exceptions to particular details. Further to that, Andrew Barger, Policy Director for Economics and Infrastructure from the Queensland Resources Council, stated—

The QRC's position is that we support the QCA amendments. We understand the imperative to have the competition criteria aligned with the national criteria.

That is the root cause which the member for Everton failed to acknowledge and that the Treasurer made very clear. Andrew Barger went on to say—

We fully support the role of the regulator and completely understand the need to update the competition criteria and align those criteria with the national criteria, but changing those criteria and dropping them into a review process creates quite a protracted period of uncertainty ...

The Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group had similar concerns about the fact that it was changing rather than any specific concerns about the change. They said they are 'new and largely untested'. We spoke to Treasury about this. Treasury responded to say that requiring a regulatory impact assessment, which would delay the implementation, 'would involve a similar amount of time, expense and assessment as will be required to conduct the QCA's review of the declaration'. Treasury went on to say—

A legislative extension of the declaration may not provide the regulatory certainty the proponents seek given there is a declaration revocation process set out under the QCA Act which allows access providers to seek revocation of a declaration at any time.

There are technical elements to this bill that we dutifully heard about through the committee process of the bill. I commend the bill to the House as it was endorsed by the committee.



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018, which seeks to amend the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997. The bill aims to update access criteria that is used to ascertain whether access regulation should be applied to a particular service under Queensland's third-party access regime. The three services that are currently declared under this regime are the rail transport services provided by Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network, coal handling services at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and rail transport services provided by Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight network.

The bill was brought to the parliament by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, who advised that the bill clarifies and enhances access criteria and focuses it in a way that is appropriate to economically significant natural monopoly infrastructure. The bill was referred to the Economics and Governance Committee, which conducted a public hearing and briefing on Monday, 5 March and accepted input and submissions from the Queensland Treasury, the Queensland Resources Council, Aurizon Network Pty Ltd and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group.

The legislation amends the test for regulation from one that considers the 'private profitability' of duplication of facilities to one that uses a natural monopoly test to ascertain whether facilities would be 'uneconomic to duplicate'. In this way, the bill focuses on addressing the complications and inefficiencies in current access criteria relating to unnecessary duplication of infrastructure that is a natural monopoly.

The bill aims to put Queensland on par with the national access regime following changes made in October 2017 to the Commonwealth's Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Bringing Queensland's legislation into line with the national access regime helps to enable efficient and coordinated methodology relating to access regulation and also addresses the risks of jurisdictional overlap. We were advised by departmental officers and even by the Law Society that the main difference between this legislation and the federal legislation in this regard is the size and nature of the particular projects. This is reflecting national legislation which is a good outcome from the COAG point of view.

The bill also includes provisions that aim for more timely regulatory processes, especially relating to the development of access undertakings. The bill aims for more transparency and accountability in time frames provided to authorities for statutory decision-making. Should the authority fail to make decisions within this time frame, the proposed amendments would require them to detail reasons for the failure and provide an indication of how the authority plans to make the decision as soon as practicable. At a public briefing for the inquiry into the bill on 5 March 2018, the Economics and Governance Committee raised concerns about the unintended consequences of moving away from the private profitability test toward the natural monopoly test, particularly to duopolies that would, in the absence of a significantly competitive environment, be profitable to develop.

In a public hearing, the committee heard from representatives from the Queensland Resources Council who advised that, while they understand the need for an update of access criteria to reflect national changes, those updates may have adverse effects on the resources industry. Those effects—namely, regulatory uncertainty—would be further exacerbated by the approaching declaration date of services like the Central Queensland coal network, the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and Queensland Rail's intrastate rail network which is set at 8 September 2020. QRS asserted that, should access criteria be amended as proposed in this bill, the goalposts will effectively be slightly changed, creating a period of uncertainty for the industry. QRC also raised the risks of the proposed amendments causing a lack of regulatory certainty and subsequent negative effect on the chances of investment in Queensland.


As part of the inquiry into the bill, Queensland Treasury has responded to the Queensland Resources Council and stipulated that extending the date of declaration would not be advantageous as the process of extension would involve similar costs, time and assessment as the QCA's review of the declaration. Treasury advised that there is a revocation process in place which enables access providers to seek revocation of a declaration at any time, so extending the declaration would not necessarily provide an alternative to the uncertainty envisaged by the QRC.

The committee also received a submission from the Aurizon Network and heard from an Aurizon representative in the public hearing of 5 March, wherein concerns were raised relating to changes to primacy of pricing principles in the proposed amendments to the current legislation. Whereas in the explanatory notes for the previous QCA regulations it was stipulated that 'pricing principles must provide overriding guidance', the explanatory notes for this bill state that each principle does not need to be met in every instance. Aurizon therefore raised concerns about a perceived reduced importance given to the pricing principles and the possible damaging financial implications of this.

The bill adjusts the focus of access criteria slightly away from pricing principles and on to areas as outlined by the Treasury such as users, owners and the public interest test. In Queensland Treasury's first briefing to the committee it was stipulated that pricing principles remain a significant consideration in access criteria. However, they are considered as one of many factors that affect decision-making under this bill. An additional submission was made to the committee by the Queensland Law Society, which advised that no concerns were found with the drafting of the amending provisions.

Although the committee understands the concerns of QRC and Aurizon, ultimately the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill is necessary in reflecting national changes. It is important to bring our state legislation into line with the national access regime to ensure coordination and efficiency in access regulation. It is also important to avoid the risk of an overlap between jurisdictions. Additionally, the bill is appropriate in its provisions for more timely regulatory processes and the strengthening of authorities' obligations in meeting statutory decision time frames. Further, by adjusting focus away from private profitability and toward assessments of whether it would be uneconomical to duplicate facilities, the proposed amendments ensure that access criteria is purposefully directed at economically significant natural monopoly infrastructure.

The committee was unanimous in its support for the passing of this bill after due and proper consideration. I am pleased with all matters that were brought to the committee's attention. There were no matters left unanswered in determining the new direction for this legislation. I will be pleased to support this bill through the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.01 pm): It is a pleasure to rise today to make a brief contribution in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. As we sat here earlier listening to the contribution from the member for Everton, I too took a little trip down memory lane. I remember being on Stafford Road in Everton Park when his community turned out in force to protest the sell-off of the Everton Park high school which happened under Tim Mander's watch.

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have had numerous points of order raised about straying from the long title of the bill. I would ask that the member return to the long title.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Pine Rivers, I would ask that you return to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise today to make a contribution in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill. The bill seeks to amend the access criteria under the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997. The key amendments to the criteria for Queensland's third-party access regime include clarification of the 'uneconomic to duplicate' test for access to criterion (b). As other speakers have outlined, the 2012 High Court decision has effectively altered the interpretation to a 'private profitability' test. This amendment is designed to revert the interpretation of this criterion back to the previous 'natural monopoly' test rather than a test to consider profitability for anyone to develop another facility.

The key second amendment relates to the public interest criterion from negative framing to an affirmative test so that that declaration must be in the public interest.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable members, there is far too much audible conversation from both sides of the House. I ask you to take conversations outside or listen in silence. Otherwise, I will go down the road of warnings through our procedures.

**Ms BOYD:** These changes to the criteria bring us into line with the changes made to the national access regime effective from 27 October last year. It is imperative that there is consistency between Queensland's access regime and the national access regime.

While the timing of the changes was a matter that stakeholders made particular representation about, it is important that these changes occur now to ensure that the criteria are consistent and robust prior to the Queensland Competition Authority's upcoming pre-expiry review of the declarations of Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network rail transport services, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal's coal-handling services and Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight network. This needs to be done now to ensure that there are no serious adverse impacts and consequences for the industry dependent on access to this infrastructure.

We on the government benches are not prepared to see this infrastructure reviewed under inconsistent criteria. It would be irresponsible to the people of Queensland and would see Queensland disadvantaged well into the future. Appropriately regulated access to this key infrastructure will see innovation, efficiency and competition in this space. It will also avoid the unnecessary duplication of massive pieces of infrastructure such as rail and ports—infrastructure that should continue to ensure Queensland grows and thrives into the future. These kinds of fair access changes to the current criteria set out in this bill will ensure this. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.06 pm): I would like to make a short contribution to the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. This bill will have a significant impact on the Central Queensland economy. The policy is to amend the criteria for Queensland's third-party access regime to reflect changes being made to the national access regime, to ensure Queensland's regime continues to be easily understood, to address the economic problem of natural monopoly in markets for infrastructure services and to provide additional accountability and transparency to assist the streamlining of the process in relation to access and undertakings.

Three services are currently declared under the regime. One is rail transport services provided by Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network. That is incredibly important to the people of Central Queensland and to the people in this chamber. The electorate of the member for Burdekin, for example, stretches all the way down to Clermont and Moranbah—a powerhouse of the economy that relies heavily on the Central Queensland coal network. The members for Rockhampton, Keppel, Gladstone and Callide all represent electorates that have a powerhouse economy in coal.

The bill looks at the coal-handling services at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and, more importantly—and something that is important to people in Western Queensland—intrastate passenger transport services and freight network operated by Queensland Rail. Members might remember I spoke in this chamber last night about my concerns about the freight network when it comes to Western Queensland. Last August Aurizon announced that it had reached an agreement to sell its Queensland intermodal business to Pacific National and Linfox, and separately sell the Acacia Ridge terminal in Brisbane. That is all about the freight network. That is all about getting freight into Western Queensland.

When I talk about freight, I am talking about groceries, fruits and vegetables, and materials for hardware stores such as Smiths Bros in Longreach, Paulson Bros in Quilpie and Meads in Quilpie as well. They have had continued concerns in regard to rail transport services provided on the freight network.

**Ms Leahy:** They have had no certainty.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take that interjection from the member for Warrego because it is very important—there is no certainty. To get food, groceries and materials to towns such as Quilpie, Winton, Longreach, Alpha or Jericho, they rely on the service provided by Aurizon and the freight network. In regard to the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill, some of the criteria are—

- (a) access, or increased access, to the service would promote a material increase in competition in at least one market, other than the market for the service
- (b) it would be uneconomical to duplicate the infrastructure for the service

We get that, but what is happening here with freight in Western Queensland is that there is uncertainty. I have written to the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Transport about this on numerous occasions. We need certainty when it comes to the freight network in Western Queensland. We have small businesses out there which talk to me and the member for Warrego because they continue to be frustrated at the fact that there is no certainty about whether the freight network will continue. I say that because Aurizon has announced it has reached an agreement to sell the Queensland intermodal business to Pacific National and Linfox. There are concerns about a statement issued by the ACCC in which it said it continues to proceed on that basis and if this transaction is not successful there will be an alternative buyer. There are fears that Aurizon will not have an alternative buyer and, therefore, there are concerns that Aurizon might not want to continue with the freight service to Western Queensland. This is devastating to the people—


**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am absolutely sympathetic to the case being made by the member opposite but, unfortunately, it has nothing to do with the title of the bill.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** The restricted title of the bill. Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask for you to guide the honourable member on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Gregory, before you resume speaking, I guide you to stay within the long title of the bill.

**Mr MILLAR:** As I mentioned before, the rail transport services provided to the Aurizon network's Central Queensland coal network are important, as are the coal-handling services to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. They are very important to the Queensland economy. This is a very technical bill, and I understand that, but it has a significant economic impact in Central Queensland, not only in Rockhampton or Mackay but also in places like Moranbah, Biloela, Emerald and Blackwater, where they rely on these services to be undertaken, as well as the coal-handling service at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. I stress that there are issues with the rail transport services provided by Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight network. I certainly support the bill.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. The bill was reviewed by the Economics and Governance Committee. I would like to thank the committee, the committee secretariat and the submitters. In its report No. 2 to the 56th Parliament of Queensland, the committee made only one recommendation, that the bill be passed.

This bill amends the access criteria under the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 which must be satisfied before a service may be declared under Queensland's access regime. Currently, the following services are declared for the purposes of the regime: the use of a coal system for providing transportation by rail—that is, the Central Queensland coal network operated and managed by Aurizon Network; the use of the intrastate passenger and freight network operated by Queensland Rail Ltd; and the coal-handling services at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal.

We are here tonight because of a decision by the High Court in 2012 that effectively changed the interpretation of this criterion to a 'profitability' test. The amendment proposed in the bill will return the interpretation of this criterion back to its previous 'natural monopoly' test, rather than a test that considers whether it is profitable for anyone to develop another facility—changing the 'public interest' access criterion from its current negative framing to an affirmative test so that a declaration must be in the public interest.



Queensland's third-party access regime is contained within part 5 of the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 and is administered by the state's independent economic regulator, the Queensland Competition Authority. The regime provides a framework for access regulation of services provided by significant infrastructure facilities—such as rail tracks, ports and other types of infrastructure—where there may be a lack of effective competition. Following that 2012 High Court decision, the federal government commissioned high level reviews into the national access regime, including the application of the declaration criteria, to determine whether amendments were necessary to refocus and clarify the declaration criteria.

The recommendations made by the Productivity Commission were accepted by the federal government, triggering a process to make changes to the CPA access principles and the criteria in the national access regime established under part IIIA of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. While Queensland's access regime is separate from the national access regime, the amendments to the access criteria in the bill are intended to reflect the revised criteria being introduced at the national level.

This is a complex bill, but the issues addressed by the bill were clarified by the Treasurer and Deputy Premier in her first reading speech made on 15 February 2018, when she stated—

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

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

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

The bill will assist in promoting more timely access-undertaking processes by strengthening the authority's obligations in the event that it fails to meet its obligation to decide whether to approve, or refuse to approve, a draft access undertaking within the six-month period provided under section 147A of the QCA Act. If the authority fails to make its decision within that six-month period, it must give written notice of the reasons for the authority's failure to the owner or operator of the service and the minister pursuant to section 147A(5) of the QCA Act.


This obligation will be strengthened by requiring written notice to also include details about the action the authority proposes to take to make the decision as soon as reasonably practicable and to be published on the authority's website. For consistency, similar amendments are proposed to other six-month time frames that apply to the making of a recommendation to the minister on whether a service should be declared, pursuant to section 79A of the QCA Act, and for the making of an access determination, pursuant to section 117A of the QCA Act. However, for access determinations the written notice will not be required to be published on the authority's website. In closing, I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Rookwood Weir

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): In accordance with our operating procedures determined earlier today that we would start the government motion at 5.20 pm, with the clock ready to tick over to 5.20 pm I call the member for Stafford.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.19 pm): I move—

That this House calls upon the Turnbull LNP federal government to immediately match the Palaszczuk government's commitment to fund half the construction and operation costs of the \$352 million Rookwood Weir.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment please, member for Stafford. Member for Theodore, that was an interjection. You are not sitting in your allocated chair. You know better than that. You are now warned under standing orders.

**Dr LYNHAM:** We are on the cusp of something exciting and that is the opportunity to deliver 76,000 megalitres of water for agricultural production and industrial use and to secure the urban water supplies of Central Queensland. In January I was pleased to be able to stand on the banks of the Fitzroy River with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel, two proud, passionate representatives of Central Queensland who are not afraid to stand up and fight for locals and opportunities. We were there to release Building Queensland's independent report into the lower Fitzroy infrastructure project. Just a couple of weeks later the Premier announced that the government was prepared to pay half the true cost. Not only that, the leader of the federal Labor opposition also announced that a Shorten Labor government—and that is not far away—would partner with the Palaszczuk Labor government to fund half the cost and deliver Rookwood Weir for Central Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is backing this project and federal Labor is backing this project.

Where is the Turnbull LNP government's share? We stand here today to call upon the Prime Minister to commit to his fair share for this project. Right now we have heard nothing. It is as quiet as a federal minister at a renewable energy conference. We have heard nothing—nothing at all. All they have offered is \$130 million based on a 10-year-old environmental impact statement.

**An opposition member:** All?

**Dr LYNHAM:** You always knew that was never going to cut it. Then you offered \$260 million—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member.

**Dr LYNHAM:** The federal member for Capricornia, offered \$260 million, which vaporised overnight.

**Mr Brown:** Like their election hopes.

**Dr LYNHAM:** Like their election hopes, exactly. I take that interjection. Since then the federal LNP have been missing in action. Even the Gladstone Area Water Board has called upon the federal government to increase their contribution because if the Turnbull government goes missing on this project, the cost of water will be way too high for agriculture to afford. That would be an absolute travesty for this project and a travesty for the people of Rockhampton and surrounding regions.

On top of that, we have had to endure pedestrian politicking. On 8 March along with the member for Capricornia, the new Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, called a news conference. What was the invaluable contribution of our nation's deputy leader to progressing this valuable infrastructure for Central Queensland? He said the project was delayed while Infrastructure Australia sought more information on the business case. He called on the Queensland government 'to provide that additional information to Infrastructure Australia in the not-too-distant future so we can all get on board and build that water infrastructure'. What a disgrace, what a stunt and what a falsehood!

On that very same day Building Queensland confirmed that it had no outstanding information requests from Infrastructure Australia. Just two business days later, Infrastructure Australia advised Building Queensland they had all the information they needed, all the information was there and the project was formally under assessment. I refer to the document I tabled yesterday. Clearly, Building Queensland and Infrastructure Australia have been working closely together on this project, sharing technical information as the project progressed.

What was the federal LNP on about? They were undermining a project for the sake of a simple, crude headline. That is all they were doing—dripping in deviant, desperate, raw political opportunism and now what is their Queensland branch up to?

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you will have your turn.

**Dr LYNHAM:** Exactly the same thing—scaremongering! We heard it from the members for Gregory and Burdekin: there is no land around Rookwood. They should know it is mostly cleared or category X. That land is available. Now we have a federal Liberal-National government that is more interested in internal infighting, media stunts and party politics.

I say to those opposite: get off the fence, get on the phone and stand up for Queensland for once. For once stand up for Queensland. We need Turnbull to back Queensland's fair share. We need the LNP—we need those opposite—to back regional Queensland just this once, to show some spine and support the cause.



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.25 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'this House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

1. notes the importance of new water infrastructure, including Rookwood Weir for jobs and economic development for Central Queensland;
2. calls for the Palaszczuk and Turnbull governments to work together constructively to fund this project; and—
3. calls on the Palaszczuk government to start work on this project that was first promised by premier Peter Beattie in 2006.

We have heard from the minister that they are on a cusp; they are on a cusp of something exciting. It must be the world's biggest bloody cusp because they have been sitting on it for 12 years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House, that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWELL:** I withdraw. As I said, it must be a huge cusp because Labor has been standing on it for 12 long years. This debate tonight explicitly illustrates why most Queenslanders are completely over politics. It also demonstrates why Queensland continues to miss out because of petty politics. Queenslanders want nothing more than for governments to stop blaming and start doing. They are over the cute spin of this Palaszczuk Labor government. The minister should stop whining and start building.

The truth of the Rookwood Weir is this: in February 2016 the Palaszczuk Labor government went cap in hand to the Turnbull federal government for the funding to undertake the business case. They were so enamoured with the project they would not even cough up the \$2 million required to undertake an updated business case. They had to ask the federal government for that funding. Guess what they did? The federal government paid the money.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory and member for Gladstone, you will not be debating across the chamber.

**Mr POWELL:** In May of that same year, 2016, the Prime Minister announced the \$2 million business case and that the federal government would fund half of the then project cost, \$130 million. It took Building Queensland until September 2017 to finish the business case. We are on the cusp? It took them 18 months to do a business case! There was so much excitement from that side of the House that they took that long to do a business case, a business case about which the minister is now saying, 'It's all ready to go. Let's get cracking.' It then took the board to approve that business case, it went to the government and the government did not sign off on it until January of this year. The amount of \$130 million is there now; it is in the federal budget. What is more, there is plenty more there: the \$440 million National Water Infrastructure Development Fund and the \$2 billion sitting in the National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility. The money is there. The Labor Palaszczuk government needs to apply for it. They should stop playing petty politics.

**Mr Power** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mr POWELL:** They should stop playing petty politics and apply for it. The EOI process is also open now; apply for it.

Let's face it: those opposite do not want to because they do not really want to build a dam here in Queensland. They are being held captive by the Deputy Premier and her voters in South Brisbane. They would rather delay, procrastinate and play petty politics than build a dam. The last Labor premier to build a dam was Peter Beattie, and that was the Paradise Dam 12 years ago. He too promised that the Rookwood Weir would be built back in 2006. I table the press release from that time.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, undated, by the then Premier, the Hon. Peter Beattie, and the then Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Water, Hon. Henry Palaszczuk, titled 'Premier visits possible new dam site' [\[411\]](#).

Their efforts since have wasted half a billion dollars on the failed Traveston Dam, so it is quite clear that those opposite are not interested in building dams. They were captive to the voters and constituents of former premier Bligh and now Deputy Premier Trad in South Brisbane. The LNP, on the other hand, will build the dams Queensland needs because we know the benefits. Water equals jobs in the member for Gregory's electorate. Water equals jobs in the member for Burdekin's electorate. We took a plan to the last election that we would build Urannah Dam, we would build Nullinga Dam, we would build Rookwood Weir and we would raise the Burdekin Falls Dam. What do we hear from Labor? Nothing. What do we get from Labor tonight? Petty politics. Get on with it, stop playing petty politics and build the Rookwood Weir.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the original motion moved by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Member for Glass House, just for your clarification it is Rockhampton and Rookwood Weir.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members, when the Speaker stands it means absolute silence from everyone. Member for Glass House, you have had a pretty good go. The next time you will be warned. Minister for Tourism, I do not need your interjections either.

**Mr O'ROURKE:** On 24 January, I stood proudly with the minister to release the Building Queensland business case for Rookwood Weir. Rookwood Weir could add 76,000 megalitres of water for agricultural production along the Fitzroy River as well as an eventual backup water supply for the Rockhampton, Gladstone and Livingston shires.


Rookwood Weir will enable the region to develop the potential for irrigated agricultural production including high-volume agriculture such as citrus, grapes and vegetables as well as cattle feedlots. This could further improve the supply of cattle for our two licensed meatworks and increase exports from our regions—more jobs! The construction of Rookwood Weir has the potential to assist Central Queensland to become the food bowl of the country. We have some high-value, quality agricultural land in this area and many other crops could also be grown.

We have so much potential in Rockhampton and Central Queensland. There is an airport located five kilometres from the Rockhampton city centre that has approximately 650,000 passengers passing through the terminal every year. Both domestic and international aircraft, including B747s, B776s and A340s service the Rockhampton terminal.

Today the Rockhampton Airport is a commercialised business unit of the Rockhampton Regional Council and turnover is in excess of \$15 million per annum, supporting the region's broader economy and community as a substantial regional gateway airport. It is the largest local government owned and operated airport in the nation by way of passenger numbers and aircraft movements. As well as being ranked by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics as Australia's ninth busiest regional airport, the Rockhampton Airport has a strong, established leadership presence within the Australian aviation industry. During Defence Force exercises held in Shoalwater Bay we see the very large cargo planes at our airport. Can you imagine the future potential we have for produce to be transported around the country?

The construction of the weir would create 100 construction jobs, and increased agricultural production would create many, many jobs. For this project to be economically viable, water would need to be used to boost agricultural production substantially. Without a fair contribution from Canberra the price of water will be too high for our farmers and other potential users. On 9 February the Premier of Queensland announced that the Queensland government would fund half of the \$352.2 million in construction costs and half of the operational costs, pending matching funding from the Turnbull government. On the same day the leader of the federal opposition announced that a Shorten Labor government would fund the other half of the cost.

After the release of the business case I called the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, and offered to sit down and discuss a way forward with her so we could get this project happening. I have since met with the member for Capricornia on a couple of occasions in an effort to work together for the betterment of the people of Central Queensland and the people of my electorate in Rockhampton. The federal member needs to decide if she wants to represent and support the people of Central Queensland and fight for this funding. The federal government needs to put up its fair share. We need the jobs. This is a project that can create opportunities for Central Queensland. The people of Central Queensland need federal parliamentarians to stand up for them and secure funding from their bosses in Canberra.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.36 pm): I am delighted to second the amendment moved by the member for Glass House. Finally the Labor Party has taken an interest in a project outside of South-East Queensland: the Rookwood Weir. It could be a game changer for Queensland's agricultural industry but it is not, because the Labor Party has been dragging its feet on this project for more than 10 years. The last time the Labor Party tried to build a dam in Queensland it cost Queensland taxpayers hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars, and what did we get? We did not get a dam; we did not get anything.

On 27 April 2007, former Labor premier Peter Beattie promised that the Labour Party—the dam-building party—would be the ones to build Rookwood Weir and that it would be built by 2011, but it was not. We can all go out there and still kick our heels in the dust because the Labor Party has done

absolutely nothing. The LNP made a \$130 million commitment to this project during the 2017 election to match the Commonwealth's \$130 million, which was made on 26 May 2016. Where was the member for Rockhampton? Did he run out and say, 'This is great'? Where was the member for Gladstone? Did he say, 'Yes, this is great'?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. I call the member for Gregory.

**Mr MILLAR:** What did the Palaszczuk Labor government commit to during the 2017 election when it came to this dam? Absolutely nothing. Those opposite have come in here and tried to spin this and they gave us nothing during the election campaign. We all agree that this project would provide a major economic boost to the Queensland economy, but you have to build it. Every dollar invested in this project would generate 3.1 dollars in economic benefits. It would create an extra \$1 billion per year in agricultural production, 2,100 new jobs and support the resources industry with water for industrial purposes. And that is just stage 1!

This project is a no-brainer. The federal government has money on the table. It has had money on the table for a very long time, so why is the state Labor government sitting on its hands doing absolutely nothing about it? You only have to look at the track record of the Labor Party when it comes to agriculture to know that this government has no interest in supporting Queensland's agricultural sector.

The Rookwood Weir project has significant agricultural applications for Central Queensland, some of which apply directly to the Central Highlands and the seat of Gregory where agricultural production has an annual gross value of more than \$740 million, including \$550 million in beef production, \$40 million in sorghum, \$17 million in wheat and other broadacre grains, almost \$30 million in chickpeas, approximately \$22 million in mung beans, \$60 million in cotton, \$40 million in citrus and \$22 million in table grapes. The only way we can harness our agricultural potential is by building critical water infrastructure, something the Labor Party has never understood. As I said, the last time the Labor Party decided to build a dam it cost hundreds and hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars and we got nothing.

**Mr Bleijie:** \$700 million!

**Mr MILLAR:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana: \$700 million, and we got absolutely nothing. People do not believe the Labor Party can build dams. They do not believe the Labor Party has any interest in agriculture.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take that interjection from the minister. You were around the cabinet table when Traveston Dam was on the table—\$700 million.


**Ms Jones:** No, I wasn't; I was a backbencher.

**Mr MILLAR:** You were in the government, Minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Gregory, I counsel you to direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr MILLAR:** Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. Why are members opposite standing in the way? Labor needs to stop playing games with this and get on with the job and build Rookwood Weir. Regional Queensland deserves it. I only need to look to the member for Callide and his maiden speech. This is true about Central Queensland.

When I grew up on my parents' bragalow block, I remember the big tractors pulling the scrub, a government requirement of the day. The wheel has turned and now we have anti-agricultural laws and anti-agricultural potential that will inhibit agricultural development in Queensland. It is time for people to understand that our graziers and farmers are the true practical environmentalists and custodians of the land who look after it, nurture it and are productive. Australia was born on the back of agriculture and it remains at the forefront of the economy. I call on the Labor Party to stop playing games and to get on with building Rookwood Weir.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.43 pm): The member for Gregory comes in here and tells us all about the benefits of this project, that it is going to create all these jobs and do all this stuff for agriculture. We know he is preaching to the converted. What we need—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Gregory, you have had a really good go. I have warned you several times. Next time you will be warned under standing orders.

**Mrs LAUGA:** We need the member for Gregory and his LNP counterparts in this House to get on the phone to Canberra and convince them of the agricultural benefits of this project and why they need to build this weir in Central Queensland. I rise this evening to speak against the amendment tabled by the opposition and in support of the motion before the parliament. I am speaking against the amendment tonight because, firstly, the amendment does not call on the Turnbull government to pay for half. There is no commitment in the amendment whatsoever with respect to committing half of the funding. How much do those opposite want Queensland taxpayers to pay for this? More than half? Do they think that is our fair share? There is also no urgency in the motion. It has nothing about urgency.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Burleigh, you have been interjecting the entire evening and they are not being taken. Next time, you will be warned under standing orders.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Taxpayers agree that public funding must be spent shrewdly, which is why the Palaszczuk government undertook a business case to determine whether or not the Rookwood Weir is a good use of taxpayers' money. The business case by Building Queensland for the Rookwood Weir has been completed and released. The final business case says that construction of the Rookwood Weir would cost \$352 million. I support projects that stack up economically for taxpayers, including taxpayers in Central Queensland. By contrast, what do we see from the federal Liberals and Nationals? The LNP has dillydallied on how much to commit to this project. Originally, it was \$130 million. Then the member for Capricornia suggested there was \$260 million or possibly even full funding on the table from the federal government.


The state government sought clarification on numerous occasions on the funding offered by the federal government. For such a large amount of taxpayers' money, formal confirmation in black and white is obviously a basic requirement. We are still awaiting confirmation. What do we hear from Canberra and those opposite? The resounding sound of silence. Do they want this project or not? Barnaby Joyce, the then deputy prime minister, stated in correspondence to the minister, 'Our commitment has been clear from day one, that we want to see the weir built.' Well, pay for 50 per cent of it, please. It just begs the question: where is the money? Where is the commitment to the people of Central Queensland?

This project will provide 100 construction jobs and 76,000 megalitres for Central Queensland. That is water for our agricultural sector to grow, develop and thrive and water to supply our growing populations as more people continue to call Central Queensland home. The Queensland government has committed to pay half of the \$352.2 million construction costs and half of the operating costs, as long as the Turnbull government matches it. I think that that is a fair request.

The business case shows quite clearly that without a fair contribution from Canberra the price of the water will be too high for farmers and other potential users. Let me be clear—the Palaszczuk government is prepared to fund half the capital and operating costs for the weir. The member for Capricornia has talked up this project. In October 2017, she publicly stated that the Australian government had offered to double its funding commitment. Where is the money? Why are the opposition sitting on their hands and not standing up for Queensland infrastructure, for growth in agriculture and for jobs for Central Queenslanders? It is time for Central Queensland's federal parliamentarians to step up to the plate and secure half the funding from their Canberra bosses.

Waiting for the Turnbull government to stump up its fair share of cash is something Central Queenslanders sadly know all too well. I have stood in this place time and again calling on the federal LNP government to stump up its fair share for Central Queensland. Here I am again tonight calling on the federal Turnbull government to stump up half of the operating costs and the capital works cost for the Rockwood Weir. I called on them to pay for their fair share of the disaster funding for Cyclone Marcia.

They refused to pay their fair share of disaster recovery payments to local people after the Fitzroy flood, refuse to pay their fair share of the Rockhampton flood levy, refuse to pay \$34 million in unpaid health funding to the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service, spent none of the \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility in Central Queensland and also threaten to cut Queensland's share of the GST. How much more do we have to endure from this federal LNP government? It is time the LNP stopped taking its marching orders from Canberra. I suggest that those opposite get on the blower and talk to their Canberra mates to get their fair share for Queensland.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion moved by the member for Glass House. There is absolutely no question that this Palaszczuk Labor government has no interest in building dams in this state. There is no better example than Rookwood Weir. This government will do and say anything to avoid committing to build a dam in this state. I find it extraordinary that the Premier finds millions of dollars to bring Dora the Explorer to the state but cannot find the money to build a dam, a dam that will create jobs, economic prosperity for Central Queensland, water for Rockhampton, Gladstone and Livingstone—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment, member for Burdekin. The member for Stafford does not need to debate across the chamber with the member for Gregory. Member for Gregory, I have told you several times and you are now warned under standing orders.

**Mr LAST:** It is a dam that will provide water to the Gladstone Area Water Board for customers and a dam that will provide water for agricultural development. It would have provided water for agricultural development, but for the vegetation management legislation introduced during the last sittings of parliament that put paid to that. A dam without land clearing is akin to putting a lolly jar in front of a child and saying that they cannot touch it.

The fact of the matter is that the federal LNP government committed \$130 million to this project in 2016 at a time when the total cost of the project was \$260 million. They actually contributed their 50 per cent share of the cost. Because of the delays by this dithering government, that cost has ballooned by \$92 million. Now members opposite have the audacity to come into this place to call on the federal government to stump up an extra \$46 million.

Let us fast-track to 2018, and thank goodness we have some committed federal members in the federal member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, and the Rockhampton based senator Matt Canavan, because they have committed to building this dam. Unlike those opposite, the LNP at both the state and federal levels is resolute in its determination to see this project go ahead.

The Queensland business case is now with Infrastructure Australia being vetted, as is required by Commonwealth law for any investment over \$100 million, and that business case clearly demonstrates that we must invest in water infrastructure or risk running out of water in Central Queensland. It is a bit rich for this Labor government to come in here tonight and continue to play games with Rookwood Weir instead of acting like grown-ups and cooperating with the Commonwealth to get the job done.

Queensland Labor is dragging its heels on this project—a project, I might add, that the LNP committed to building during the recent election. We understand how important that dam is and we would have had it started if we had been elected at the last election. Last month the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, said—

We have already taken steps to have Infrastructure Australia review the Queensland state business case for Rookwood, which is a requirement for all projects worth over \$100 million ...

We expect this process to only take a couple of months.

We only received the Queensland business case recently, but I know that Michelle Landry, Ken O'Dowd and myself are as keen as mustard to get this project off the ground.

There are no hold-ups from that end. It is interesting that last month—that is right, three weeks ago—this government finally provided the information to Infrastructure Australia for the Rookwood Weir business case which in turn—surprise, surprise—requested further information because the Queensland government did not meet its assessment framework requirements. For the minister to come into this House tonight and accuse the federal government of delays and not holding up its end of the bargain is nothing short of hypocritical.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): One moment, member for Burdekin. All members in the chamber, there are far too many audible conversations happening. I am finding it difficult to hear the member for Burdekin. A number of members have already been warned. We do not want to add to the list.

**Mr LAST:** To demonstrate how hopeless this crowd are at putting together a properly researched and cogent argument for funding, Infrastructure Australia said there was insufficient detail on how the benefit cost ratio was calculated. Instead of coming into this place and trying to score cheap political points, how about the minister get his own house in order and provide the economic data that is needed to properly assess the business case? Central Queensland needs this project to go ahead. It needs the

jobs and the economic prosperity that will come with it, and the federal government has shown by its actions that it is more than willing to work with the state to get this project moving. Minister, the Commonwealth government is committed to this project. Are you?

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

**AYES, 39:**

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

**NOES, 52:**

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

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Powell) negatived.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I propose that for any future divisions the bells will ring for one minute with the agreement of the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### New Chum, Waste Facility



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.01 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to call in the proposed superdump at New Chum in Ipswich and rule it out.

Putting a tax on Queenslanders to solve an interstate dumping issue around the suburbs of Ipswich is a lazy policy response from a lazy government that will impact on Queenslanders across this great state. The Treasurer—'Taxing' Treasurer Trad—is not happy with four taxes; she has to bring in five taxes. Why does this government not stand up for the people of Ipswich? Why does this government not stand up for the people of Queensland? What is wrong with Ipswich? There are good people in Ipswich. I went to school in Ipswich and I know the Premier went to school in Ipswich. What does this Premier have against the good people of the City of Ipswich?

That is not only our view; it is the view of industry groups across Queensland such as the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Queensland's peak small business group. In a media statement released yesterday it stated—

Queensland businesses who are at the forefront of waste reduction in this state are going to be penalised with a levy that has arisen on the back—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As much as the government is more than happy to talk about the waste levy, the opposition should have drafted its motion about the waste levy if that is what it wants to talk about.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have had a very close look at the motion as it is drafted. I think the Leader of the House has a point in terms of relevance. I ask you to make sure that you are being relevant to the motion as it stands.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In relation to your ruling, I note that the government spent the morning's session of this parliament talking about superdumps hand in hand with the reason it needs a waste levy.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, that is not a reason to ignore the relevance ruling. I ask you to make sure that you are relevant to the motion.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. 'Taxing' Treasurer Trad has nothing else—



**Mr SPEAKER:** Correct titles, please.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Sorry, the Treasurer of Queensland who likes taxes. I will continue the quote from the CCIQ—

of poor behaviour of southern operators, and lazy policy by the Queensland government.

That is not a quote from the LNP; that is a quote from an industry group in Queensland. The CCIQ stated further—

Claims this will not impact Queensland households is rubbish, mum and dad business owners are Queensland householders, workers in small businesses will need to find ways to absorb the costs which could result in less hours, no wage rises or job losses—


and guess what—

impacting Queensland households.

This week, we have seen Labor's fifth tax on Queenslanders that was not promised at all at the last election. All we see is dishonest political trickery from this government.

I want to talk about the dump in Ipswich, which we believe the government should be ruling out. No-one in Queensland, particularly the LNP, wants Queensland to be the dumping ground for rubbish from New South Wales. The report that was released by the government just yesterday showed that, under the Labor government, the volume of waste from other states transported into Queensland has skyrocketed. It was thanks to the LNP that this data is now available so that policy can be implemented based on facts and not political spin. It is obvious that Labor has no clue how to govern this state. It should be looking into illegal dumping.

This report shows that Labor has dropped the ball. That is why the LNP had a comprehensive litter and illegal dumping action plan. After three years of Labor, absolutely nothing has happened. All we have seen is more trucks coming up and over the border because of this incompetent, lazy Labor government that has no plan but to implement a tax.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.06 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words be inserted—

- (a) notes that Ipswich City Council is the assessment agency for the BMI Group's application for a waste facility at New Chum;
- (b) notes that Ipswich City Council has not requested the state to exercise its call-in powers;
- (c) notes that Ipswich City Council has the power to approve or reject applications to expand existing or establish new waste facilities; and
- (d) notes the final report of Justice Peter Lyons's investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland.

Before the Leader of the Opposition was elected to the high office that she holds at the moment, many people in Queensland politics, many in the Queensland community and some in her own party thought that she simply was not up to the job. This motion and her contribution to it demonstrates absolutely that those critics were correct. The motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition demonstrates a complete and deep ignorance about the planning system in Queensland. It is fundamentally flawed. The Leader of the Opposition does not understand how the system works. The amendment to the motion that I moved makes that clear.

This matter is before the Ipswich City Council. The council has not asked for the application to be called in. It is going to deal with it properly in accordance with its democratic mandate—the right it has—to consider development applications. One member of the LNP understands how the system works and that is the member for Broadwater. Just last night—less than 24 hours ago—the member for Broadwater said—

Faced with the choice of people being able to pass judgement on mayors and councillors who they can elect and hold accountable every four years and a minister living in Brisbane, albeit well intentioned, I will always choose the mayor and councillor.

This motion is about a dump at New Chum, but I can tell members who is not a new chum for the Leader of the Opposition and that is the member for Broadwater, who wants her job.

Apart from a total lack of policy merit, this position taken by the LNP is completely opposite to everything it said in the last parliament. In September last year the former member for Mansfield, who was the shadow minister for planning in the last parliament, thundered that the planning minister's call-in was stripping the developer, the community and the councillor of a fair go in the Planning and Environment Court.


On 20 October, Mr Walker described ministerial call-ins as dramas that meant that developers would not come to Queensland. He moved a motion in this House condemning the then deputy premier and minister for planning for calling in a development. In that debate, the member for Chatsworth lectured the House saying that call-ins 'hurt confidence' and expressed the concern of the Property Council that 'call-in powers need to be used extremely judiciously'.

What do the members opposite believe in? Who would possibly know? They say one thing before the election and then, when they lose the election, and the flip-flopping starts. The members opposite say that there is a simple solution now, but they did not say that before the election. They are focused on momentary political advantage.

We know that about the Leader of the Opposition. The truth is that the Leader of the Opposition will say or do anything for her own benefit. No-one believes that the Ipswich City Council should be usurped from its proper authority to make a decision on this application. That is the truth. The Leader of the Opposition is looking for political advantage.

I say to all new members of the LNP—the members for Callide, Bundaberg, Nicklin, Buderim, Lockyer, Bonney, Southern Downs, Ninderry and Pumicestone—that the leadership team has just caused you incredible embarrassment. This is not how the planning system works. Some of the new members are even listening because they know it is true. The Leader of the Opposition could not even talk to the process of call-in when she moved the motion. We know it is a political stunt. The leadership team has embarrassed the LNP.

I urge members of parliament to reject the motion, to consider the amendment carefully and to pass the amendment which is absolutely correct. We will now hear from the member for Broadwater. Does he support councils making decisions, which is what he said last night? Let us not worry about one year to the next, let us worry about one day to the next. Is he going to support councils or support his leader?

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (6.11 pm): Despite the member for Woodridge's unhealthy obsession with me, I have to speak against the amendment. This is getting ridiculous. I do not think the member has risen in the last fortnight without mentioning me. It is an unhealthy obsession. No-one wants to see Ipswich become a dumping ground, no-one wants to see interstate waste coming across the border, but only one side wants to stop attacks on everyday Queenslanders.

The member for Woodridge has all of a sudden become this great friend of councils, this fighter for local government, despite being part of a government that used its call-in powers against the wishes of local government. Now, on the cusp of a big tax that will affect the battlers of Ipswich, that will whack the people of Ipswich, he is all of a sudden using this little tiny cling to of caring about local government as his excuse to allow the people of Ipswich to become a dumping ground.

Those opposite want Ipswich to become a dumping ground because they take them for granted. They think they will turn up and vote for the member for Ipswich and the member for Ipswich West time and time again. In this day and age it does not work like that. The voters of Ipswich are smarter than that and they will judge a good character. The member for Bundamba is onto something: it is not going to be the Labor Party brand that carries her over.

Tonight the member for Bundamba has a big test as well. This is a big test for a member who has been a strong advocate in recent times for her community. I do not think it is going to be a big test for the members for Ipswich or Ipswich West. I think they have folded already. There will be no prospect of them walking across for their community because they think time and time again the people of Ipswich will continue to just blindly follow a brand.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Tourism, I can hear you interjecting very loudly and I do not believe the member is taking the interjections. The member for Toowoomba North and the member for Chatsworth have been interjecting across the chamber so much so that I can hardly hear their own speaker. I ask that they keep that in mind. I am all for a healthy debate, but let us make sure we can hear the speaker.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Will the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West be lions for their community? Will they be champions or nodding donkeys or wallflowers just sitting there. To somehow suggest that this problem of interstate dumping can only be solved with a levy is a furphy. The amount of interstate waste in the last financial has skyrocketed because these superdumps have become more available. Tonight there is an opportunity to stop that.

The chamber of commerce has described it as lazy, but it is more than that—it is sneaky. This whole prospect is sneaky. Somehow we are using the good people of Ipswich as a stalking horse for a tax across the state. There is no way you can look a builder in the eye in Cairns and tell her that it is going to be worth her while. There is no way you can look a fish and chip shop owner in Rockhampton and tell him he is going to be better off because of it. There is no way you can look at the member for Woodridge and pretend he knows what a local government is or that he cares about it all of a sudden.

Let us stop this State of Origin nonsense. Let us stop all of this nonsense about walking jerseys into the House. This has nothing to do with State of Origin. This has to do with a great city becoming a dumping ground because those opposite take them for granted. If you want to stop interstate dumping, stop the superdumps in Ipswich.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.17 pm): Listening to that contribution really made me think about the Newman era. Just when we thought we were safe it does not seem that we are at all. I rise to speak against the motion put by the opposition leader today and speak in favour of the sensible amendment by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning which notes that Ipswich City Council is the assessment agency for the BMI Group's application for a waste facility at New Chum, notes that Ipswich City Council has not requested the state to exercise its call-in powers at all, notes that Ipswich City Council has the power to approve or reject applications to expand existing or establish new waste facilities and notes the final report of Justice Peter Lyons's investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland.

This proposed call-in can only be described as cheap political pointscoreing. It offers no solution to the problems of waste management in Ipswich or in Queensland. Call-in powers are not a political plaything. Call-in powers should be used based on the best planning advice, not as a political response to sensible government policy.

When the Leader of the Opposition referred to BMI's application in the media last week she said that the government needs to listen to the community and that the residents have said very clearly that they do not want this. While some residents in Ipswich have told me that they oppose BMI's dump at New Chum, many residents have also told me that they support the introduction of a sensible waste management policy in Queensland to stop trucks coming over the border from New South Wales to dump their rubbish in Ipswich. Ipswich residents have told me that they want a long-term solution in place to stop Ipswich being the cheap dumping ground for interstate corporate polluters who try to dodge the New South Wales waste levy. It is time we removed the incentive for truck drivers from Sydney to profit from dumping their waste in Queensland. Ipswich residents should not be subsidising corporate polluters to dump waste in our landfills and increase the traffic on our roads.

Calling in every second project is not an appropriate way to run a state planning system. The Leader of the Opposition's motion requesting the Palaszczuk government to call in the proposed dump at New Chum is simply a case of putting short-term policies before good policy.

It is important to always remember that local planning is first and foremost within the purview of local government. What is more, the Leader of the Opposition's concerns about the dumps in Ipswich and her request to call in BMI's dump application are simply disingenuous if she also opposes introducing good waste management policy for Queensland.

Ipswich would not have had a problem with the growth of interstate dumping in the first place if Campbell Newman's LNP government had not removed the waste levy in 2012 and we would not be in the situation we now find ourselves, where the opposition leader thinks it is a good idea to call in every development application and ask the state to interfere in local government planning processes. The Ipswich City Council will assess the BMI project on its merits and in a way that protects locals from heavy vehicles, noise and smell.

Generally, call-ins are done sparingly, with only one or two a year undertaken across the state in recent times. Under the Planning Act, the minister has the power to call in and assess and decide or reassess and re-decide an application if the matter involves or is likely to involve a state interest and warrants ministerial involvement. A state interest is an interest that the minister considers affects an economic or environmental interest of the state or part of the state, or the interest of ensuring that the Planning Act's purpose is achieved, including the establishment an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated and accountable system of development assessment.

This government does not make reckless decisions related to planning. Proper planning processes, as set out in the Planning Act 2016, must be fully enacted to ensure that well-considered decisions are made. Planning in Queensland puts infrastructure and well-organised communities

together. Without an efficient planning system in place in Queensland, our future is compromised. Calling in individual projects without a statewide strategy should not be the course of action pursued. We cannot fix our waste management issues by calling in every application and overriding council.

During the last term of parliament, the then planning minister and Deputy Premier introduced new planning legislation for Queensland. The new Planning Act is a bipartisan piece of legislation. We also implemented ShapingSEQ, the South-East Queensland Regional Plan, which is a partnership between the state government and local councils to plan for the expected growth in the south-east. I oppose the original motion and I support the amended motion.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.22 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Even without the proposed new superdump, Ipswich accounts for one-quarter of the waste disposed of in landfills in Queensland. There are many things that Ipswich should be renowned for. It has pristine heritage buildings, a major RAAF base at Amberley, my old school of Ipswich Grammar School—the first secondary school in this state—the Workshops Rail Museum and the beautiful Queen's Park. Being a major dumping ground is not one of them. If this new facility is to go ahead, it will take over 1.1 million tonnes of waste per year and plonk it within minutes of suburbia.

This issue has personal significance for me, because my parents live close to the existing Swanbank landfill. In fact, they live so close to that superdump that if the wind is blowing from the dump's direction often they are forced indoors. As one can imagine, that is particularly unbearable in the summer months. I am told that many residents will not even talk about the issue, because they are scared that the values of their homes will decrease as a result.

If the elected Labor members for Ipswich do not want to stand up for their constituents, although I am a proud Gold Coaster now I would feel obligated to do it for them because I am from Ipswich. Of course, I am excluding from that list the member for Bundamba. Time and time again, the member has valiantly stood up to the Premier on this issue. Just last week at the Ipswich Town Hall meeting held at the Racehorse Hotel—a fine establishment that, a few years ago, I worked behind the bar of—the member for Bundamba declared—

The point is that the message Premier, loud and clear from our community, who have to put up with asthma attacks every day, who have to put up with enormous respiratory problems, they cannot open their houses because of the stink and the smell—we're over it, we've had enough and that's the message tonight.

Labor has form when it comes to calling in developments. They did it in West End and Upper Kedron. Why is Ipswich any different? If there is nowhere to dump interstate rubbish, how can it be brought over the border in these quantities?

You do not need a new tax to solve this problem. On the Gold Coast, my local government has shown that local governments can take action to make sure that their tips are used primarily by residents. They have increased the facility fees at the Stapylton landfill for waste entering from outside of the Gold Coast. In Brisbane, the major tip at Rochedale does not accept interstate landfill. That is really how you stop the trucks. These are great examples of why it is unnecessary to burden the entire state—


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member, I am sorry. The cross-chamber interjections are far too loud. Members, if you want to make a contribution to the debate, put yourself on the speaking list and rise to your feet.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** These are great examples of why it is unnecessary to burden the entire state with a new waste tax. Councils can take action to make sure that their tips do not become someone else's dumping ground.

It makes you think: maybe there is another reason for this new tax. It would not take Sherlock Holmes to solve that mystery. Labor just loves to tax. A scattergun, broad-ranging approach to tax such as this is not the path to prosperity. A tax does not create the environment for any new jobs. Based on the data in the investigation into interstate waste, a tax may not even solve the problem that the government is trying to address. In 2014-15, the amount of interstate waste decreased compared to the previous year and that was without a tax.

I will leave the House with a line from my favourite band, the Beatles, who provide a timely suggestion for Queenslanders living under a Labor government: 'Now my advice for those who die, declare the pennies on your eyes.'

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak against the private member's motion. Before I do so, I thank the member for Broadwater. Every time he gets to his feet and speaks, he reminds the people of Queensland about the dark days of the Campbell Newman government—every time. He just did it then: the finger-pointing and the tippy-toes. Every time, he reminds the people of Queensland of the dark days and he should keep it up.

Local governments are principally responsible for considering development applications and the current development approval process around the BMI waste facility at New Chum is a matter for the Ipswich City Council. Obviously, under the Planning Act the Minister for Planning has the power to call in a development application if it involves a state interest and the government has not ruled out intervening in this development application. Therefore, I am surprised to see the members opposite move and speak in support of the motion before the House tonight.

The LNP is fully aware of the planning system in place in our great state of Queensland. The member for Burleigh and the member for Gregory were both on the committee that recommended that the Planning Bill 2016 be passed by this House. Not only that, I have seen the committee's report and there is no dissenting comment in that report. They could have spoken then, but they chose not to do so. Therefore, I find it a complete sham that tonight the members opposite are rising to speak in support of this reckless motion.

In our great state of Queensland, we have a transparent planning process where the councils and the state government are held to account for our planning decisions. The decision at hand is one for the council of the City of Ipswich and that is well known to the members opposite. The proper channels of decision-making that the Planning Act 2016 put in place are now being played out by the Ipswich City Council, as it should do and as all councils across Queensland do. I know some members opposite may not understand the terms 'proper process' and 'transparent decision-making', but I can reassure all Queenslanders that both are key elements of the Planning Act.

I will quote from *Hansard* of 11 May 2016, when the bill was debated. The former member for Mansfield, Ian Walker, said—


I have a sense of déjà vu in that on yet another LNP initiative the Palaszczuk Labor government has followed through.

He also went on to say—

The fact that we are debating these bills is directly attributable to the work of the LNP government ...

Members can understand my confusion that the members opposite have moved this private member's motion. I am completely confused. Apparently the Planning Act 2016 is theirs. We are here tonight with those opposite having no idea how it works or how the proper planning decision-making works in their apparent legislation.

I have one suggestion for those opposite, especially those who were on the committee. They should read bills before they vote in favour of them. It is disappointing that those opposite display no understanding of the planning system in Queensland. This is yet another example of why Queenslanders rejected the LNP circus that was the Tim Nicholls opposition. They know nothing about how to govern. They know nothing about the Queensland planning system. They were not ready to govern at last year's election and it looks like they have not learnt any lessons since.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I have been sitting here listening for the last half an hour. I listened with interest to the contributions by the member for Woodridge and, more recently, by the member for Ipswich West. Quite frankly, being schooled on ministerial call-in powers by Labor is like being lectured on cleanliness by my 16-year-old son.

Quite seriously, we have here the paramount hypocrisy of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It suits their purposes to ignore their amended motion moved this evening when the project occurs in the electorate of the member for South Brisbane. It suits those opposite to ignore their amended motion moved this evening when it occurs in the electorate of the member for Cooper. What is going on when it occurs in the electorate of the poor member for Bundamba and that of her neighbouring colleagues, the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West? Poor Jo! I look forward to the member for Bundamba's contribution in this regard very shortly.

In every other situation we ignore the council. In this situation we are being asked to note that it is the Ipswich City Council that is the assessment agency for BMI Group's application for a waste facility at New Chum. It was the Brisbane City Council's responsibility for both West Village and Cedar Woods,

but that is different. I note that the Ipswich City Council has not requested the state to exercise its call-in powers and neither did the Brisbane City Council. I note that the Ipswich City Council has the power to approve or reject applications to expand existing or establish new waste facilities.

That is fine, except that the member for Bundamba says, 'I don't trust the council to deal with the dump.' That comes from an article in the *Queensland Times*. I am happy to table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Queensland Times*, dated 14 March 2018, titled 'MILLER SLAMS: I don't trust council to deal with the dump' [409].

If the member for Bundamba does not trust the council to deal with this dump, then surely this is a prime example of where the minister should be calling in this project, making an assessment and ruling it out.

It is clear that there is one rule for the member for South Brisbane, one rule for the member for Cooper and another rule for the member for Bundamba. We have seen that over the course of the last three years. The poor member for Bundamba misses out again. Let us cut to the chase. They are using these superdumps in Ipswich as justification for reintroducing a waste tax in this state.

I listened this morning to my record as environment minister being muddled. Let me correct the record. Too right we got rid of that tax. It was a tax on each and every household. It was a tax that we committed to getting rid of as an election commitment, and we did. Where was their election promise to introduce a waste tax? There was nothing. It has popped up today so that the Premier and Treasurer can now stand up and say, 'We are introducing five taxes.'


I notice this morning that the Premier referred to a chart from her report into the change in volume of waste coming from other states. She had a look at the chart and I think she was going to table it, but then she realised something: it does not help her case—not at all. It does the opposite. It supports everything the LNP did during its term in government in terms of getting rid of this waste tax. It shows that in 2013-14 interstate waste was about 400,000 tonnes. In 2014-15, after we had implemented our waste strategy, it dropped down to around 330,000 tonnes. There was a change of government at the start of 2015 and it skyrocketed to nearly 600,000 tonnes. Last year it was 900,000 tonnes. The issue was not the LNP getting rid of the waste tax. I table that chart.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, depicting graph titled 'Figure 1: Change in volume of waste from other States transported into Queensland since the year ending 30 June 2014' [410].

The issue is that the Palaszczuk Labor government has forgotten how to comply. They have locked their environmental officers up behind their desks. They are not letting them out. They have tied them up in green tape and red tape and all the while Ipswich City Council—their Labor mates—have been approving superdumps left, right and centre with no compliance. It is quite simple. We do not need a tax in Cairns or Mackay or the Sunshine Coast for a problem in Ipswich. Simply call in this project and rule it out—problem solved.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker I want the House to come to order.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.35 pm): They say that there are two types of elected officials: there are the lions and there are the sheep. I am a lion and I have been roaring for Ipswich ever since I was elected to this House. Let me tell members that no-one in Ipswich wants these dumps. I have not ever received a phone call from anyone in Ipswich saying that the dumps are good. We are over it. We do not want the dumps. We do not want the existing dumps. We do not want any proposed dumps. It is a nonsense to suggest that the people in Ipswich want the dumps.

Let us be clear about this. Development applications are made to the Ipswich City Council. It is the Ipswich city councillors who should be making the decision. What have they done? Let us have a look at this. The councillors have delegated their decision-making to faceless bureaucrats who are employed by them. The councillors are charged with making the decision.

What happened a couple of weeks ago in Collingwood Park, where I live? The IRATE group had a meeting with anyone who wanted to come. The mayor came and two councillors came as well. I put it to the mayor and the councillors that they had in fact delegated their decision-making process to the faceless bureaucrats. They did not get up and deny it. In fact, they agreed and the mayor asked one of the town planning staff to get up, as a faceless bureaucrat, and he introduced us to this particular person. We all asked, 'Who is this person? None of us have ever met them.' The mayor seemed quite happy to delegate the councillors' responsibility to this employee or any other employee within the council.

I say tonight to the councillors, 'Do your jobs. You are elected by the people of Ipswich to do your jobs.' We want the councillors to pull back this delegation and we want them to make the decision. We want them to be able to say that they were elected by the people of Ipswich. All of us in my electorate want to be at the council meeting to eyeball them and we want to know which way they are going to vote. We want the Ipswich city councillors to call for a division on the issue so that it will be clear which councillors are for the dumps and which councillors are against the dumps.

The councillors are elected. They get their pay and perks but they do not want to do the work associated with it. The councillors' role is to make the decisions, just like it is our role in this House to make the decisions; otherwise, they should not be there. We may as well put administrators into Ipswich—have a town-planner, have an engineer and have an administrator in there to make the decisions.


I also want to talk about the application fee. There is a real smell around this application fee. It was supposed to be \$800,000 and it went down to \$200,000. Who made that decision? Does that mean that only \$200,000 worth of work is going to be done by the council?

In our community these dumps are a blight on Ipswich and a blight on our suburbs. They are stinking, filthy, dirty, rotten, dusty dumps and we do not want them. In fact, the smells are so bad—the member for Bonney was right—that you have to shut your windows and doors. You sweat in summer. You cannot have barbecues. You cannot eat outside. People suffer nausea and vomiting. The fires at these dumps are so bad that some of us end up in hospital because of the smoke coming off the dust. The respiratory illnesses are so shocking in Ipswich that people like me and my friends suffer from asthma, bronchitis and COPD. It is an absolute disgrace. We do not want to go out on the roads in case we are run over by B-doubles full of their crappy rubbish that they send into Ipswich. It is just disgusting. No-one should be living like this. We live in a Third World city because of these dumps.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language.

**Mrs MILLER:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker, and I apologise. We demand that the councillors reject these dump applications. We demand that no matter the cost in legal terms and we demand that they do their job in an open and transparent way. I support the amendment.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.41 pm): Thank God we are not having the Commonwealth Games in Ipswich after that contribution, where we heard the member talk about her own city having 'dirty, filthy, stinking, rotten dumps'. Isn't it amazing! What is Ipswich? Ipswich is Labor territory. The council is Labor. The state seats of Ipswich, Ipswich West, Bundamba and the Premier's seat of Inala are traditional Labor seats, and the federal seat of Oxley is Labor. How does Labor reward those who vote for them? They are rewarded by giving them superdumps.

**Mrs Frecklington:** They've been dumped on.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** They have just been dumped on by the member for Bundamba. There is Cleanaway at New Chum and Lantrak at Swanbank, approved by Labor governments, and they take a quarter of Queensland's landfill waste. They do not dump like that at Rochedale. They do not have interstate dumping at Rochedale. They do not have interstate dumping on the Gold Coast. In fact, the Deputy Mayor of Brisbane, Adrian Schinner, in response to Sarah Elks tweeting about the new tax, the new waste levy, responded—

Given that BCC's Rochedale landfill doesn't accept any waste from interstate, does this mean we will be exempt—

he means the Brisbane City Council—

from the waste levy? Or is this really just an excuse for—

what we know is—

another Labor tax?

Now those opposite want to inflict more odour, dust, noise, light and heavy vehicles on residents within this community. It is shameful. We have just heard from the member for Bundamba, who said that she is against this proposal and she has made that clear to the company—this type of development is 'too close to houses and has clear and detrimental impacts on the community'.

What about the paltry efforts from the members for Ipswich West and Ipswich tonight, hiding behind a planning scheme where in the last parliament we saw a number of call-ins on a number of issues, whether it was in the electorate of Cooper, South Brisbane or Ferny Grove. We have had a

number of call-ins. Now they are hiding behind the planning scheme to say that that is why it cannot happen. They are not standing up for their community because they take them for granted. We heard that from the member for Ipswich.


The Ipswich community cannot take any comfort in the fact that their local MPs are aware that they do not want a superdump, because their local MPs are more concerned about justifying their decision based on a report than they are about having a superdump or a waste levy. They have lost their backbone here in the House. We cannot be surprised. We know that Labor listens to the unions first, the party second and their constituents last. They take Ipswich residents for granted.

The Premier told 400 Ipswich residents that she would not stand for Queensland being the dumping ground for New South Wales. Let us stop Ipswich from becoming a dumping ground full stop so we can stop having to listen to what the member for Bundamba says about Ipswich as it currently is. Now plans are encroaching on the LNP seats of Scenic Rim and Lockyer because Ipswich borders these areas. I guarantee that LNP MPs will furiously defend their communities and will resist any plans for superdumps. We know that Labor rewards their voters with more superdumps. I would like a guarantee from the member for Gaven, the new Labor member on the Gold Coast, that there will not be any superdumps in her electorate, because that is what comes with Labor. Whether it is the hills behind Clagiraba and Mount Nathan or next to the Clagiraba Creek boundary, Gold Coasters will not accept a superdump in their area.

If anyone from the Gold Coast City Council or the Scenic Rim Regional Council proposed one in the seats of Bonney, I do not think the member for Bonney would accept it. I do not think the member for Burleigh would accept it. The member for Broadwater would not accept it. The member for Coomera would not accept it. The members for Currumbin, Mermaid Beach, Mudgeeraba or Southport would not accept it. I would not accept it in Surfers and neither would the member for Theodore accept it. The people of Jordan have a newly elected Labor member. That electorate also borders the Ipswich area. People in the Spring Mountain and Greenbank regions should be on high alert given Labor's track record. We will fight tooth and nail on behalf to our communities in every seat to prevent superdumps, unlike those opposite. That is why we need to keep the Gold Coast blue, because as soon as Labor gets an MP on the Gold Coast threats of superdumps emerge in the area.

Labor puts superdumps in its most secure seats. No wonder I say Labor does not get the Gold Coast. The LNP would never accept its areas being turned into dumping grounds. Every Queenslanders will pay a new tax announced out of the blue simply because Labor cannot manage compliance, as the member for Glass House said. Tax and spend—that is what Labor does for Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. In moving her motion about waste facilities in Ipswich tonight, the Leader of the Opposition articulated why Queensland needs a comprehensive waste strategy that is underpinned by a waste levy. This debate demonstrates that those opposite have only now come to terms with the consequences of their decision to repeal the waste levy in 2012. They have come in here with fake moral outrage and demanded the state government take unprecedented action to fix a mess that the LNP created.

To address the comments of the member for Glass House, who talked about the level of waste over a number of years, I say that if he had read the report he would know that the spike in interstate waste coincided with the New South Wales levy being increased, making it even cheaper to dump in Queensland because the LNP had repealed the levy. We are seeing a lack of vision from those opposite rather than a comprehensive strategy to address the broader challenges facing our state's waste industry.

I am fully aware of the concerns Ipswich locals are expressing about waste. Last week, during Governing from the Regions in Ipswich, my director-general and I met with members of the local group Ipswich Residents Against Toxic Environments. We had a frank discussion and I heard for myself their concerns about the management of waste in Ipswich and the amount of waste being trucked into their city from interstate as a result of the LNP's reckless repeal of the waste levy.

I also met with the mayor of Ipswich City Council, who described yesterday's announcement of a waste levy as 'a great start'. On radio yesterday, the mayor also said, 'It will have an immediate effect on how much waste is brought into Queensland and particularly Ipswich.' The mayor of Ipswich understands the importance of what we are doing and so does the industry. I have been engaging with



the waste industry that is operating in the Ipswich region and right across the state. I have been engaging and meeting with stakeholders, because it is the hallmark of the Palaszczuk government to consult and collaborate to deliver fair and balanced outcomes.


I have said this many times this week and I will say it again: when the LNP recklessly repealed the waste levy without any vision for waste management in Queensland, it not only opened the floodgates for rubbish to be dumped in Ipswich and across the state but also robbed our state of the opportunity to build recycling infrastructure and industry. The member for Broadwater said that Ipswich superdumps are a result of Labor ignoring the city, but the truth is that they are the product of the LNP's disastrous waste policy decisions, which were made while the member for Broadwater was a member of Campbell Newman's cabinet.

The waste industry employs 50,000 people across Australia and contributes about \$15 billion to our national economy. In addition, every 10,000 tonnes of waste in landfill supports less than three jobs, but if the same amount of waste were recycled it would support more than nine jobs. An incentive to recycle not only is good environmental policy but also makes economic sense. In his report to government Justice Peter Lyons noted the following—

Several industry participants ... indicated that the removal of the levy in 2012 had resulted in a loss of jobs at recycling plants.

That is the advice of the independent review. The LNP is responsible for job losses in Queensland. Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government understands that, as part of a comprehensive waste strategy, a levy can be a lever to stimulate the growth of new industries and create new jobs. We are looking at the big picture. Industries and councils recognise the opportunities that will come with the establishment of a waste strategy and a levy. Justice Peter Lyons noted in his report that no submission that has been received to date entirely opposed the imposition of a levy.

Let me be clear: Queensland households will not be directly impacted by a new waste levy. Among those who will feel the effect of it are the companies trucking waste into Ipswich dumps. Ipswich City Council is assessing the application from BMI for a waste facility at New Chum. Our government is setting Queensland on a strategic path for waste management across the state. I support the amendment.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.51 pm): Tonight we have seen the members opposite hiding behind process and hiding behind bureaucrats. There is a lack of leadership and they are passing the buck. That is the modus operandi of this government. In supporting this motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, can I firstly say that I support action to stop interstate waste being dumped in Queensland, but the problem can be fixed through enforcement by the Labor government against interstate waste operators. We cannot support a tax being imposed on every Queenslanders to fix a problem that affects a few South-East Queensland dumps—a problem caused by Labor approving dumps; a problem caused by Labor's failure to properly police compliance measures; and a problem that will only truly be fixed by the Labor government admitting it has stuffed up and committing to real action in enforcing compliance measures.

I would expect the Labor MPs for Ipswich and Ipswich West to be supporting what the LNP is pushing for in this debate. A call-in is the only way those members can guarantee there will be no new dump going ahead at New Chum. A call-in has been publicly supported by one Ipswich city councillor—David Pahlke in division 10—and I am sure that it is supported privately by many more. This is a test for the member for Ipswich and the member for Ipswich West. Are they going to stand with their community, as the member for Bundamba has publicly, and demand government action or are they going to hide behind council process, the mayor and the councillors of Ipswich who are obliged by law to assess these applications?

We know that this government is very good at blaming other people for their problems. Almost every day they come in here and blame Canberra for issues they have failed to address. They try to rewrite history to blame the LNP for things of the past, but they are the government. They have been in government for over three years, and they have been in office for 23 of the last 28 years. When are they going to take responsibility for their actions? When are they going to stand up and say, 'It's our fault and we will do something about it'? They are like a child always failing to take responsibility for their own actions, always trying to blame someone else, and so it is with the dumps.

The existing superdumps at New Chum and Swanbank in Ipswich were approved by the previous Labor government. All of the stench, discomfort and pain being visited on Labor-voting residents in Ipswich is a result of Labor. What is more, the amount of waste coming from interstate has increased with the Labor Party in government. What have they been doing for the last three years? In 2014-15,

the last year the LNP was in office, the amount of waste dumped there went down. The government needs to acknowledge that this issue came about on their watch and they need to fix it without slugging every Queenslander for an issue that is really just an Ipswich and South-East Queensland issue.

When will Labor members in Ipswich take responsibility? Now is their chance. Will they take responsibility or will they cut and run? Labor needs to call in this New Chum application, as the Leader of the Opposition has moved. They have called in applications before when it is expedient. Think Cedar Woods and the West Village. A state interest was concocted in those cases and there is a state interest now. We have been listening to the Premier and the minister for the last couple of weeks talk about all of the interstate waste. That is a state interest. People in Ipswich tell me that they want the issue fixed. They do not want a tax. I do not know who the member for Ipswich is speaking to, but they are certainly not my residents who do not want a waste tax to fix this issue. They want effective government action.

The Labor member for Bundamba said that people do not want more dumps in Ipswich. There is an example for the member for Ipswich and Ipswich West to follow. I say to the member for Bundamba: if she does not trust the council, here is a chance to put that right. She can vote with her convictions and make sure that the people in her electorate keep trust with her. She has a chance to vote so that they keep trust with her.

I represent part of Ipswich city in the Scenic Rim electorate, and around Willowbank we have a dump. There are mooted proposals for more dumps, but some of them are too close to residential areas. My message to the government is that enough is enough. The member for Ipswich West in the last redistribution wanted to represent Willowbank. He said that it should be in Ipswich West. Here is your chance, Jim, to stand up—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, can you please use appropriate titles.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Here is a chance for the member for Ipswich West to stand up for the people of Willowbank and the surrounding areas. I say again: the superdumps at Ipswich are all Labor's fault. They are there because of them, but it is not fair for everybody in Queensland to pay more for Labor's failure to do its job. I love Ipswich. It is where I went to school and it is where I spent a lot of time in my childhood. It is where a lot of Scenic Rim electors work and shop, and it is time for all Labor members to come clean with Ipswich, to call in the application and knock it on the head.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 47:**

**ALP, 46—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 43:**

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

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**AYES, 48:**

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

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 43:**

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

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—


That this House—

- (a) notes that Ipswich City Council is the assessment agency for the BMI Group's application for a waste facility at New Chum;
- (b) notes that Ipswich City Council has not requested the state to exercise its call-in powers;
- (c) notes that Ipswich City Council has the power to approve or reject applications to expand existing or establish new waste facilities; and
- (d) notes the final report of Justice Peter Lyons's investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members will note that the time is past the automatic 7 pm adjournment. This matter will be resolved prior to the next sitting. I have allowed some discretion for this debate and the resulting divisions to occur.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Scenic Rim Electorate, Services

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.06 pm): In all my time in this House, I have stood up for better services and investment in the electorate I represent. In government, we delivered better services at Beaudesert Hospital, including maternity services. We delivered 24/7 policing in Beaudesert, common-sense vegetation management laws and the better delivery of services in our schools, hospitals and agencies.

The Labor government needs to invest more funding into the Mount Lindesay Highway. With Flagstone and Yarrabilba PDAs feeding a huge increase in congestion, the crawl on the Mount Lindesay Highway gets worse and worse for motorists in my electorate. We committed \$60 million in new funding to the highway during the recent election because the LNP recognises that the growth in the area is real, is increasing and will be long term. The government needs to get on with plans and get started with them now to ease congestion on the highway, especially through Jimboomba. There are other parts as well, but unless this bottleneck is fixed the time spent on our roads will only continue to grow.


It is not only on our roads that the government needs to invest. With a growing population in the Beaudesert region, social services are also in need of improvement. Beaudesert needs dedicated services for mental health, drug and alcohol addiction, and family services—not outreach from Logan or the Gold Coast, not one day a week here or three days a fortnight there. We need support on a full-time, ongoing basis to support families and individuals affected by health issues. I quote from a local family support agency employee, who said—

Given the rapid growth, we are overwhelmed with people seeking support and I am very concerned about how we continue to ensure basic emotional and mental health needs are met for those in crisis.

Beaudesert and the Scenic Rim often seems to be included in the statistical and funding pots of either the Gold Coast, Ipswich or Logan. This gives a false impression that services are being provided out here when they are not. Our experience of outreach services from centralised agencies is that the will is there (especially when submissions are being written), but as there is no reputational damage to the agency to withdraw from outreach support when things get financially or logistically difficult, service provision can be chaotic.

I am informed that a one-day-a-week alcohol and drug family support worker position funded by Metro South HHS—yes, just one day a week—has been vacant since December. As a result, a lot of work put in place has simply fallen away. This is just not good enough. In fact, it is a disgrace. This would not occur in Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich or other urban areas. Families in the Scenic Rim need the support just as much as families elsewhere. I know that the Minister for Communities has had correspondence from my community about this, and I call on the government to fix this drastic lack of support now. We need continuity of support and we need a real commitment from health and community service agencies in government to help people in the Scenic Rim who need help. I will not let these people be forgotten by the Labor bureaucracy, nor will I allow services to slip away because there is no 'reputational damage' to the agency that is supposed to be providing these services to the residents of the Scenic Rim electorate.

### Health Services

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.09 pm): The doctors, nurses, surgeons, midwives, cleaners, ward staff, pathologists, radiologists, allied health professionals, kitchen staff and everyone at the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service work so incredibly hard to improve the health of our local people.

**Mr Harper:** Paramedics.

**Mrs LAUGA:** I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa—the paramedics as well. I speak of Rachel, a nurse who gives everything to make sure that patients are treated with dignity and respect; or Zeena, a child health nurse who visits the homes of new mothers and their babies, including mine after the birth of my daughter, to check they are settling in okay after birth; or Carmel, a wardie who works day in, day out to ensure the hospital runs as smoothly as possible each and every day but has sadly been the victim of brutal physical assaults by patients. They put their heart and soul into their work, and sometimes their lives on the line, because they believe in delivering quality, integrated health services focused on the patient.


However, a serious problem is looming. Each year on average about one in five Queenslanders is being admitted to hospital and this number is growing. Our health systems are under pressure. Hospital admissions are growing by an additional 70,000 every year and emergency department presentations by an additional 50,000 every year. This trend is unsustainable.

Labor values and supports a well-resourced, publicly funded universal health system that helps Queenslanders achieve and maintain good physical and mental health and wellbeing. Queensland Labor is doing its part to lead the way in delivering better health care and a healthier community by delivering record Health budgets, introducing nurse-to-patient ratios and restoring front-line health services including an extra 4,150 nurses and 1,600 doctors. When Labor came into office in 2015 there were 104,000 Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist appointment. That number has already been reduced by almost two-thirds.

It is getting more and more difficult to deliver a quality health system when the federal LNP keeps cutting health funding. In the latest cut Central Queensland could lose \$39 million in health services following the federal LNP government's decision to refuse funding it owes to our hospital. This is a savage attack on health care in Central Queensland. We are not talking about arguments over future funding; this is about Canberra paying for hundreds of Central Queensland patients already treated. Worse, the amount owing is accumulating, meaning Queenslanders are \$979 million worse off over four years because of Canberra's refusal to pay its fair share.

The funding owed to Central Queensland equates to 424 cataracts and lens procedures, 299 hernia repairs, 214 hip or knee operations—a total of 14,263 medical procedures. Despite calls from the Palaszczuk government, this overdue money has not been paid. If Canberra refuses to pay its fair share for our hospitals, including the Rockhampton Hospital and the Capricorn Coast Hospital, they will be forced to reduce health services. The federal LNP government needs to pay up or it will continue to put at risk the treatment of thousands of Central Queenslanders.

### **Kawana Electorate, Law and Order**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.12 pm): Yesterday, I ran a Facebook survey in my electorate of Kawana and to date 335 local residents have responded. Of those residents who wanted me to raise issues this week in parliament, 55 per cent nominated crime as their No. 1 issue. It is easy to see exactly why Sunshine Coast residents are concerned about crime when we have a Labor government that continually puts the rights of perpetrators ahead of victims. We have a Labor government that is so complicit in its neglect of its duty to keep Queenslanders safe, when it wound back the LNP's strong criminal gang laws, which has seen criminal gangs, drug manufacturing and crime explode once again in our great state. One has only to look at the increased rate of ice use in our community, which has a direct link to these criminal gang networks. We know when there is increased drug dependency, crime rates go through the roof.

Unfortunately for the Sunshine Coast, under this Palaszczuk Labor government crime has exploded. We only have to look at the latest Queensland police annual statistical review, released late last year, to see that the overall crime rate across the Sunshine Coast district from 2015-16 to 2016-17 increased under this soft-on-crime Labor government. When we drill down to individual offences, the numbers are scary and I can absolutely understand why local residents are concerned. When compared to the previous financial year on the Sunshine Coast alone, robbery is up 51 per cent, armed robbery is up 48.1 per cent, car theft and hooning is up 17.4 per cent, fraud is up 29.8 per cent, unlawful entry is up 0.9 per cent and assault is up a staggering 20.8 per cent.

Every day I hear another story from another fed up or frightened resident fearful of having their car broken into or their home burgled. My own next door neighbour recently had their home burgled whilst they slept. There is no worse feeling than realising someone has been in, or attempted to break

into, your home. It is a total violation of privacy and security. It is not the Sunshine Coast that I grew up in. Residents deserve better than to live in fear in their own home because of this Labor government's soft-on-crime approach.

Remarkably, instead of providing more resources and getting serious about crime, what has the Palaszczuk Labor government decided to do? They have decided now is the right time to cut funding to Sunshine Coast Neighbourhood Watch groups and those across Queensland. There has been a massive 85 per cent cut to be exact, slashing funding for our Neighbourhood Watch groups from \$500,000 a year to just \$75,000 a year.

Under this Labor government, we have crime exploding, robbery up 51 per cent, armed robbery up 48 per cent and the Palaszczuk Labor government is targeting the very people in our community who play a major role in crime prevention and detection, and that is our wonderful Neighbourhood Watch groups. These wonderful community minded residents volunteer their time to make our community a safer place. They are a vital link between police and communities. We should be boosting their funding, not cutting it.

The Labor government wants to destroy Neighbourhood Watch groups. If Annastacia Palaszczuk were serious about reducing crime, she would immediately reintroduce the LNP's tough criminal gang laws, act on the ice epidemic and restore funding to our wonderful Queensland Police Service, who do a wonderful job, as well as our Neighbourhood Watch groups on the Sunshine Coast.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the member for Maryborough I remind the member for Kawana to use members' appropriate titles.

#### **Maryborough Government Office; Hansen, Mrs M**



**Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.15 pm): The day of 22 February was an amazing day in Maryborough with the reopening of the Maryborough government office. This is a fantastic building in Maryborough. It was built during the Depression to provide people with work. It has a fantastic parquet floor. It started off as a Forestry building followed by a DPI building. I would like to thank the member for Springfield because during the 2015 election campaign I made a commitment to reopen this building, which was closed in 2009, to restore it and to return it to its original use. It is a magnificent building. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is restoring services and putting things back into regional Queensland. The building has been restored. We received \$2.1 million and I would like to thank the minister for this.

On that special day, 22 February this year, the building was named after our first lady of Maryborough, Moira Hansen. Mrs Hansen is a fantastic woman. As we say in Maryborough, she is our first lady; she is a living legend of the Maryborough ALP branch. Mrs Hansen's late husband was Brendan Hansen. Brendan was one of the few people in this country to represent all tiers of government. He was a councillor on the Maryborough City Council, a state member for Maryborough and the federal member for Wide Bay. He was also the whip in the federal parliament during the Whitlam era. He was a great man, a fantastic man for the area.


**Mr Power:** Like the current member for Maryborough!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Logan.

Mrs Hansen is one of the most amazing women you would ever meet in your life, Mr Speaker. She gives so much to the Maryborough community and has done all her life. Some of the stories she talks about were from the time when Brendan was the federal member for Wide Bay. When I was a young man in politics in Maryborough he was the mentor for a lot of us young up-and-coming people in the Labor Party in Maryborough. One could never get a truer man than Brendan Hansen. His word was his bond. If he gave you his word, you knew you were on to a winner. Mrs Hansen raised a great family and has done tremendous work throughout the community. She is still doing work in the Maryborough community.

I am so proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government and to be acknowledging a fine woman in Maryborough's first lady, Mrs Hansen. Now the building is called the Moira Hansen Maryborough State Government Office Building. I would like to thank the minister and member for Springwood for his support in putting this forward. I also thank the Palaszczuk government and the Premier for backing the naming of this building after Mrs Moira Hansen. On behalf of the community, I would like to say what a pleasure it is that Mrs Moira Hansen, Maryborough's first lady, let us use her name for such an important building.

### Bundaberg Base Hospital

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (7.18 pm): As the member for Bundaberg, a new category 5 hospital is my key focus. I have and will continue to put pressure on the government to make sure that our region is not forgotten. At the last election the government promised a \$3 million business case for a new or refurbished Bundaberg Base Hospital. Simply renovating the hospital again is just not good enough. The current hospital has already had countless facelifts and extensions since it was opened over 100 years ago. Over the years the hospital has done a great job serving our community, but now the Bundaberg region has more need for health care than ever before.

Upgrading from a category 4 to a category 5 hospital would benefit the entire region, not just those who live within the Bundaberg electorate. Level 5 hospitals are equipped to manage all but the most highly complex patients, allowing more specialists to be based in Bundaberg. This would greatly reduce the number of patients needing to be transferred to the south-east for treatment. The travel between Bundaberg and other hospitals is a major concern that I hear about from my constituents on a very regular basis.

A level 5 hospital would also allow more doctors, nurses and allied health specialists to complete their training in Bundaberg. This would mean that additional healthcare staff would move to or stay in the Bundaberg region. These folk would need homes to live in, they would spend more money supporting local businesses and they would contribute to the local community. These are all positive outcomes. Our fantastic health staff deserve a modern and well-organised work environment. In major flood events patients and their loved ones should not have the added worry of having to evacuate the hospital.


I used my very first question on notice to ask the Minister for Health for a clear time line for the \$3 million business case. I asked if work would be starting on the business case immediately and I asked when it would be finished. I also questioned whether the business case would be released to the public once he had received it from Building Queensland. This week I received a response. The minister has confirmed that the business case is underway.

As I said previously, I understand that well-planned, significant infrastructure takes time, but the minister's response gives no clear or even approximate time line for the completion of the business case. I am also concerned that the minister has advised that the business case itself will not be made public. Only the final recommendation will be made public. This worries me, as I want the people of Bundaberg to be provided with consultation time to discuss the case. I want them to be able to make submissions as part of the business case so that the government is well informed of the needs of the community.

A new hospital is not a want: it is a need in Bundaberg. I cannot see how the business case could recommend anything other than the construction of a new category 5 hospital for Bundaberg. I will continue to fight for this on behalf of the people of Bundaberg and raise the concerns of the people—

*(Time expired)*

### Tieri, Oaky North Lockout


 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.21 pm): I want to talk tonight about a small, beautiful Queensland town and appeal for an end to the dispute that has split it. That town is Tieri. It is a place I have visited firsthand to see the effects of the Oaky North lockout. It is a beautifully laid out town and it used to be a very active community. Everyone pitched in to help out at the sports club and the social club was busy every Friday. All who live there tell me it was the perfect place to bring up children. There was Monday to Friday work and shifts started and finished at the same time. The phrase I kept hearing was how good the town was 'back in the day'.

Now that town is divided. There are two workforces who are set in conflict. These workforces live next door to each other, share the same work camps in town and eat in the same mess, but they are still bitterly opposed. There is intimidation of locked-out workers. Some were followed by cars and they were filmed at one stage. School staff were approached about why locked-out miners were doing voluntary work at the school. I was told that some locked-out staff received warning letters about comments they had made in conversations. There is intense surveillance. I saw a sophisticated camera at the miners' bush camp that would track you as you move. I was informed that 'trail cams' were found in the bush opposite the camp and some reported seeing drones. The mess in the camp had cameras too.

The question is: how did Tieri get to this? The mine workers started negotiating a new EBA in 2015. After years of negotiation union members took protected action. The response of Glencore was to lock them out. It is the longest lockout in Australia history—over 200 days of being camped by the road. Meanwhile contract staff, once a small part of the workforce, are increasingly used to cut the coal. The result is division. Every miner living in Tieri is either inside or outside. I want to say that the locked-out workers are not after more money. They want to roll over their existing agreement. They want to keep their conditions as permanent staff with holiday leave, parental leave and sick leave. They previously lost pay and conditions when they agreed to 10-hour shifts instead of 12-hour shifts. It meant they lost about \$35,000 a year.

These workers only want what many other Queenslanders want. They want to live in a great town that offers so much for their kids. This small Queensland town has changed and Glencore can fix it. This lockout has divided this town, families and neighbours. I say to the mine owner: find common ground with all of your workforce and help end this dispute. Your workers just want to preserve their jobs and go to work. That is the same thing that all workers throughout Queensland aspire to. I appeal to all of Queensland today to help us find and create the common ground that will help recreate this town as great place to bring up children.

### Queensland Racing

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.24 pm): There is a stink in racing in Queensland, and that stink is coming from the Labor Party. That stink is affecting everyone in the racing industry and it is particularly affecting the people in my electorate: the people in Hendra, the people in Mein Street in Hendra; the people in Kitchener Road in Hendra; the people in Gordon Street in Hendra; and the people in Goble Street in Hendra. They are being affected because of the incompetence of this do-nothing, lazy Labor Palaszczuk government. What are they suffering from?


Last week two tonnes of organic fertiliser—let's call it what it is: chicken poo—was dumped on the track and left to sit there, and it blows straight across the residents' houses. That follows two months of dust flying through their houses and it follows two months of something called Stabilock, a plastic stabiliser, being exposed and blowing into their houses and clogging up their swimming pool filters. This follows a month after a public meeting where guarantees and assurances were given by Racing Queensland that still have not been fulfilled.

Why should the residents of Hendra—indeed, why should the entire racing industry—not be surprised by what has happened? There have been three racing ministers in three years. We had the mighty Bill Byrne, who did not do anything in relation to the racing industry for six months. He sat on his hands while the track at Eagle Farm was left fallow. Then we had Minister Grace. Do you remember her? There were 200 plus amendments on the first piece of legislation she brought in. The entire bill had to be rewritten. Last August she said, 'I am targeting racing returning to Eagle Farm in April 2018.' She is 10 days away. Minister, how is that promise looking? It is looking about as good as your promises not to introduce new taxes.

Now we turn to Minister Hinchliffe, the third of the Labor ministers—the triumvirate of failure—coming fresh from the rail fail. How does he get his messages? They are tweeted to him on a Friday afternoon. What does he do? He stands up today and issues a warning to Racing Queensland. We have also had three chief executives at Racing Queensland in three years, and the latest one fell on his sword today. Was he pushed or did he jump? The word on the street is that he was pushed. Who is paying the price? Racing in Queensland. After three years under this government there is not one scintilla of care for the racing industry. Since last year the racing industry has not been able to race at Eagle Farm, which generates 40 per cent of the state's wagering turnover.

*(Time expired)*

### Harmony Day

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.27 pm): We have not heard from the member for Clayfield over the last few months. In fact, we have not heard much at all from him since the election, but now the beard is gone and clearly the gloves are off. I have been quite critical of the member for Clayfield on the record in the past, but I am someone who always gives credit where credit is due. I say to the member for Clayfield that that was the finest speech about chicken poo I have ever heard in my life. I will give that credit where it is due to the member for Clayfield.


I want to talk today about something that the member for Clayfield struggled with during his time as LNP leader, and that is harmony and Harmony Day. It has been fantastic to see so many members wearing orange ribbons today for Harmony Day. As I have said before in this House, my electorate is

the most multicultural in Queensland. Over 50 per cent of the residents in my electorate were born overseas and more than half speak a language other than English at home, so in my electorate Harmony Day extends long beyond one day. I do note that today Harmony Day coincides with the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and creating a sense of belonging for everyone.

There were so many fantastic events. We had a wonderful breakfast from ECCQ this morning. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs attended that along with other members. There are a whole range of events happening in my local community. Members may have noted that downstairs in the parliament, both this sitting week and the previous sitting week, WAMCI, which is based in my electorate, have had a wonderful art display. I know that many members and visitors have appreciated that. They run a whole Brisbane international arts festival in celebration of Harmony Day and Harmony Week in my local area. The No. 1 thing I love about Harmony Day in my local area is that Kuraby State School have their annual Harmony Day, and luckily for me it is happening this Friday.

People come together from all over the electorate. There are heaps of parents and locals sharing food with the students and with the school community. It is wonderful. You can taste your way around the world at Kuraby State School on Friday, and I look forward to joining the principal Phil McLucas, staff, students and the whole community. You have to get in early for Harmony Day at Kuraby State School. The car park is full and everyone comes together because they know about getting one of the best feeds you have ever had in your life at Kuraby State School on Harmony Day. I never miss it. I have not missed it since I was elected and I intend never to miss it, because it is something not to be missed. I know that Minister Grace would love to come as well, but I am not sure I am willing to share the food with the minister. Maybe next year.

### Housing Affordability

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.30 pm): Housing affordability, housing shortage, rental stress, mortgage stress and homelessness—we speak of these as if they are a normal part of our existence portrayed through statistics, graphs and debate. Let us bring the discussion back to what those issues really are. They are symptoms of a system that has failed in its most basic commitment to our communities. These issues are stressful, emotive and a life-altering reality faced by thousands of Queenslanders every day.

We have yet to fully comprehend the total costs financially, emotionally and physically this toll takes on individuals, our communities and our government. However, it is becoming increasingly evident that these stressors contribute to a multitude of social, economic and environmental impacts including domestic violence, depression and mental illness. While acknowledging that the current 10-year Queensland housing strategy has commendable elements with commitments to investing in Queensland with a focus on vulnerable groups, there is concern that this will not alleviate the crisis in many communities in housing our low-income workers. My electorate of Noosa faces significant challenges in this arena.


The federal government data from the Smarter Cities plan compares data from the Sunshine Coast and Noosa with the 21 other areas of highest population in Australia. This data reflects the Noosa reality—median house prices over nine times the average household income level and substantially higher than Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. We have the highest dwelling price-to-income ratio of all the areas. We also have above average mortgage and rental stress and a below average proportion of houses in the rental market—the number of dwelling units per 100,000 population in the public and community housing sector is almost half of the average of all other city areas. This data shows a longstanding chronic underinvestment in community housing and a failure of housing policy in my constituency. This crisis in the housing market has been brought about by a perfect storm of prevailing conditions, according to the Grattan Institute report titled *Housing affordability! Reimagining the Australian dream*.

There are a number of solutions that could be supported by government. Community housing providers manage private and social housing in a very effective way. Moreover, the not-for-profit sector is eligible for significant federal funding and assistance and has the capacity to partner in shared equity models; with community banks and social enterprise to deliver ongoing affordability in home ownership and rentals in our communities. Both the private and community sectors also have a range of innovative concepts, including: the reconfiguration of large houses into flatettes, dual-key options and integrated developments based on our existing over-55s village models. Action is needed now in the Noosa



electorate and elsewhere in Queensland. Innovative and creative concepts combined with a bigger role for community housing providers can assist in providing much needed solutions in the short, medium and long term.

### Miller Electorate

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.33 pm): It is a great honour to be re-elected to this chamber in the new seat of Miller and I would like to make a report on a range of issues that affect my electorate. I was very gratified and honoured to receive a one per cent primary swing and a 2.4 per cent two-party preferred swing in Miller.

One of the key reasons is that so much is going on under the Palaszczuk government in my electorate. Of course, Cross River Rail will be transformative. It is something we have needed for a long time, not just in the city of Brisbane but also in South-East Queensland. The Ipswich Motorway project early works are already underway, with heavy works soon to start. There is the Veloway project now open from Tarragindi to Buranda, saving cyclists 10 minutes, a bicycle freeway and another stage of the missing link from Gaza Road to Birdwood Road that will be complete by the end of next year.

We have the Yeronga TAFE college, the old college that was dormant for eight or nine years, which will be redeveloped in consultation with the community. That process is progressing very well and is very positive. People certainly feel good about being involved in that process in a genuine way.

We have the Fairfield station upgrade for disability access yet to come. This represents a commitment by the Palaszczuk government and is something welcomed by the people of Fairfield and Annerley. The Graceville station full accessibility upgrade was opened in September last year and is something which the people of Graceville very much support. At the moment, we are completing the murals and involving some new photographs of the area from local residents which will be part of that. I committed to widen the underpass at Oxley Road on the border of Corinda and Sherwood. We need the city council to become involved in that process, because it is a bottleneck that needs to be dealt with. There is a lot going on in traffic in my constituency and there is a lot to come.

We also back our schools. There is a \$2.2 million new block at Yeronga State School. We helped Wellers Hill State School with its multipurpose hall worth \$185,000 in the last term. There are flashing light sets outside St Elizabeth State School in Tarragindi, at Moorooka State School just outside the electorate and at Graceville State School to ensure the safety of schoolchildren. There were grants of \$150,000 for important sporting clubs, namely, the Tarragindi Tigers clubhouse and field restoration by Sherwood AFL. Of course, I stood very firmly against the city council approving high-density development of five storeys in the low-density Tarragindi area and will continue to do so. The key is positive reform and positive projects. That is my focus in Miller and it will continue to be throughout this term.

The House adjourned at 7.36 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson