



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Friday, 15 June 2018

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## FRIDAY, 15 JUNE 2018

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

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

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### International Cleaners Day



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today is International Cleaners Day. The cleaners of the Queensland Parliamentary Service are the reason we are blessed to have a clean chamber, offices, dining rooms and, for many, a clean place to sleep at night—as well as, of course, a friendly face. Parliament House cleaners deserve our respect and admiration. To honour our cleaners on this International Cleaners Day, the Minister for Public Works and I hosted a morning tea for Parliament House cleaners earlier this morning. May I lead the House in thanking the cleaners of the Queensland Parliamentary Service for their important work in this place. Your work may sometimes be unseen, but rest assured it is always valued.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

### REPORT

#### Ombudsman



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Ombudsman a report titled *The Indigenous birth registration report: an investigation into the under-registration of Indigenous births in Queensland*. Birth registration establishes a person's legal identity. It is the first step to getting a birth certificate, a key identity document that allows a person to fully participate in our society. Without it, enrolling in school, joining a Rugby League or netball club or getting a driver's licence becomes that much more complicated, even limiting people's job opportunities. This is an issue that affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Queensland, including in the community of Yarrabah, the largest mainland Aboriginal community in Australia which I represent. This report includes a number of recommendations for consideration. I am pleased to table it for the consideration of the government and the parliament.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Ombudsman—The Indigenous birth registration report: An investigation into the under-registration of Indigenous births in Queensland, June 2018 [\[893\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Code of Ethical Standards




**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, an updated Code of Ethical Standards and associated Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members has been approved following a review by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the 56th Parliament, in accordance with section 86 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. I table the code and associated guidelines.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee—Code of Ethical Standards together with The Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members, June 2018 [\[894\]](#).

The new code will also be available on the parliament's website from this morning.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Question on Notice No. 466 of 2018

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 14 June 2018 I received a complaint from the member for Burleigh that the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport did not fully answer question on notice No. 466 of 2018. The member for Burleigh has asked me to rule the question unanswered.

Members are responsible for the drafting of their questions. They cannot expect, however, that ministers will answer their questions in a manner delineated by the question. The minister has provided a responsive answer to the question. If the member requires further information, the member can ask further questions. I am not ruling this question unanswered. I table the correspondence—


**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Pine Rivers! I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding an allegation that the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sports, Hon. Mick de Brenni, failed to answer question on notice No. 466 of 2018 [\[895\]](#).

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 14 May 2018 the member for Kawana wrote to me alleging that a contempt had been committed when a photograph from the broadcast of proceedings of the parliament on 9 May 2018 was republished on Twitter in contravention of the parliament's terms and conditions of broadcast. The photograph is of the member for Kawana on his feet in the House. It was included in a tweet from a Twitter account belonging to Ms Dee Madigan. It is accompanied by the statement—


Your taxes at work. A toddler tantrum for @JarrodBleijieMP.

The terms and conditions of the broadcast of proceedings of parliament provide inter alia that the further publication of the broadcast of proceedings not be used for satire or ridicule. I am aware that the opposition office had previously raised this issue with the Clerk and that the Clerk had corresponded with Ms Madigan advising her of the relevant terms and conditions and that the use of the broadcast material in contravention of the condition imposed by the Legislative Assembly may constitute a contempt of parliament. In that correspondence the Clerk urged Ms Madigan to remove the tweet in question. My office has also made attempts to have the material removed. To date, Ms Madigan has refused to remove the material.

Given the material has not been removed, I have decided that the matter does warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I therefore refer the matter to the Ethics Committee for further examination. Members, in doing so, I wish to emphasise that my role is not to determine whether there has been proven fault—a breach of privilege—but rather whether there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to these matters in the House.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Visitors to Public Gallery; Mackenroth, Hon. TM

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge the attendance in the gallery of the family of the late Hon. Terry Mackenroth, former treasurer and deputy premier of Queensland. Earlier today I had the pleasure of hosting the late Mr Mackenroth's amazing wife, Mary, and other members of the family: his brother, Gary; their daughter Rachel and her husband, Geoff; and their daughter Jessica.

Without pre-empting the condolence motion which will be debated shortly, I take this opportunity to again pay my respects to Terry Mackenroth. He was a giant of Queensland public life. His influence went beyond his peers to future generations of Queensland leaders. Terry Mackenroth was an important figure not only to me personally but also to the wider Queensland community.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Mackenroth, Hon. TM



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Hon. Terence Michael Mackenroth, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland, Deputy Premier and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Nearly 60 years ago a school group came into this chamber, like so many have before and since. In this group was a young man in year 8. He was no stranger to politics. He was raised by parents with strong beliefs in social justice and the value of actions over words. He went home from his school trip and told them that when he grew up he wanted to sit in that chamber and be one of those politicians. He became one of the best. His name was Terry Mackenroth.

The Hon. Terence Michael Mackenroth was born in Brisbane on 16 July 1949 and was educated at St Martin's primary school, Carina State School and Camp Hill State High School. Having learned of the young Terry's political ambition, his parents firmly insisted he do something else. Despite, or perhaps because of, their political experience, Terry was enthusiastically encouraged into a trade. At 15 he left school and became a welder. From 1970 to 1975, Terry owned and operated a steel fabrication and building company. The world of the small business operator became Terry's world. He was beginning to stretch his legs in politics too, becoming president of the ALP's Carina Heights branch in 1970. It was barely eight years after the schoolboy had decided where his future lay. All this as he wooed and wed his high school sweetheart Mary, and started their family. No matter what lay ahead, that partnership with Mary and their growing family would remain Terry's pride and joy.

Terry was elected in November 1977. There would not be another member for Chatsworth until he retired 28 years later. He took his seat here and became one of parliament's greatest students. He wore out a track in the carpet between the chamber and the Speaker's office, having the procedures and judgements of the place explained. It was not long before the student became the master. There was not a standing order, rule or procedure of this House that he did not know inside out. He learned about the value of having the numbers. 'It only takes one,' he'd say with that trademark rusk and the one-in-a-million grin. They called him 'The Fox', and the legend grew.

You name the ministry and it had Terry Mackenroth's name beside it. In the Goss government he was minister for police and emergency services; minister for housing, local government and planning; minister for rural communities; minister for provision of infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities; and minister for emergency services and minister for consumer affairs from December 1995 to February 1996.


After a period in opposition during the term of the Borbidge government, Terry returned as a minister in the Beattie government in 1998—minister for communication and information, minister for local government and planning, minister for regional and rural communities, minister for sport, minister for state development, leader of the House, deputy premier, treasurer—and all while hosting his daughters' slumber parties, coaching their sporting teams and hammering in tent pegs with Clem Jones for his Crackerjack carnivals.

He supervised the implementation of the Fitzgerald inquiry, he built Suncorp Stadium and after parliament he continued to serve as a member of the Cyclone Larry Operation Recovery Task Force and as chair of the Cyclone Larry Relief Appeal Fund Distribution Committee. When natural disasters struck again in 2013, Terry stepped forward once more as chair of the Independent Distribution Committee for the Queensland floods appeal.

Apart from his commitment to Rugby League as a director on the Australian Rugby League and the Queensland Rugby League, I also want to make special mention of his commitment to the Clem Jones Centre at Carina. It was my honour only days after Terry's passing to open the new gymnasium at the centre and name it in Terry's honour.

The Hon. Terence Michael Mackenroth passed away on 30 April 2018 aged 68 years and a state funeral service to celebrate his life was held on 8 May 2018 at Our Lady of Graces Catholic Church at Carina. It was my deep honour to give a eulogy. It was also fitting on the day to see the vast cross-section of the community in attendance. I counted at least two governors, a Governor-General, three premiers and a king—Wally. His mourners came from all sides of politics and business and spoke of their admiration. Terry earned and kept the respect and friendship of so many people.

In closing, I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service that Terry gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to the family who are here today, including Mary, Rachel, Jessica, Gary and Geoff. I hope there is a school group here today as well. They will have heard the story of the long-haired kid who walked in a schoolboy and left a statesman. Maybe they will follow in The Fox's footsteps. It only takes one—a very special one.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise today to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Hon. Terry Mackenroth. Losing a loved one brings a depth of sorrow that seems overwhelming and without end and I send my most genuine thoughts to Terry's wife, Mary, Terry's brother Gary and Terry's daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and their husbands, some of whom are in the gallery today. The family of a politician has no choice but to share their mum or dad, their grandad or grandma with all Queenslanders, and I thank you on behalf of the people of this state for the sacrifices that you made during Terry's almost 30 years in politics.


As a relative newcomer to this House I cannot claim to have known Terry as well as those opposite and their predecessors, but I did have reason to meet him on a number of occasions. In this place of partisan politics, I can honestly say that Terry was always very encouraging, warm and respectful to all of us. Terry commanded the respect of both sides of politics. That kind of respect is rare and is only won by having an enduring passion and dedication to Queenslanders and to the beliefs that first brought you into political life. However, those qualities alone are not enough. That passion must be backed by relentless hard work and the unflinching courage of your convictions. Terry combined all of these things, and it is not surprising that he amassed a list of achievements as long as your arm both inside and outside politics.

I have read references to Terry as a much loved Labor hard man, but I suspect that, like many hard men of politics, his family would know a very different Terry—hard on the outside with a softer centre. Reading Terry's maiden speech provides an insight into what drove him. Raised in a housing commission home, he always pushed for a fairer deal for those less fortunate. He spoke of the need for small business people to be supported and protected with the development of a department of small business and the importance of grassroots organisations like school P&Cs.

From Terry's first speech in parliament on 20 April 1978 he went on to serve for 28 years and for most of that time at the most senior levels of the Goss and Beattie governments, as leader of the House, and as a minister in 10 portfolios including treasurer for four years and deputy premier for five years. He was the architect of five state budgets. He oversaw the implementation of the landmark Fitzgerald reforms, the construction of Suncorp Stadium, the redevelopment of the Gabba, implementation of the SEQ plan and the introduction of the Integrated Planning Act and he was a strong advocate for public housing and boarding house tenants. These are just a few of Terry Mackenroth's political achievements.

As we have also heard from the Premier today, Terry's achievements were not just confined to this House. He loved his Rugby League, with his passion for the grassroots of the game leading him all the way to the board of the QRL where he served as a director for 11 years. He was also mad about Queensland netball and I read after his passing a quote from netball legend Vicki Wilson that again shows his willingness to be a voice for people and pursuits that needed one. Vicki said that, having coached and umpired netball for many years, Terry truly thought netball deserved higher status on the Australian sporting landscape. After a career serving Queensland in this place, Terry went on to continue to serve Queensland on government boards, helping to guide major companies such as Devine and Springfield Land Corporation.

Some in political life crave notoriety and recognition for their efforts. My understanding is that this was not the case with Terry Mackenroth. Former Labor premier Peter Beattie said of Terry that, despite his key role as deputy premier, he never sought the limelight and was happy to be the stage manager rather than the star. Terry 'The Fox' Mackenroth was a true giant of the Queensland Labor Party and I salute him for a life well lived and well loved. I had the honour of attending Terry's funeral with other LNP members such as Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and former premier Russell Cooper. On behalf of all of the LNP in the state opposition, I pass on our sincere condolences to the family.


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): I rise today to pay tribute to the late Terry Mackenroth. I feel particularly privileged to make my contribution from the seat in this House occupied by Terry for so many years as Queensland's deputy premier, treasurer and minister for sport. Terry Mackenroth was a Labor man, with all that that entailed. He was a champion for the vulnerable and the disadvantaged in our community and was ceaseless in his efforts to improve the lives of the working men and women of

this state. He was never confused by or distracted from the purpose to which he committed his political life—the advancement of the ideals of fairness and equity and the pursuit of public policy that made the lives of people better. He came to this House knowing what he wanted to achieve and dedicated himself to delivering it. His was a life of public service—a 28-year commitment to the rigours of political life that found its motivation in his conviction that it is through the processes of this House that meaningful change is made. His accomplishments are well known and the merits of his character already celebrated in the public lamentation of his loss, so I take this opportunity today to reflect on what he gave to our state through the career he chose.

Every member of this House will know that the privilege of serving in it comes at a cost and that, whilst we undertake it willingly and gratefully, it demands a degree of sacrifice. It is no place for the half-hearted. Terry took things head-on and never wavered in his commitment to that work to the day he retired. We on this side of the House will always remember him for that. He went hard at the hard issues and never shied away from a fight. In the end he found a fight he could not win, but he fought on with the same resolve and fortitude that had always distinguished his career. In the end, whilst we share in the regret of his passing and all grief is personal, today we remember the members of his family whom he has left behind—his wife, Mary, his daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and all those who loved him and were most closely connected to him.

Terry represented the electorate of Chatsworth on the south side of Brisbane with distinction, and the calibre of the service he delivered to his community was manifested in their decision to keep on electing him. There is no more valuable trait in politics than authenticity, and Terry's political success was due in no small part to the fact that Queenslanders saw him as one of them, and he never gave them cause to doubt it.

Terry's blood was maroon and his love for his state never left him. Queensland is poorer for the loss of Terry Mackenroth but infinitely better for his life. This morning we bid farewell to a man who made his life count and who stood up for what he believed in—a man who believed in a better deal for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.49 am): We were divided by ideology but united in our love for the Chatsworth electorate. Much has been said and written about the Hon. Terry Mackenroth in relation to his 28-year career as the member for Chatsworth and his elevation to the role of deputy premier, treasurer, as well as several ministerial portfolios, including his beloved sports ministry. I would like to make my contribution on behalf of the people he formerly represented for just under three decades and whom I am honoured to represent today.

The electorate of Chatsworth, like many areas of this great state, has changed remarkably over the past few decades. When Terry was first elected to parliament in 1977, Carina and the surrounding suburbs were predominantly blue-collar working class, where people genuinely looked after each other because most families had enough to get by, but that was about all. When Terry was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, Carina was pretty much the end of the Brisbane city limits in the eastern suburbs. The Belmont trams terminated along Old Cleveland Road and it was where the Carina bus depot was built once the tramway was consigned to history in 1964. Old Cleveland Road down to Capalaba was a two-lane goat track and people got dressed up whenever they ventured into town.

It was in the housing commission area of Carina Heights where Terry grew up and the strength of the family unit and helping out the battler is what forged his deep-seated political ethos. Terry had a keen sense of social justice and he had his political ambition materialised during a school trip to Parliament House. Therefore, it came as no surprise that this Carina boy joined the Australian Labor Party when he was in his late teenage years.

Like many kids from Carina, sport was the great enabler and it had an indelible impact on Terry throughout his life. No matter how far up the ministerial ranks he ventured, the sport portfolio was always dear to his heart. He always said that sport was a great metaphor for life in general. It was on the sporting field that you learned how to win with grace and lose with dignity. Terry once told me that the sporting arena was a place where you saw the essence of the character of people.

It is interesting to note that Terry got on well with many non-Labor politicians. He had a great respect for and great friendships with Bill Hewitt and Don Cameron, among others. For many years Terry and Bill stood side by side as committee members of the Clem Jones welfare association. In fact, Terry was particularly proud of his role as chairman of the association and would always comment on how unique the Clem Jones sporting facility is, with over 24 sporting clubs contained within the one precinct only roughly eight kilometres from the CBD. 'The Fox', as he was known politically, was right about that. It is testament to the character of Terry that he concurred with his great mate Bill Hewitt that no one side of the political chamber had a mortgage on the best and the brightest.



In the lead-up to the election in 2012—and I mean this with respect—owing to the extraordinary circumstances of that time many Labor Party supporters had decided to not get as actively engaged in the political campaign as those of us on this side of the chamber were used to, but not Terry. He refused to yield and was actively involved in the Chatsworth Labor campaign in 2012, again in 2015, and in the most recent campaign late last year. Terry Mackenroth was indeed a true believer of the Labor Party.

In fact, Terry was so instrumental in campaigning against me that it came as no surprise last November when I turned up at the Belmont primary school booth, after walking along covered school walkways festooned with Labor supporters and their trademark red T-shirts, to turn a corner to see Terry standing there as the last line. He turned to me and said in his gravelly voice, 'There are no prizes for second place today.' I summoned all of my inner courage, looked him in the eye and said, 'I guess I'd better win then, Terry.' He smiled with that famous gapped-tooth grin. For months he would plot my political downfall—for months he would do it—but he was one of the first to congratulate me at the Labor Party's spiritual home in Chatsworth, the Carina Leagues Club, in 2012, 2015 and again last year. That was the respect I had for the man. He was indeed from a different political generation. I believe you can learn a lot in life from those around you and Terry Mackenroth was very generous with sage political advice to me when I first won back in 2012. This indeed was the true class of the man.

Terry gave me two pieces of invaluable advice. Firstly, he used to have a private Boxing Day party for friends outside of immediate political circles whereby you could simply be yourself and relax in a politics-free zone—even if for just one day. My parents considered it a privilege to attend this Boxing Day get-together with Terry and a select group of friends who never once spoke outside of the gathering—never once. Terry suggested that I do something similar to stay real and not get caught up in thinking that politics, whilst important, was the only thing in life. The second sage piece of advice Terry gave me was simply 'cufflinks on, cufflinks off'. In other words, put them on when you are in the boardroom, or maybe having a wine with the top end of town but know how to take them off when you are working the electorate with everyday people and having a beer at the local club, particularly the Carina Leagues Club that he loved very much, and know how to be comfortable in all political environments. As a mark of respect to Terry, today I will leave one cufflink on and take one off.

Beside every great man is an equally great woman and I acknowledge Terry's wife, Mary, and other family members who are with us today in the public gallery. I extend to them my personal condolence and also the condolence of the Chatsworth state electoral council. I want Terry's family to know that just occasionally someone enters your life who makes a lasting impression. Terry Mackenroth was indeed such a man and his legacy will last. To The Fox, rest in peace my political foe but respected friend.



**Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.56 am): I rise to pay tribute to Terry Mackenroth, who served in this place for 28 years as the member for Chatsworth. As has been said this morning and widely reported in the media, Terry first visited this parliament as a schoolboy and from that moment he diligently set his course to get elected. He succeeded in 1977, having previously run unsuccessfully for the seat of Belmont.

Terry grew up in a working-class Labor family in public housing at Carina and his father was an active party member. Anyone who knew Terry knew how intensely proud he was of his working-class roots and there is no doubt that his childhood experience growing up in Carina with other aspirational families just like his own stuck with him for the rest of his life. At an early age Terry understood what government was about via his firsthand interactions. As a child, every week Terry saw proud families living in government subsidised housing paying their way by way of rent to the department of housing. Little did he know that he would ultimately be the minister for that portfolio.

In 1977, Terry and his lifelong mates Glen Milliner and Bob Gibbs came into this place and they caught the media's eye. Many remember that they were photographed on the front stairs of the Annexe. Of course, the fashion in that day was to wear a safari suit. Although anyone who has seen that photo may not agree with the fashion, they could almost feel the enthusiasm that the trio brought to their jobs, being elected to this parliament to stand up for working-class families like their own.

It was a significant time for Labor in that the late Tom Burns had just led the party back from the abyss of 1974, which saw the party reduced to 11 members—the infamous cricket team. There was a long way to go: four terms in opposition awaited. The first thing Terry did was to study the standing orders. Like everything else he did, he wanted to know the rules. Terry knew that, if he wanted to play the game, he had to know the rules. His colleagues would recall that Terry often would push the standing orders as far as he could go to his own advantage and to the detriment of the then government.

Terry was also respectful of the boundaries set by the Speaker and was proud of the fact that he had never been booted out of the House. In fact, he often said, 'I would push my point as far as I knew the Speaker would go'—and he said 'he' because in those days the Speaker was a he—'and if he was silly enough or weak enough to not pull me into line, then I would go as far as I could until he did.' I can kind of agree with that.

Terry was a very hardworking member in the electorate and in this parliament. He knew his electors and they knew him. He was always willing to assist someone who was down on their luck or who needed assistance on issues such as workers compensation. In writing this speech I have worked very closely with Robert Schwarten, who made the point that we must remember that in those days government was very different to what it is today. In opposition, there was no FOI or judicial review. Politicians such as Terry had to use this forum and build relationships with the relevant ministers to resolve constituent issues. Terry did both.

It was during that time that Bob Gibbs named Terry 'The Fox' because of his street smartness and cunning political tactics. The nickname would stick and he would prove that he deserved the title many times over. It was for that reason that Wayne Goss would ask Terry to take on the very critical role of police and emergency services spokesman when the Fitzgerald inquiry was in full swing. Terry took that vital role into government and the reform of the Police Service became one of his biggest tasks. Terry was also the logical choice to become the chief parliamentary tactician via the office of the leader of the House. Students of history know well the solid and challenging reform agenda of the Goss government. It is worth pointing out that Terry was the first minister to introduce tighter gun controls, long before such an agenda existed at the federal level.

When the Goss government fell, Terry was the leader of the Labor Unity faction and spent his time ringing around to make sure that there would be no upsets. He was not touting for anyone; he was just testing the waters to see if there was going to be any upheaval. Of course, as history shows, Terry played a very key role to ensure that, under Peter Beattie's leadership, they were able to secure a Labor government after one term in opposition. All of those members talk about how hard they worked together during that time.

After the win in 1998, Terry was back in his role as leader of the House and he chaired the parliamentary tactics committee. Towards the end of that term, the Beattie government was besieged by an electoral roting scandal. Terry was in Ireland and Beattie was in Japan. Both returned immediately and, after a weekend of tense negotiations, Beattie's will ultimately prevailed and Terry was sworn in as deputy premier of Queensland. He would hold that position until his resignation in July 2005. Following the 2001 election, which we all remember very fondly and for which Terry is duly credited with the 'Just Vote 1' strategy, he was also sworn in as treasurer and would hold that position until his retirement.

It was during that time that I had the most to do with Terry as a young Old Guard staffer. That was when I met my husband, who worked for Terry for many years. I also acknowledge Libby Callister, another of Terry's very loyal staffers, who is here today. Working in Schwarto's office, we had a slightly different view of Suncorp Stadium. Robert would say that he was the minister responsible for building Suncorp and that Terry was the client minister, that is, the one who had the money. Terry often joked that if things went wrong at Suncorp it was Robert's fault, but if it went well of course it was his to own. All members know exactly how that turned out. Terry will always be remembered for adding that amazing stadium to Queensland. It is the best rectangular Rugby League stadium in the country, if not the world.

**A government member:** The universe.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection: the universe. Robert and Terry were great mates. Robert was always grateful for their friendship and Terry's support during the 2001 Labour Day brawl saga. They shared many interests and were both products of devout Labor families. Their friendship dated back nearly 40 years via Robert's brother Stephen, who was on Terry's Chatsworth campaign committee. According to Schwarto, and as we have heard from other speakers today, Terry was the ultimate deputy, totally loyal and prepared to take a political bullet for the boss while giving unfiltered and sometimes unwanted advice and criticism upstairs.


After leaving parliament, Terry took on the chair of the Gold Coast Indy and chaired the cyclone recovery committee. He successfully pursued a business career that saw him put his cufflinks on and take up board positions on a number of private sector boards. More recently, he worked for the Springfield Land Corporation and was appointed to the board of QSuper. Terry's great love of Rugby League saw him serve on the ARL and QRL boards, and late last year he was awarded life membership of the QRL. Terry and his wife, Mary, were absolutely devout supporters of the Broncos.

Terry Mackenroth never hid his loyalty to the Labor Party. Both he and his wife, Mary, were proud of their life memberships of the ALP. Terry still took his turn on the polling booth, handing out how-to-vote cards.

**Mr Minnikin:** Don't I know it.

**Ms JONES:** Don't you know it! As the Premier has said publicly, Terry played a crucial role in ensuring that we were re-elected to government in 2015. Terry Mackenroth was an honours graduate from the university of common-sense politics. His calm and forensic approach to campaigning, not to mention his intelligent assessment of how the votes might fall, was exactly what we needed to cast off the 2012 collapse of our vote.


We in the Labor Party mourn the loss of one of our greats. I acknowledge Mary, Gary, Rachel, Geoff and Jessica. Thank you for the time with Terry that you sacrificed for the good of Queensland. Farewell, The Fox of Queensland politics.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.05 am): Terry Mackenroth was indeed a man of calibre. Of all the people I have known in life and in politics, Terry showed an extraordinary level of integrity and determination. We owe a debt of gratitude to Terry for his views, his leadership and his role as a mentor, both in leading our task force and in sharing with me his experiences as a former minister for sport. We know that Terry loved sports and he loved maroon. His passion for Rugby League, especially our State of Origin side, was infectious. However, it was his enthusiasm for every Queensland kid who picked up a footy or a netball that was truly a thing to behold.

I first met Terry more or less by chance when I bumped into him at an event not long after I was elected. I remember asking him a question about something and he responded in that unmistakable voice, 'Give me a ring,' and scribbled down his number without hesitation. When an overseas tragedy brought the issue of flammable cladding to the forefront of our nation's attention, I needed to find someone who was up to the task of leading our response and Terry Mackenroth had the goods. Terry was the police and emergency services minister at the creation of the modern Queensland Fire and Emergency Services during the Goss government. He was minister for housing, local government and planning, treasurer and deputy premier of Queensland. I picked up the phone and rang the number on the piece of paper. He did not hesitate then, either.

In the almost nine months after that, Terry worked week in and week out to guide the task force charged with assessing nonconforming cladding in Queensland. I thank Mary and his family for that time. Even in the last few days, he was providing guidance from hospital, because the welfare of Queensland and Queenslanders has always clearly been his No. 1 priority. At that time Terry wrote to us setting out a clear plan for the future work of the Non-Conforming Building Products Taskforce. Terry put in place a solid structure and led an ambitious agenda that has seen Queensland leading the nation and the world in our response to the issue of flammable cladding. The vital work of our Non-Conforming Building Products Taskforce will continue in Terry's absence. Having been so ably led by Terry, I have every confidence that the task force is well equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Today, on the anniversary of the Grenfell tragedy, we can all feel comfort that because of Terry a tragedy like that will never occur here in Queensland and together we will continue to keep Queenslanders safe. Nonetheless, we all feel his loss. Terry is a tough act for any of us to follow and we are all grateful for his leadership, his friendship and his unfailing dedication to the people of Queensland. Vale.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.07 am): In deference to the leader of the House club, I will not be long in my remarks. Terry Mackenroth is someone to whom this state truly needs to pay tribute. We need to pay tribute to him politically and I wish to pay tribute to him personally. We pay tribute to him politically for the key role that he played in modernising Queensland, which is the task that many people on this side of the House are very conscious of. We are part of an exercise of modernising Queensland. We have seen the state turn from the days of the seventies and the eighties into the modern Queensland of the 21st century. Labor has been at the core of those activities and has made the big changes.


Terry Mackenroth was at the core of those issues, particularly as the minister for police and corrective services and minister for emergency services in the Goss government. He laid the foundations for our modern Queensland Police Service, which so well serves everyone in our community, no matter their background, where they come from or their place in the community.

As remarked upon by others before me, drawing from his personal experience he played an integral role in the modernising of our department of housing—shifting it from a model that was not serving the interests of its tenants and not serving the interests of the community of Queensland to a model that was all about the people who needed that housing and who were served by that housing. They are a couple of examples in the breadth of his various portfolio responsibilities where he contributed to the modernising of Queensland.

Suncorp Stadium is another part of the modernising of Queensland that he was so integrally involved in in this chamber and beyond. After his service to the parliament he continued to serve the people of Queensland through various roles in the private sector. He particularly supported those things that he was very passionate about and loved so much such as Rugby League and netball.

I want to pay personal tribute to him. Unlike the member for Cooper, I was not from the same political grouping within the Australian Labor Party as Terry. He would always reach out, take you under his wing, help you and give you guidance—often at times that were tough—that made a real difference.

I want to acknowledge Mary and the rest of Terry's family for letting us as a state and as individuals have access to such an extraordinary gentleman who contributed to this state for so long and was sadly taken from us far too soon. Vale Terry Mackenroth.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (10.11 am): I would like to pass on my condolences to Mary and the family, please, because I am the only Labor MP in this House presently who served with Terry. He was a giant of this parliament and he was very much loved by all of us who served with him in this House.

I have wonderful memories of Terry. He had a habit of looking after the new MPs in this parliament. His eye for detail was extraordinary, particularly as the minister for sport. I remember that he funded the Goodna pool in my electorate. When he came out to open it he was actually walking around the pool making sure it had been built properly.

I recall particularly that after that we went up to the Redbank Collingwood Park Sports Complex. He said to me, 'Joey, we need to go out and look at the netball courts.' That was his love as well as Rugby League. We went out and had a look at the netball courts. It had been raining the day before. There was an area of the court where there was some pooled water. He looked at me and said, 'Call over the engineers. This is not good enough. We will have to get them to rip that up.' He proceeded to go inside and open the Redbank Collingwood Park Sports Complex.


He never lost his love of working-class people. He loved the ordinary workers. He would go up and shake their hands, give them a pat on the back and look after them. He also liked the fact that some of us have a political instinct which is second to none. This I learnt from Terry as well.

I can remember that a lot of us were called to a meeting in the Premier's office. If I remember correctly, it was about taking off the fuel excise. There was some process whereby the cost of registration was to come down. We had this meeting and Terry was all for it. I said to him, 'I don't think it is going to work.' He said to me, 'What are you talking about, Joey?' I said, 'I don't think it is going to work.' He said, 'What do you base that on?' I said, 'It's just a feeling in my guts, Terry.' He said to me, 'We had better make sure the probiotics are working then.'

I also remember the day that he gave his valedictory speech in this parliament. I will never forget watching him looking lovely up at Mary and the family, and particularly his grandchildren. That memory of Terry and his absolute love for his family will stay with me forever.

I want to pay tribute to Terry for his role with the Springfield Land Corporation. Terry was excellent in his advice. He was a very good friend of Maha Sinnathamby and the other people who ran Springfield Land Corporation. I know that they would want me to pass on their condolences to Mary and the family as well. Terry could have had a street named after him, but such was his love of his family that around the building that houses the Springfield Land Corporation is a street called Mary Mackenroth. That was his love for Mary and the family.

May Terry rest in peace. He was an absolutely awesome man, a great Labor man. We will forever remember him for his kindness, his tenacity, his advice but also his fighting spirit and his love of his family.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (10.15 am): I too wish to pay tribute to Terry Mackenroth and also pass on my condolences to his family. I feel that there is a piece of important information that has been left off the public record today. Terry and I both shared a very common but secret passion. I

believe it would be appropriate to go so far as to say that Terry was actually a closet Titans fan. We have certainly heard accounts of his contribution to the redevelopment of Suncorp Stadium. What we have not heard on the public record is his role in delivering a stadium for the Gold Coast and the Gold Coast Titans.


My first encounter with Mr Mackenroth was here at Parliament House. I was the chair of the Gold Coast city council finance committee. I was invited to parliament for Christmas drinks with the then Labor government. At the time I was very involved with the Titans bid. I ended up on the lawn with Shane Edwards and Wayne Bennett having a chat. We were discussing the possibility of a team on the Gold Coast.

Terry wandered over and started to engage in the conversation. This was the first time I had ever met him. There was a bit of finger-pointing. There was some fairly unparliamentary language and some fairly colourful language. The conversation basically went, 'Look you are never going to get an NRL licence for the Gold Coast, but I tell you what, if you can get the NRL to commit to a licence then I will give you the money for a stadium on the Gold Coast. I can make that commitment because that is never going to happen.' I went back to Gold Coast excitedly that evening and rang Michael Searle and Paul Broughton and said, 'Guess what? I have us the stadium.' They said, 'What do you mean?' I said, 'All you have to do is get the NRL to commit and then we have a commitment for the stadium. I think Terry is a man of his word.'

The following week there were further meetings. A week later I was standing in the councillors room at the Gold Coast City Council just before our council meeting and in walked the director of economic development with a two-paragraph letter that went something like, 'I, Terry Mackenroth, Treasurer of Queensland, do hereby commit to a certain amount of money for the stadium on the Gold Coast under certain conditions'—one of them being that the Gold Coast council had to come up with the land—'yours sincerely, Terry Mackenroth.' That was a very interesting moment for me and an interesting lesson in politics.

I made the mistake probably seven or eight years later when I ran into Terry at a building industry dinner just down the road here. We were both on the same speaking bill. He was there as a special guest to talk and I had been invited along in my role as then assistant minister for planning. I recounted a little bit of the story of my first encounter with Terry only to have him get up after me and say, 'Well, actually, lad, I just need to set the record straight—that is, that that deal had actually been done before I had that conversation with you.' I can well understand why he earned the nickname 'The Fox'.

He was certainly great company on the many occasions that I got to share an evening with him at Titans games on the Gold Coast and at the odd Broncos game. It was great to sit at Suncorp Stadium the night of the very first Titans game and see him across in one of the other boxes, with a thumbs up and a big smile. I just wanted to, in a sense, correct the public record because I think it is a little-known fact that the Gold Coast can be very thankful for his role in helping to secure the NRL licence for the city. He was very passionate about Rugby League, but he also took on a very assertive role in making sure that we had the infrastructure to meet that opportunity.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.20 am): I rise to pay my respects to the Hon. Terry Mackenroth. In doing so, I acknowledge his wife, Mary, and his daughters, Rachel and Jessica, in the gallery today. I think everyone knows just how deeply devoted Terry was to them.

I thought the attendance at Terry's funeral really told the story of the sort of person he was. The Premier was there, of course, and most of the cabinet. There was His Excellency the Governor, a former premier and former ministers, a former governor and governor-general and many business and community leaders—all very important people who reflected Terry's eminent career as a politician and his many achievements since retiring, including as a valued adviser to government and industry.

Also at the service were members of the many local clubs to whom Terry dedicated his life. There were people who worked in his local community, people whose lives he had touched when they were kids, people who had volunteered alongside him at community events probably without even realising just what an amazing life he had led because he never would have told them—and there were many, many others. All of us there were devastated for ourselves and for his family—it did not matter who were we or what our connection.

It is those incredible grassroots community connections that I really wanted to mention today because there is much known, and there has already been much said this morning, about his life in the broader public eye. Mr Speaker, you would hope that all of us are here in this House because we are


dedicated to helping the community. That does not mean that every single politician continues that dedication when they retire from politics, but for Terry there was no such thing. He served the community as a local MP and as a minister, a treasurer and a deputy premier. Then as Terry Mackenroth, former politician, he continued to serve. He literally embodied community. He believed in it.

That was no more evident than the dedication he showed to his beloved Clem Jones Centre, a not-for-profit organisation providing sport and recreational facilities and services in Carina, right in the middle of the state seat of Chatsworth. Its charter is to provide affordable health and fitness opportunities for the community, with an emphasis on children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Terry regularly commented that the centre's goal was to improve the life of at least one person every day.

Terry was president and chairman of trustees for the centre for 25 years. He spent hours every week reviewing the work of the centre and was always looking for ways to improve their service offering. Steve Heald, their CEO, and a close personal friend of Terry's who, I think, might be in the gallery today, says it was not unusual to see Terry on the tools using his old trade skills, welding up a new workbench or building or repairing a new fence there. Terry was instrumental in the centre's most recent development—the construction of a \$5.5 million health and fitness centre. Fittingly, as the Premier said earlier, it has been named the Terry Mackenroth Community Gymnasium, and I know how proud he was that the Premier had agreed to open it—which she did in the week after his funeral.

Terry's contribution to the centre played out in so many ways, including as life member of the Camp Hill Carina Welfare Association, life member and patron of the Carina Leagues Club, life member and patron of the Carina Junior Rugby League Football Club, life member of the Mayfield Netball Club and life member of the Metropolitan Districts Netball Association. As his friends and colleagues, we were all expected to play our part in supporting the centre, mainly through attending the big Crackerjack Carnival fundraising dinner, which morphed in later years into the annual lunch. If Terry knew you then you were invited to this event, and you never said no unless you had a very good reason.

I knew Terry for over 25 years and I was proud to call him my friend. He was funny, wise, warm, charming, loyal, had the ability to be delighted by so many things and he 'got' people. He understood what made them tick, which I think made him so good at what he did. He was just as happy talking to the least high-profile person in a room as he was to the most important person. He loved Rugby League, he loved the Labor Party, he loved the Clem Jones Centre and he loved—loved—his family. Mary and Terry were as one. Locally, if Mary was there, so was Terry; if Terry was there, so was Mary. They were both so admired. I hope Mary knows in this time of tremendous grief how loved she is and that everyone is there for her, hoping to know how they can help. When Terry passed away we lost a giant. I say thank you for the indescribable contribution he made to so much and to so many.


 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.25 am): I would like to start by passing on my condolences to Mary and the entire Mackenroth family. There was a time when the seat of Chatsworth covered parts of what is now the electorate of Greenslopes. Many others have highlighted Terry's significant achievements on behalf of the state and the community. I would like to speak on behalf of the many branch members and community members in my electorate who have the deepest respect for Terry. These are people who grew up in the housing commission with him, who went to school with him, who formed young Labor branches with him, who worked on campaigns too numerous to mention with him. Of course, these were people who were there at his state funeral—people like Greg Smith, Mary and Brian Dutton and Peggy Duke, to name just a few.

I did not know Terry during his active political career. I only got to know him in retirement. I would like to share a few interactions I have been lucky enough to have over the last few years with Terry that demonstrate his love of his family, his community and sport. His love of sport is well known. I went through a period of bumping into Terry at the Metropolitan Districts Netball Association when I was visiting as the local member. Terry was there to coach his granddaughter's netball team. The club could not find a coach for the team, so Terry stepped up. He could have begged off as being retired, but he stepped forward for his granddaughter and for his community. His enjoyment of having time to spend with his granddaughter was very obvious. We did not discuss matters of state—just how much he was enjoying coaching again.

On my regular visits to Langlands Park to watch the mighty Easts Tigers I would regularly run into Terry and Mary. I note that many clubs are claiming that Terry was their supporter, but I know for a fact that he was the No. 1 ticketholder for the mighty Easts Tigers. There is a game on Sunday, Mary, against the Capras. We would love to see you there. Our conversation at those events rarely turned to politics. They generally stayed on our shared love of Rugby League and the Tigers.

Just a few weeks before he passed away I had my last contact with Terry and it was very unexpected. I was walking my dog in the soccer fields at the end of the street. The last person I expected to bump into was somebody who had held such esteemed political offices in our state, but there was Terry on the sideline cheering for his grandson in a local soccer match. He took the time out to introduce me to all of the other parents, grandparents and spectators on the sideline. Then he followed with a deep analysis of the game and his grandson's performance which I am sure he would have shared with his grandson. Again, his pride in his family was so evident.

Those will be my ongoing memories of Terry. He loved spending time with his family. That was evident. He loved supporting local community organisations, particularly sporting organisations. These are the things that will stay with me. I am sure they are just a small fraction of the very many memories that his family will hold dear in their heart. Vale Terry Mackenroth.


 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.29 am): I rise today to speak to this condolence motion of the Hon. Terry Mackenroth, and I would like to begin by paying my respects to Mary and his family who are with us today. There is no doubt that Terry Mackenroth has left his mark on Queensland, and I acknowledge the previous contributions by my colleagues. Terry left his mark as a husband, father, grandfather, community worker, politician, a true believer, a statesman and a friend to many. Whilst I did not work with Terry, I took the opportunity to speak to some of his friends and colleagues who were very honoured to be asked to share some words and their memories of Terry—friends like Dave Westlake, Paul Lucas, Terry Kempnich and Paul Keene. They all said that Terry's involvement with the Clem Jones Centre, with its 22 sporting and community clubs, is legendary. He was a president of the association from 1993 until his passing.

Terry left his mark on the clubs and, in particular, the Mayfield Netball Club. Terry saw and encouraged the potential in each and every child he met, letting them see the opportunities that were available to them. Terry was known for his loyalty. He had a unique ability to always find a pathway that ensured he remained loyal to his guiding principles and ideals. He was, above all, loyal to his family—loyal and protective. Political life can be so demanding on families, and to strike that balance where family can be part of his journey he used his loyalty to his family as his guide.

He was loyal to Queensland and all of the governments that he was part of. He was loyal to the Australian Labor Party, the people who worked for him across his many ministerial roles and to the community he served for so many years. Many of the people he worked with remain his friends today. He gave loyalty and it was given back to him in abundance.

Above all, Terry was loyal to his core principles. He started his journey as a politician based on his passion for the community. From his early years he was actively and passionately involved in his local communities, whether that be as a political representative, an advocate for those most in need, as a coach of the local netball team, a player for east Carina Rugby League or as chairman of the board.

He never tired of this commitment and involvement and remained active in building and delivering for the community. He was never too busy to offer advice if asked. What an amazing human being. He was loved and will be missed by many. I thank Mary and his family for sharing him with Queensland. Mary, we are a better state and society because of him and your influence.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.32 am): It is particularly poignant that we pay tribute this week to Terry Mackenroth, it being the budget week, and I am particularly honoured as the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to pay tribute to Terry Mackenroth, someone whom I consider a predecessor and, in recent years, a mentor.

It is not surprising that so many people in this chamber have risen to their feet to relay stories and to reflect on the enormous contribution that Terry Mackenroth has made to our state. He was a son of the south side, he was a son of the Australian Labor Party and he was a son of Queensland.

His fingerprints are all over our state. Whether it was decisions that he made as treasurer to set us up as an economic powerhouse of Queensland, whether it was stadiums on the north side, on the south side or on the Gold Coast, whether it was his modernisation of Queensland and Queensland's economy and the modernisation of the Australian Labor Party here in Queensland, Terry's fingerprints and his character live on in the architecture of our state and inside the Australian Labor Party. In fact, his approach to resolving and fixing issues inside the Labor Party still serve as a template today, I would say, in how we come together to resolve issues inside our party.

His achievements in his local community will live on for many generations to come. Many generations of southside kids will have Terry Mackenroth to thank for a whole host of sporting and community facilities that they, their children and their children's children will come to enjoy and benefit from for many years to come.

I want to touch briefly on the role that Terry played, particularly after the 2012 election when Labor was at a very, very low point in its history here in Queensland. Terry was familiar with that position having lived through the years of the cricket team. He now had to confront a situation where the number of Labor members within this chamber was even fewer than that.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** A netball team.

**Ms TRAD:** A netball team—I take that interjection from the member for Sandgate. But can I say that Terry was never disheartened and he was never dissuaded by the challenge ahead of the Labor Party and the Labor movement to restock and revive its political fortunes. I do want to place on record the enormous work that he did with the shadow cabinet, with each and every one of us, with the Labor Party more broadly and with the Labor movement to help bring us back from seven members in this chamber to go on to win government in a minority position and then a majority position at the last state election.

We have Terry to thank for so much, but I do want to relay some stories, particularly stories that will remain forever to me the defining quality of the man that was Terry Mackenroth. Very early in 2012 when we were engaging in the exercise of rebuilding, Terry and I were reacquainting ourselves with each other having occupied different spheres within the Labor Party for a little while. He asked whether I had kids. I said, 'Yes, I have two boys.' He said, 'What sport do they play?' I really did not want to tell him because he was such a passionate advocate and lover of Rugby League and I was ashamed to say that my kids played soccer, but he dragged it out of me. I said, 'They play soccer,' and he went, 'So does my grandson Jordan.' He said, 'It doesn't matter. As long as they have a love of sport, as long as they have a love of football, that is what matters.' It does go to show that Terry was always evolving and changing and at his heart loved the opportunity, optimism and potential that children represented in this world.

A couple of stories that his brother Gary relayed to me at his funeral service I think are important to share. When Terry was first diagnosed with cancer some 20 years ago, his doctors told him that he should think about giving up work to do the things that he loved, and he told the doctor quite frankly and flatly that he was doing the things that he loved. He loved the Labor Party, he loved his community and he loved his family. I think we can all learn a lot from the passion and the values that Terry brought to his role not only as a hard man and 'The Fox' of this parliament but also as a champion for his local community.

Gary also said that at one point in an exchange between him and Terry when reflecting on our growing relationship after the 2012 election Terry said, 'You know what, I think she actually likes me.' Can I say to Mary, Gary and all of Terry's family, not only did I like Terry; I respected him deeply. Quite frankly, I was in awe of him as all on this side of the chamber and many others in this chamber are to this day. Thank you very much, as others have said, for sharing Terry Mackenroth with the Labor Party, with the south side and with Queensland. We are a better place because of him. Vale Terry Mackenroth.

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

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will commence at 11.10 am.

## PETITIONS

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

### **South Burnett and Cherbourg, Crime**

**Mrs Frecklington**, from 855 petitioners, requesting the House to consider strategies to help prevent juvenile offenders from re-offending in the communities of the South Burnett and Cherbourg [[896](#), [897](#)].

Petitions received.



## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[898](#) Coroner's Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon Bailey)—

[899](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2934-18) presented by Ms Bolton, from 1,488 petitioners, requesting the House to widen and raise the Six Mile Creek Bridge located on Pomona-Kin Kin Road

[900](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2935-18) presented by Mr Krause and an ePetition (2898-18) sponsored by Mr Krause, from 220 and 342 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to introduce a Demand Responsive Transport trial that would connect residents from Tamborine Mountain to the major public transport precinct at Helensvale Transport Interchange; and upon successful completion of the trial, introduce the program as a permanent transport option for residents of Tamborine Mountain

#### MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Nanango (Mrs Deb Frecklington)—

[901](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to rebuild the Townsville Women's Centre

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Advancing Queensland's Priorities



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.41 am): This entire week has been about one thing: Queensland's future. Those who were paying attention heard that our budget was all about creating jobs in a strong economy, keeping Queenslanders healthy, giving all our children a great start, keeping Queenslanders safe, protecting the Great Barrier Reef and being a responsive government. Today those goals are not just slogans; they are the policies of my government. They are advancing Queensland's priorities.

This document sets clear, deliverable goals and benchmarks: 95 per cent of Queensland children to be immunised, 91 per cent of young Queenslanders to be engaged in training or work and a 15 per cent increase in private sector investment. For too long, governments have dodged the tough problems. In 2015, suicide claimed three times as many Queensland lives as the road toll. It is the leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 44. The time for ignoring that is over. As a state, we could also lose a bit of weight. Barely one-third of Queensland adults have a healthy body weight. A third of Queensland children are obese. We know the long list of diseases that can be prevented if we lose weight. We can do something about that and we must.

We are going to give all our children a great start by giving expecting mothers the support they need. We are going to increase the number of babies born with a healthy birth weight. We will meet our water quality targets for the Great Barrier Reef that we introduced in 2015. We know the single best way to improve the literacy of our children is to read to them. That is why I launched our Ready Reading program this year. Last year, the Premier's Reading Challenge encouraged 155,000 children to read two million books.

We want to give all our children a great start, and we are well on our way to doing exactly that but more needs to be done. That is why we are making our priorities plain. In committing to these priorities, we put Queenslanders at the heart of our policy making. These priorities represent what we stand for as a government and what we commit to deliver. In accordance with the Financial Accountability Act 2009, I table the government's statement of objectives for the community—*Our future state: Advancing Queensland's priorities*.

*Tabled Paper:* Queensland Government booklet, undated, titled 'Our Future State—Advancing Queensland's Priorities' [\[903\]](#).

## Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.43 am): I am pleased to lay upon the table of the House the Queensland government response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

*Tabled Paper:* Queensland government response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Queensland Child Sexual Abuse, June 2018 [\[902\]](#).

I acknowledge the immense work of the royal commission over the five years of its inquiry. I also acknowledge the immense bravery of all who have shared their horrific stories. Their courage in coming forward and working with the royal commission is to be applauded.

Child protection is everyone's business. We all play an important role in keeping children safe. My government is committed to making Queensland a safe place for children to live, grow and learn. I am proud of our efforts and those of the Queensland community towards achieving this. Queensland has long led efforts to expose and address the abuse of children in institutions, from the 1998-99 Forde Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions to the \$100 million Queensland redress scheme set up in 2007. The royal commission's landmark report forms part of a broader program of reform that has been developed through decades of work by government, institutions and the community. In April I announced that my government would be participating in the national redress scheme. It is of critical importance to acknowledge the experiences of child sexual abuse of people in institutions that were supposed to fundamentally care for them, above all else.

The Queensland government is committed to ensuring institutions are child safe. Queensland was one of the first states to introduce laws that require organisations to have strategies to minimise risks of harm to children through our blue card system. We recognise the royal commission's child safe standards as best practice and will continue working with institutions to enhance safety. The royal commission highlighted Queensland's Cybersafety and Reputation Management Team, which provides online safety education programs to students, staff and parents in state schools. I am pleased Queensland is leading the way with this, and I welcome the royal commission's recommendations that the model be adopted in all jurisdictions.

I previously committed to a nationally consistent reportable conduct scheme, and we will be developing a Queensland scheme as a priority over the coming year. The response demonstrates our commitment to protecting Queensland's children. We have come a long way, but the royal commission's report is a reminder that the whole community remains beholden to our most vulnerable citizens—our children—to eliminate child abuse wherever it occurs.

## Queensland Strawberries



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.45 am): We are now just two months away from one of the best times of the year, Ekka time, and I think we can all agree that one of the highlights of any visit to the Ekka is tucking into some of Queensland's finest strawberries and ice cream. I have good news for showgoers in South-East Queensland. There will be no shortage of locally grown strawberries at this year's Ekka. This year we have seen a bumper crop of strawberries across the state and on the Sunshine Coast in particular.

There is a uniquely Queensland strawberry that has attracted the interest of chefs and restaurants from around the world—the red rhapsody—which was developed right here in Queensland by the department of agriculture staff. I am told that the red rhapsody is a highly productive and delicious strawberry. It is very resistant to diseases and bruising, making it ideal for export into Asia.

A Queensland delegation has just returned from a 12-day export development push targeting evolving Asian markets for our red rhapsodies in Hong Kong and Indonesia. This journey enabled growers to identify key points in the export supply chain, learn more about consumer buying habits in their target markets, assess key competitors and identify potential supply partners. I am told there was great interest from potential buyers and we are hoping to secure commercial orders for our red rhapsody strawberries in the coming days. With that bumper crop on the Sunshine Coast at the moment, the timing could not be better.

This trip was the first under my government's \$1.3 million Growing Queensland's Food Exports Program, which assists food companies to build their capability to grow exports and deliver jobs. Five other producers—specialising in macadamias, mangoes, melons, sweet corn and pork—have also


been assisted to help develop their export readiness in the first round of funding. A second round of funding will be available in July. I certainly look forward to seeing Queensland's food exports continue to grow under our export plan.

Around lunchtime today, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and I may have some of these red rhapsodies ready for members of the parliament to taste—only if everyone behaves themselves.

**Mr SPEAKER:** As long as there are no inducements with those strawberries, Premier.


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next speaker, I want to acknowledge that we have students and staff from Mount Gravatt State School in the electorate of Greenslopes visiting parliament today. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Distribution of GST

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.48 am): I am proud to have handed down a budget that delivers for Queensland. Our budget delivers the infrastructure, the jobs and the services that our growing population needs, and it supports industry, business and workers through economic transition to take full advantage of the growth and change occurring in our local, national and global economies.

The Palaszczuk government is standing up for Queensland and getting on with the job at a time when the Turnbull government in Canberra is letting us down. From the \$523 million cut in Commonwealth payments to Queensland this year alone, to the failure of the Turnbull government to pay its fair share of critical infrastructure, a Sydney Prime Minister and a Sydney Treasurer just do not get Queensland. Moves are afoot in Canberra that could see Queensland even worse off than we already are under the Turnbull government.

One month ago today the Productivity Commission handed its report on horizontal fiscal equalisation—or how the state's GST payments are calculated—to the federal Treasurer. We know from the draft report that Queensland stands to be worse off if Malcolm Turnbull agrees to the scheme proposed by the Productivity Commission. In that draft report Queensland stands to lose some \$1.6 billion in GST payments every single year. That is equivalent to sacking 5,000 nurses from our hospitals or 5,000 teachers from our schools or taking 3,000 police officers off the beat or more than a thousand firefighters off our streets. Last month I wrote to Scott Morrison asking to be briefed on the contents of the Productivity Commission report. I table a copy of the letter for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled Paper:* Letter, dated 24 May 2018, from the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Treasurer of Australia, Hon. Scott Morrison MP, regarding the Productivity Commission's final inquiry report into horizontal fiscal equalisation [\[904\]](#).


Unfortunately, a month after the final report was handed to the federal government, we are still yet to receive any word about what that report recommends and whether Queensland will indeed suffer a \$1.6 billion cut annually to our GST payments under the Turnbull government. This is actually even more disappointing because the Turnbull government has offered private briefings to the Tasmanian Liberal Party government, assuring them that they would be no worse off under any changes to the GST.

All we are seeking in Queensland is the same treatment that Tasmania is getting. We need guarantees that Queensland will be no worse off under any changes to the GST. For the benefit of the House I table a copy of the transcript of the Prime Minister under questioning from journalists in which he confirms that Treasurer Scott Morrison has provided personal briefings on the Productivity Commission report to the Tasmanian government and that assurances have been made that Tasmania is no worse off.

*Tabled Paper:* Document, dated 14 June 2018, titled 'Doorstop with the Hon. Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania, the Hon. Peter Gutwein, Treasurer of Tasmania, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz and Senator Jonathon Duniam, Senators of Tasmania' regarding Tasmania's GST share [\[905\]](#).

All we want is to be treated equally. We need a guarantee that Queensland will be no worse off under any changes to the GST. We want a fair deal from Canberra. Quite frankly, it is clear from the actions of those opposite that it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that is prepared to stand up for Queensland and fight for our fair share.

### Electricity Prices

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.51 am): There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk government energy policies are working. The proof is in the assessment of independent bodies such as the Queensland Competition Authority and the Australian Energy Market Commission. Both acknowledge that the policies of the Palaszczuk Labor government are playing a key role in maintaining downward pressure on electricity prices.

Last month the QCA announced that from 1 July 2018 a typical regional household will see a reduction in their bills of 1.3 per cent. This will be the second time electricity prices have decreased under the Palaszczuk government after seeing prices driven up by more than 40 per cent under the LNP. We said we would keep prices below inflation; we are doing better.

Today there is yet another price decrease. EnergyAustralia has again announced average savings of \$83 per year for households, or a 3.8 per cent reduction in power prices. Origin Energy and AGL, the two largest retailers in the south-east, have reduced their residential customers' prices by 1.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent. The AEMC report found that, when compared to other states in which prices have increased and customer satisfaction has declined, Queensland is bucking the trend. Overall, the report found that in most jurisdictions household electricity bills increased significantly in the past year except in Queensland, where prices have remained stable and are now decreasing.


Queenslanders can have confidence that we will continue to put downward pressure on power prices. Labor supports our valuable resources sector, which is worth \$60 billion. There is an amount of \$4 billion in royalties for roads, hospitals and schools. There is a high level of confidence in the future of the Queensland resources sector with a total of 13 projects committed with a combined capital value exceeding \$9.4 billion across multiple commodities and a further 42 projects worth \$62 billion projected into the future.

The community now expects much more from the resources industry than in its infancy. It is important that the government has appropriate rules in place to allow not only a balance but also a prosperous resources industry in coexistence with other users of the land. This trajectory demonstrates that Queensland has the right policy settings and investment climate to bring on the next wave of resource projects.

The Palaszczuk government will always deliver for Elizabeth, our five millionth Queenslander, and also for our 5,006,914th Queenslander, Audrey Clare Lynham, born six hours ago.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Congratulations, Minister.

### Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.54 am): With this week's budget the Palaszczuk government is planning for the future for Elizabeth and for the member for Stafford's grandchild, Audrey, and that means building the hospitals of the future. We are investing \$985.5 million in health infrastructure across Queensland—almost \$1 billion. We are delivering over 700 capital projects across the state. These include new health facilities, the introduction of cutting-edge medical technology and the refurbishment of existing infrastructure. Not only are we planning for the future; we are stimulating Queensland's economy and creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

Our works program will support over 1,150 full-time construction jobs across the state over the next 12 months. We are investing \$120 million in the Health Technology Equipment Replacement Program, ensuring our doctors and nurses have the tools they need to deliver exceptional care. That is \$50 million more than previous years. We are investing in more technology that will mean clinicians can access higher resolution digital images and detailed reporting, helping them to diagnose faster and more accurately.

We live in a state of many spread across this vast land. That is why Northern and Western Queensland are a priority in this budget. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's investment, construction is expected to begin on the Cairns South health precinct, which I know is of interest to you,

Mr Speaker, and redevelopments of Atherton Hospital and Kingaroy Hospital. There will be even more infrastructure projects over the next 12 months which include the redevelopment of Aurukun and Palm Island health centres, Townsville Hospital clinical services, the Hervey Bay emergency department and ambulance station replacement, and the new Rockhampton Hospital car park. We believe that everyone should have access to high-quality health care. These investments are designed to improve the care delivered to Queenslanders.


I am pleased to report that these improvements in service delivery have been recognised in some perhaps unlikely quarters. The federal LNP is distributing this leaflet in the seat of Longman, and I table the leaflet for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* LNP leaflet regarding funding for Queensland hospitals [\[913\]](#).

This leaflet, authorised by Senator Barry O'Sullivan, presumably with his parliamentary communications allowance, which is taxpayer funded, highlights just how much better Caboolture Hospital in particular is doing now under the Labor government than it was in 2013 under the Newman government. Mr O'Sullivan wants to make sure that the voters of Longman know how much better Caboolture Hospital is doing now. He points out in his flyer that in 2013, 66 per cent of emergency patients were seen within 10 minutes, but now the number is 73 per cent. Mr O'Sullivan kindly points out that in 2013, under the Newman government, the number of people receiving their surgery within 90 days was 91 per cent, and now under Labor it is 95 per cent.


I welcome the Turnbull government finally acknowledging how well and how much better our hospitals are doing under Labor than they did under Newman. It is a credit to the hard work of our doctors, our nurses, our midwives, our health professionals and their support staff. I would like to pass on my congratulations to them.

### My Home Awards

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.58 am): At this time of year in Queensland there is not much better than people getting outdoors and getting into the garden, getting their hands dirty and growing something beautiful. That is why I am delighted to announce that nominations for the 2018 My Home Awards will open very soon. On the surface, the My Home Awards, which were abolished under the former LNP government as part of the widespread attack on Queensland's most vulnerable and which the Palaszczuk government reinstated because we believe that all Queenslanders deserve to be treated with dignity, is a gardening competition. However, at its heart, it is really about Queenslanders—Queenslanders who find a home in public housing getting together to plant the seeds of a community and to grow together.

This year at the 2018 awards we had something very special for every tenant who entered the awards. Each tenant will receive a garden pack to help them get started. It is not just any old garden pack: they will each receive a calico tote bag sourced from the Queensland based Indigenous business Bundarra, which has been chosen as a Queensland supplier as part of our Buy Queensland policy. It is a handy re-useable shopping bag to take to the shops to pick up gardening supplies. Entrants will also receive Tropicare sunscreen, which is made by a family owned Queensland business, so they can protect themselves from our glorious Queensland sun when they garden. They will also receive a handy planting guide with tips on which herbs and vegetables are best to grow seasonally across Queensland's many and varied climatic zones. Entries for the 2018 My Home Awards will open on 2 July, and I look forward to seeing even more beautiful gardens and homes this year.

### Budget, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.00 am): The Palaszczuk government is determined to ensure that QFES personnel have every resource available to continue their world renowned work. This morning I was joined by QFES deputy commissioner Mike Wassing to announce that \$15 million of the budget commitment will be invested in providing enhanced communication capabilities to South-East Queensland State Emergency Service groups. I want to acknowledge Anneke and Benay from the SES, who are in the gallery today. It is great to see the colour orange in the Queensland parliamentary gallery.

Seventy-nine SES groups from the border with New South Wales to Toowoomba and north to Gympie will transition to radios on the government wireless network, or GWN, over the next two years. They will fall in line with firefighters, police and paramedics who are currently using the GWN. The GWN is a secure digital communication network that allows multiple agencies to operate on a single channel. This substantial investment means the SES will be able to fully integrate with other agencies during incidents, ensuring our fire and emergency services are operating from a single communication network. Streamlining interagency communication is essential for the State Emergency Service, as groups are often tasked to assist other agencies. Placing emergency services on a single channel will further assist with communication and coordination of resources and give responders greater visibility of an event. GWN radios also include important safety measures such as duress alarms and GPS tracking.

I would like to salute the 5,600 men and women who make up Queensland's State Emergency Service, who volunteer to ensure the safety of their local communities right across our state. Be it floods, cyclones or fires, volunteers help ensure that communities are well informed, safe and well looked after. They are ordinary people who produce the extraordinary in times of crisis, stepping up when we need them the most. We ask a lot of our SES groups in times of need, so it is only right that the Palaszczuk government provides the support they need to keep Queenslanders safe. I look forward to meeting as many SES groups as I can. I want to say to the members of this House, particularly those in the south-east corner where the GWN will be rolled out, that now is a very good time as a member of parliament to go out and acquaint yourself with your local SES, have a cup of tea with them and talk about the outstanding work they do.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 21 August 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.03 am): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting yesterday. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136(3), the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill by 9 August 2018, and that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 August 2018.

The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 15 of 2017-18 titled *Education: 2016-17 results of financial audits* be referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.04 am) by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the sessional orders be suspended to allow for a dinner break from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm this evening.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## Amendments to Standing Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (11.04 am) by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to the standing orders circulated in my name be agreed to effective immediately.

### Amendment to Standing Orders

#### 1. Schedule 7, Heading "2017"

*Omit.*

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Resolution, Cessation of Investigation



**Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.05 am): As chair of the Ethics Committee I rise to report on a matter referred to the Ethics Committee of the 55th Parliament. I refer to the matters of privilege referred by the Speaker of the 55th Parliament to the Ethics Committee of that parliament on 27 October 2015 in respect of an alleged unauthorised disclosure of PCCC and Ethics Committee proceedings by persons unknown; and, in the process of asking questions without notice, failure to comply with standing order 271 and a Speaker's direction regarding the same by the former members for Southern Downs and Indooroopilly and the members for Surfers Paradise, Clayfield and Kawana; and an alleged breach of the privileges of the PCCC and Ethics Committee in rising on a matter of privilege and other points of order by the former member for Callide.

On the dissolution of the 55th Parliament the Ethics Committee of that parliament was dissolved. Under section 105 of the Parliament of Queensland Act, the Ethics Committee of the 56th parliament has resolved not to continue to investigate this matter and will therefore not be tabling a report; however, this decision does not represent any finding in respect of the matter. The matter related to the alleged unauthorised disclosure of PCCC and Ethics Committee proceedings.

Standing orders 211, 211A and 211B relating to confidentiality of committee proceedings are one expression of a greater principle of parliamentary law and practice; that is, the proceedings of parliamentary committees are confidential until the committee reports those proceedings to the House or otherwise orders their release or publication. The rule is designed to promote better functioning of the committee process and to affirm that the House is entitled to the first advice of the conclusions of its committees.

Previous ethics committees have stressed that any unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings represents an attack on the integrity of the parliament. If a committee member finds him or herself in a situation where they feel unable to raise a concern about a possible breach of the confidentiality of that committee within the relevant committee, an appropriate course of action would be to write to the Speaker reporting the concern.

On 1 September 2016 the then Speaker made a statement to the House noting a recent increase in allegations relating to breaches of committee confidentiality and urging members to familiarise themselves with the requirements of those standing orders. I reiterate that request.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will be for a period of 30 minutes today, as per the sessional orders, and question time will expire at 11.37 am.

### Electricity Prices



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (11.07 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier adopt the LNP's plan to introduce energy retail competition across Queensland, providing cheaper power bills for our regions?



**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The answer is no. What we saw yesterday from the Leader of the Opposition is no plan and no details. Let us recap a little bit. Before they were elected into government I remember the member for Clayfield saying they would save people's power bills around \$120 a year. Do you remember that? It was a 'contract for Queensland' that was advertised to everyone. We saw the LNP increase power bills by 43 per cent or \$430 on average. That is their record. They cannot be trusted.

Over the next year my government's policies will result in an average reduction in regional electricity prices of \$20, or 1.3 per cent. This is the first price reduction in nine years, after the highest annual increases that happened under the LNP. The announcement of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday would drive up power prices and see jobs lost across regional Queensland.

In 2018-19 my government is investing \$462 million so that people and businesses in regional Queensland pay no more for electricity, despite the higher costs of transporting electricity across the state. Queensland is five times the size of Japan. Those opposite do not understand basic geography.

We have reinvested in the \$75 Ergon EasyPay reward, provided more than \$100 a year from our asset ownership dividend and covered the costs of the Solar Bonus Scheme. The Queensland Productivity Commission report states at page 241 that the LNP's plan would 'have a fiscal cost of \$768 million over the initial five-year period'. Those opposite have not even read the report. Were we given a costing of the LNP plan yesterday? There was no cost and no detail—magic pudding. This lazy opposition has done no homework.

The report said that 120 large customers would have electricity price subsidies cut to pay for deregulation in regional Queensland. The report goes on to say that to fully cover costs, which was not recommended, regional households would have to see bills increase by up to \$434. There is a secret plan here, to slug regional Queenslanders \$434. Those opposite should tell the truth and be honest with Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### **Water Prices, Seniors Concessions**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My next question without notice is to the Minister for Seniors. In May the minister was asked to intervene on behalf of Queensland seniors to ensure Labor did not slug them more for their water. Will the minister apologise to seniors for her inaction, allowing Labor to jack up water bills and hurt Queensland's most vulnerable?

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question. As I answered in the previous parliament, the commitment of this side of the House to concessions for seniors—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier and Leader of the Opposition, I would like to hear the answer.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** I remind those opposite that their record on supporting and providing concessions to vulnerable seniors was to cut them.

**A government member:** Are you very proud?

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** I take that interjection. We heard from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday how very proud she was of their commitment to Queenslanders—so very proud to be part of a government that made the decision to cut concessions for seniors. The only reason they did not go forward with that was the complete uproar in the community. They had to backflip and continue to provide concessions that they know deep down are vital to seniors. I stand very proudly on this side of the House as we have increased concessions to seniors. We know how important it is for them to have the opportunity to access these vital services.

I remind those opposite that there is \$283 million worth of concessions in this year's budget, an increase in the value of concessions that have previously been provided. I also remind those opposite that there is an additional \$200 million worth of concessions in the form of electricity rebates. I think all of us on this side of the House can stand proudly by our record on supporting seniors. We will do everything we can to make sure seniors get what they need, because that is what they deserve. They have contributed their entire lives. We on this side of the House will always support them.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I understand it has been a long week, but this is not your first rodeo. I will wait for the House to come to order.



### Screen Industry

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question without notice is of the Premier. Will the Premier please outline any budget measures that will help attract investment in the screen industry to Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mansfield for that question. We are all about growing jobs here in Queensland. We want to see a much more vibrant screen industry here. I am very proud to report that over the last financial year—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am very proud of our record in government. Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition says that she is proud of her record when she was in government. We know what a big disaster that was for Queensland.

Over the last financial year the screen industry has contributed \$1 billion to the Queensland economy. Today I am very pleased to table our Advance Queensland Screen Industry 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government booklet, undated, titled 'Advance Queensland—Screen Industry 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan' [\[906\]](#).

I am determined to grow this industry even more. Whilst in Los Angeles I had the opportunity to visit Netflix, where I was able to tell them that as part of our budget we would allocate \$12 million to secure two 30,000-square-foot warehouses as fitted out studios right here in Brisbane. We are the first state to do this. As we know, there is a big future in big blockbusters but also, with the advent of Stan and Netflix, there is more streaming and more opportunity to film short series here. We have had great success with *Harrow*, with ABC Studios International showcasing Brisbane. I am also pleased to advise that the second series of *Harrow* will start filming later this year. There are two Netflix productions being filmed here at the moment. The first is the Chris Lilley series being filmed in North Queensland and the other is *Tidelands*, being filmed at the moment at Shorncliffe, the Redlands and beautiful Stradbroke Island.

I am also very pleased to report that, since we made that announcement, I was contacted late yesterday and another production company is flying up from Canberra. They have come in from the US and they have asked to see me urgently this afternoon because they are so impressed at what is happening here in Queensland. We are creating jobs and industry opportunities in this state. We will continue to grow this industry. Finally the federal government has come on board with a tax incentive as well. It took years of writing endless letters and campaigning but, at the end of the day, it will be great to have that facility here in Brisbane. It will showcase Brisbane to the world. It means that we are at the forefront of attracting these new types of productions, right here to our great state of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

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

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I can reveal that Minister Bailey has used not one but two secret private email accounts for ministerial business. The—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** A warning to all members of the House: the question will be heard in silence. If I hear any interruptions during questions today members will be immediately ejected from the chamber.

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I am making a ruling. Member, can you start your question again, please.

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I can reveal that Minister Bailey has used not one but two secret private email accounts for ministerial business. The keepqldnuclearfree@gmail.com account contains ministerial records including email exchanges with his director-general, staff and stakeholders. Will the Premier show some leadership and order the release of all emails in Minister Bailey's two private email accounts?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not aware of that second email account.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, I am not, so if the member wants to forward the information I will look into it.

### Distribution of GST, Review

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of the federal government's review of the GST?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Gaven for her question because her question goes to the critical reason we are here this week, and that is the budget, but we would not know that from those opposite. We are here to debate the budget and we are very proud of the budget that we delivered on Tuesday which is a budget for all of Queensland and that sets us up for growth and jobs and quality services for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

As I reported earlier in this place, the final Productivity Commission report into the distribution of the GST has been handed over to the federal government. It was handed over last month and I know that the member for Gaven understands, as all members on this side of the House understand, that if the federal government accepts the recommendation from the Productivity Commission to change the rules around GST distribution Queensland will be \$1.6 billion worse off each and every year. That is a significant economic problem that we have to address. It is a significant issue.

As I have reported in this House before, it is the equivalent of seeing lost from our front-line service delivery 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and more than 1,000 firefighters. That is what a \$1.6 billion black hole in our GST allocation will mean for Queensland and Queenslanders. That is why we will always stand up and fight for Queensland's fair share. All we ask is that the federal government engages with us in good faith and that it gives us the final report, or at least a briefing as I have requested. I ask it to sit down with us as it has with its Tory mates in Tasmania and with its Liberal mates in other jurisdictions to tell us what is in the report so that we can understand what our economic fortunes are. We will not give up on this even though the federal government may be waiting until after the plethora of by-elections in late July to make the bad news public—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim.

**Ms TRAD:**—but we are not going to give up. What became clear in the Leader of the Opposition's address yesterday—some 7,690 words later, the longest resignation speech in history—is that there was not one word about the GST. This is an opposition that is incapable of standing up for Queensland, incapable of understanding the economic challenges.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** Those opposite should hang their heads in shame.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I was going to compliment you on your behaviour to date. I have had to issue, I think from memory, 28 warnings this week. Member for Buderim, you are warned. I was hoping we were going to have no warnings today. You are warned under standing orders and I have already warned members about interruptions to questions. That will be an immediate removal from the chamber.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, in light of the revelations that Minister Bailey was using a second private email account, will the Premier now stand down her minister and refer this matter to the CCC for a full investigation, again?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, if the opposition has any evidence of emails, forward it to us and we will look at it.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is directed to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister advise how the government's investment is improving Queensland's infrastructure and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Redlands for her question. Representing an outer metropolitan seat like I do, she is a very strong supporter of the government's infrastructure plans, policies and financial commitment in this budget. The Palaszczuk government's \$45.8 billion infrastructure investment over four years is going to transform Queensland for the better with better public transport, a better M1 and better hospitals that our growing state needs. How could we forget the comments yesterday from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer when he said that the LNP presenting its financial strategy would be irresponsible and irrelevant and it would be crazy to

come up with a detailed plan? Three hours later, out came the crazy plan—irresponsibility writ large with a litany of unfunded promises such as a second M1, hocus-pocus for traffic bottlenecks, the unfunded scheme to build new dams and upgrade the Bruce Highway.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I hear the Leader of the Opposition interjecting. I just remind her of what her former and esteemed leader Campbell Newman said about her on Twitter—

This is more populist, retrograde nonsense from @DebFrecklington who has never delivered any infrastructure.

The real problem for the leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is where the money is coming from. How are they going to pay for all of this? The leader and the deputy have moved from the magic mushrooms on to the magic pudding! They expect us to believe they will—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Good, some of the members opposite are laughing; they are getting it—increase spending on infrastructure, lower debt, not increase taxes or charges, not sack staff. It simply cannot happen; it is not possible. We know what the LNP means when it makes these irresponsible unfunded promises: it gets into government, the LNP hand-wringing starts and then it starts cutting—cuts to services, cuts to staff, cuts to infrastructure.

Tony Abbott made promises and then brought in the cuts. John Howard made the promises and then brought in the cuts. Campbell Newman made the promises and then came the cuts. That is in its DNA. The LNP is all cut from the same cloth—always has been, always will be. It wants to pull the same cheap trick on Queenslanders, but Queenslanders have the lived experience of the short-lived yet unlamented LNP government of which they were all a part. Queenslanders will not be conned. You have to show them the money, you have to show them the plan and you have to show them the future, and none of those have come from the opposition.

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

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I table emails between the minister, his director-general and staff.

*Tabled paper:* Emails and attachments from the Gmail account of Mark Bailey [\[907\]](#).

Why did the minister not disclose his second secret email account to the parliament, the Premier and the CCC during its first investigation?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for his question. As is well known, I campaigned against the previous Newman government after it broke its election promise. It said it would not remove the ban on uranium mining in this state and then it broke that promise. As is well known and as has been well reported, I campaigned against that in the public realm. This was an email account that was associated with that old work role. It is an old email account. The RTI that the opposition is referring to is across a three-year period. It identifies a small number of potential records. I am absolutely committed to complying with the new ministerial code of conduct that the Premier has brought down.

### **Electricity Prices**

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is directed to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister outline what the Palaszczuk government is doing to place downward pressure on electricity prices and the results of this strategy?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Gladstone for his question because he knows, as do members on this side, that this government's affordable energy plan is working and putting downward pressure on power prices for Queenslanders, and from 1 July there will be a 1.3 per cent decrease in power prices for regional Queensland. The LNP reminds me of the old saying, 'Never trust a man who says "Trust me, trust me"', because it is a party that went to the 2012 election promising to drive down the costs of living and instead it drove up energy prices by—

**Government members:** Forty-three per cent!

**Dr LYNHAM:** Now, the members opposite have the gall to ask Queenslanders to trust them. The Queensland Productivity Commission report says the following about the LNP's proposal—

We have not identified any options which can achieve regional competition without increasing the cost of the CSO ... or increasing regional electricity prices.

The same report states that the LNP's plan would cost over \$700 million over the first five years, that savings would need to be found from large customers and that regional households would see bills increase by \$400 a year. No wonder the farmers were against the proposal! No wonder the councils were against the proposal!

What a sad sight it was yesterday. The Leader of the Opposition was suddenly embracing renewables, but where was the support? I listened to the speeches of the members opposite. There was very little support. The members for Broadwater, Everton and Clayfield in their budget reply speeches could not bring themselves to say the word 'renewables'—not one of them. The only support came from the loyal member for Burleigh, the sorcerer's apprentice, the Energizer bunny without batteries.

I look forward to seeing the fireworks fly on renewables at the LNP state conference this year. Where will Senator Canavan and Ms Landry stand? Will there be an assault? Will there be guerrilla warfare launched on the beach in Broadwater?

We are investing \$212 million in energy concessions, which include an electricity rebate of \$341 per year and a \$50 per year payment for households. We are lowering energy prices for all Queenslanders. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. It is already on the table from the Palaszczuk government, not in a half-baked, deflated soufflé offered by the opposition.

*(Time expired)*

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

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Now that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has acknowledged his second secret Gmail account, will the Premier stand him down immediately and conduct a full investigation?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I heard what the minister said. He answered the question. Let me say to those opposite that this is budget week. It is when members ask questions about the budget.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I draw you back to the core of the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I said that the minister answered that question. Let me make it very clear. This is budget week and, today, we have had one question—or two questions at most—on the budget. The members opposite have no ideas and no plan.

They have made it very clear that, in terms of renewables, the lights are now back on, but the lights are out in terms of the implications across regional Queensland. The members opposite are going to drive up power prices.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, under standing order 118 I ask you to be relevant. It was a very specific and direct question. I can give you a little latitude. Do you have anything further to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will end on this note: the opposition members cannot even ask a question about the budget during budget week. Unbelievable!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is the most serious of matters. The CCC has investigated that minister sitting over there. The Premier should be relevant.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, if there is a point of order being raised I expect to be able to hear that point of order. I will rule on that point of order once I have been able to ascertain what the member is trying to say. I will listen to the point of order from the Leader of Opposition Business and I will then rule.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. With respect to standing order 118 on relevance, the Premier has not acknowledged or answered the question. This is a most serious matter dealing with corruption in the state of Queensland.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, please resume your seat. I was listening to the Premier. I have given the Premier guidance. The Premier has concluded her contribution. I find that the matter is now finalised.

### Nurses, Recruitment

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I refer to an article in today's *Courier-Mail* about this week's NHS nurse recruiting expo and I ask: will the minister advise what steps have been taken to keep Queensland nurses in Queensland and what members can do to assist?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I know that he knows, like all members on this side know, that Queensland is blessed with the best nurses and midwives in the world. I am afraid that it seems like the secret might be out. I was as disturbed as was the member for Maryborough to read in today's *Courier-Mail* that the United Kingdom National Health Service is in Brisbane this weekend trying to steal our fantastic nurses. On behalf of this side of the House at least, I have one message to the NHS: get your grubby hands off our nurses. For every nurse they steal, we will steal many more back. I can tell members why—and this is a message to our nurses.

Our nurses and midwives are more appreciated here than they are anywhere else in the world. We are employing 3,500 more after those opposite sacked them. We have already employed 2,800. We are one of only two places in the world to have legislated safe nurse-to-patient ratios. Our nurses are better paid here than they are in the UK. We have some of the best hospitals that will keep getting better thanks to the \$18 billion-plus investment from the budget this year. Not only that, in Queensland, the weather is better, the beer is colder and the beaches are better. You cannot trade all of those things to go and work in dreary old England. Nobody ever would.

I wonder if I have finally found something on which the member for Nanango can stand with us. Have we finally stumbled upon the one thing on which she can support us? We all know that she is too scared to stand up to her Tory mates in Canberra. Will she stand up to her Tory mates in Westminster? We know that the member for Kawana is more loyal to the mother country than he is to Queensland and Australia, but for once will the members opposite finally stand with Queensland and support our nurses and help keep our nurses here in Queensland and send a message to nurses in the UK, whether they are Aussies or not, that we would love to have them here? We have 700 more nurses to recruit between now and 2020. We do not want to lose any nurses that we have. We would love to have more.

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

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL


### REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### BETTING TAX BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 14 June (see p. 1677), on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.38 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2018. This budget is a typical Labor budget—a con job for Queensland and a shameless abandonment of my electorate of Mudgeeraba. There is a new face, a new approach, but the same debt. Worst of all, this budget actively strives to hurt local householders with five new taxes. Five new taxes, an \$83 billion debt bomb and the worst unemployment rate in Australia is Labor's plan for Queensland—from Biloela to Brisbane, from Lockhart River to Logan.

Seven months after being re-elected, it is business as usual for the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government, with corruption scandals, an ambulance ramping crisis, toll road fails, road congestion getting worse and a school curriculum crisis. Over the next four years, with this budget the cost of living will go up, debt will increase, jobs will be lost and the economy will stall. This budget places politics before the security of future generations of Queenslanders. Labor is short-sighted, seeking out easy political victories by drawing down on the wealth of future generations. This budget does nothing for Queensland, except bring more debt and more uncertainty.

The 2018 health budget is more about spin over substance and politics rather than patient care. Let us not forget that this health minister cannot even run his own office, so what else could one expect? Categories 1, 2 and 3 emergency patients all missed important targets about being seen within clinically recommended time frames. Those are patients with immediate, imminent or potentially life-threatening injuries. Ambulance ramping was way off target, with 22 per cent of Queensland patients being stuck on ambulance ramps for longer than 30 minutes. Key vaccination rates for children at one year, two years and five years of age were not met.

Labor is discontinuing obesity measures to hide the fact that the problem is getting worse, particularly for Queensland women, and it has failed to implement key election commitments around prevention. In fact, when it comes to obesity and the importance of preventive health measures, let us see what the AMA said about this budget. Dr Dilip Dhupelia, the President of the AMAQ, said—

For weeks now the government has been talking about the obesity scourge that we have in Queensland, and the AMA has asked for a whole of government solution to our obesity crisis.

This was not delivered today.

Labor like to talk about record investments, but the fact is that they failed to deliver \$115.5 million of the Queensland Health capital projects that they promised in 2017-18. Is it any wonder that much needed hospital upgrades are years away from delivery and waiting times continue to increase? Supplies and services to Queensland hospital and health services also see a cut of almost \$395 million between the adjusted budget of 2017-18 and the budget for 2018-19.

This budget also puts to bed the great mistruth about funding from Canberra, with almost \$4.8 billion coming in 2018-19. Let us compare that to 2012-13, when the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government delivered only \$3.2 billion in funding to Queensland hospital services. There is record funding coming from Canberra. Queensland is still one of only two states that has not signed up to the new national partnership agreement on health that will provide an additional \$30 billion into Queensland hospitals over the five years after 2020, which is an increase of more than \$7 billion for Queensland. This Premier and this health minister continue to put politics ahead of patient care.

Let us look at some of the hospital and health boards. For 2018-19 the Cairns HHS still has a forecast operating deficit of \$15.8 million, which at least is a slight improvement. The Central West HHS has had a cut to staff of seven, based on the actual figure in 2017-18 versus the budgeted figure in 2018-19, with no excuse offered. Median wait times at our main children's hospital for both the emergency department and elective surgeries are way above the state average. The Children's Health Queensland HHS has a cut to staff of 92, based on the actual figure in 2017-18 versus the budgeted figure in 2018-19.

For 2018-19, the Darling Downs HHS has a forecast operating deficit of \$7.68 million, despite being in surplus previously. For 2018-19, the Mackay HHS has a forecast operating deficit of \$6.5 million. The Metro South HHS has a cut to staff of 393, based on the actual figure for 2017-18 versus the budgeted figure for 2018-19. The Sunshine Coast HHS has a cut to staff of 140, based on the actual figure in 2017-18 versus the budgeted figure in 2018-19. The Torres and Cape HHS has a cut to staff of 18, based on the actual figure for 2017-18 versus the budgeted figure for 2018-19, with no excuses offered. So much for closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. The Office of the Health Ombudsman has a cut of three staff, from 140 to 137, with no excuse offered.

Over 70 per cent of Labor's funding for the Building Better Hospitals capital program is not being spent until 2020-21 or 2021-22, meaning that Labor's promised hospital upgrades are years away from delivery. In the meantime, ambulance ramping is back, our emergency departments are overcrowded and elective surgery wait times keep getting worse. Labor has failed to plan for future growth and our public health system is under severe strain right now.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. Unfortunately, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are not delivering and our public health system is lurching back to the dark old days under Anna Bligh. The latest Queensland Health hospital performance data shows that our elective surgery wait times are blowing out. Since Labor was elected, the median wait time for elective surgery has almost doubled from 28 days to 50 days. More patients are not being seen within clinically recommended times, putting their health and recovery at risk. Those are not just numbers on a spread sheet; it is your mother, it is your son, it is your close family friend. It is simply not good enough.

Our front-line nurses, doctors and paramedics need more support on the front line. It is time for Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Minister for Health to stop playing politics and start putting patients first. The AMA Queensland labelled the state government's budget health initiatives a bandaid solution. Treasurer Trad talked up the public health system's record \$17.3 billion operating budget and the additional \$985 million in capital spending on services and facilities outlined in the budget. However, the AMA Queensland and the Heart Foundation Queensland have labelled that mere lip service to serious health issues. The AMA Queensland president believes that extra health funding has been allocated towards health workers to treat patients' symptoms rather than addressing the root cause of their illnesses. He also wants funding to be more evenly spread among urban and regional hospitals, to ensure patients in remote areas have access to treatment.

Steven Vines, Chief Executive Officer of the Heart Foundation Queensland, was disappointed that the government had talked tough on the importance of preventive health measures, but failed to follow through with enough money to address the scope of health issues amongst Queenslanders. With two-thirds of Queenslanders overweight or obese, we have some very high physical inactivity levels, particularly in regional and rural Queensland where those things are at their worst levels. The state budget outlined no investment in preventive health to reduce the burden on our hospital system. It is great that we have a record health budget, but we could reduce costs if instead we invested in prevention.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system no matter where they live. Regional Queenslanders have been duded by this Labor government. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are too busy worrying about hospital upgrades in South-East Queensland to support rural and regional health care. In the last state election, Labor did not promise a single additional hospital bed outside South-East Queensland.

Under Labor, we saw a monolithic and centralised control of Queensland Health, but the LNP created 16 hospital and health boards across Queensland as part of our plan to empower local communities, increase local accountability and value our health workers. We doubled the subsidy to help patients travel to our hospitals, helping rural and regional Queenslanders get access to the services they need. We reopened regional maternity services that were shut down by the previous Bligh Labor government. Mums and bubs across the state also benefitted from a new \$28.9 million program over four years that provided mums with two home visits by a midwife or a child health nurse during their baby's first four weeks. Regional women also benefitted from an over 40 per cent increase in the flying hours of the flying obstetric and gynaecological service.

The LNP appointed this state's first-ever mental health commissioner and ensured that the new Mental Health Commission received the resources it needed to improve mental health and minimise the harmful impacts of substance abuse in our communities. We delivered major improvements to surgery waiting times for our children. As of June 2014, 100 per cent of all children requiring urgent category 1 surgery were seen on time within the clinically recommended 30 days, compared to 97 per cent at the change of government. The LNP's record investment in Queensland Health meant a similar improvement in emergency departments, with 87 per cent of children being seen within the clinically recommended four hours, compared to just 81 per cent at the change of government.

Ambulance ramping significantly reduced by over 20 per cent under the LNP and we cleared Labor's long wait lists for public dental patients who had been left on the waiting lists for more than two years. At the change of government, Labor had left 61,405 dental patients waiting for more than two years. By mid-2014 this was reduced to zero.

The LNP's economic plan announced by the Leader of the Opposition is one I am very proud to support. Unlike Labor, whose only plan is for increased taxes, we want a state where our best days are ahead of us. Queensland used to be the economic powerhouse of Australia, but we are now battling for the wooden spoon.

Stagnating wages growth, high unemployment, a youth jobs crisis in regional Queensland and flatlining business confidence are all symptoms of Labor's economic management. The LNP has an economic plan to: bust congestion, provide cheaper electricity and fuel, ensure better health and education, deliver water security and stand for lower taxes. In terms of health, our focus will be on patient care, as it should be. We will introduce incentive funding for local health and hospital service boards that is tied to better performance. We want to treat more patients, more quickly and restore confidence in our public health services.

This forms part of our patient care guarantee to improve health services for Queenslanders, no matter where they live. I notice that the government is taking our stand on that and actually using our words. We will also partner with the private sector to slash waiting lists and ensure elective surgery is completed in medically recommended time frames.

The health minister carried on about this element of our plan yesterday and then the Premier trots off to the Herston quarter development next to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and supports the project being managed by Australian Unity as the development partner. For those who may not be aware, Australian Unity is a private health provider. Labor's hypocrisy knows no bounds. It is just another example of a minister who puts politics ahead of patient care.

The LNP will also tackle the ice epidemic in Queensland with a comprehensive plan to build more rehab and detox facilities across the state. We have a comprehensive ice plan that will increase treatment and crack down on the organised crime gangs peddling drugs to our kids. Ice addicts need more help to kick the habit and get their lives back on track. Labor's business as usual approach will not fix this problem.


In this budget we again see the needs of Mudgeeraba completely ignored. We have been blatantly disregarded and our local area will miss out once again as a result. Labor can spin the facts any way they like, but residents know Labor is nowhere to be seen on our local issues. All Labor has been able to muster up is: \$13.9 million announced to remediate barter slopes on the Gold Coast-Springbrook Road; \$5.898 million for upgrades to Nerang-Murwillumbah Road; and \$3.941 million for upgrades to Beechmont Road. These are all 18 months too late after Cyclone Debbie. The funding is to fix damage which occurred 18 months ago.

For the M1 we finally see some funding commitments from Labor. There was \$70 million for an extra lane to be built from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. Again, this is too little, too late. In 2007 Paul Lucas was given matching funding from the Howard government to eight lane the M1 from Nerang to Tugun. I know this because I was there. Only now, on the eve of a federal election, has state Labor been railroaded by both the Turnbull government and the federal opposition into finally fixing this crucial piece of infrastructure.

Labor has consistently ignored the need to upgrade the Gold Coast portion of the M1. It was the LNP who shamed Labor into funding the next M1 upgrade. It was the LNP that funded the \$8 million Carrara roundabout upgrade. Locals in my electorate know that only the LNP will build a better Mudgeeraba and a better Queensland.

We missed out on numerous other funding announcements. There was nothing for our Mudgeeraba schools. There was nothing for anti-hooping upgrades at the intersection of Pine Creek Road. There was no funding for flashing school zone signage at Numinbah Valley State School. There was no funding to clean up Mudgeeraba Creek. There is also no funding for vital safety upgrades and congestion busting at the Mudgeeraba Road-Tallai Road intersection. I am hugely disappointed again that Labor is playing politics and is not funding the Robina Community Legal Centre which provides crucial community services to those in need, particularly in relation to domestic violence.

In classic Labor style, the government is spending more than it can afford and leaving the debt to future generations. They are stealing from our children and their children. In classic Labor style, the government is going for cheap political victories in health rather than delivering real change to our public health system.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.53 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills 2018. As Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and the member for the electorate of Mundingburra, I am proud to be part of a government that listens to and works with communities on a plan that will contribute to Queenslanders' social and economic wellbeing. I believe this budget will deliver positive outcomes for the people of Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to working towards safe and healthy communities that provide a great start for our children, that protect the environment and that are responsive to community priorities and needs. We know that thriving communities are dynamic, exciting places where people have opportunities to set up a business, to get a job, to raise a family and to live a healthy and productive life. Thriving communities are inclusive, diverse, age friendly and open to people of all abilities.



The Palaszczuk government's 2018-19 budget will empower local communities to be resilient, with significant investment across all of Queensland. At the foundation of a thriving community we will find a local neighbourhood centre or community centre, connecting with and providing support to community members in need. We are investing \$12.7 million for new neighbourhood and community centres across the state.

This investment includes \$3 million for the construction of the Moranbah Youth and Community Centre as part of a capital and operating funding agreement with BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance and \$6 million for the construction of centres at Inala and East Murgon. There is another \$1.7 million for land for new centres at Bowen and Wilsonton, and for the design and development of centres in Kallangur and Yarrabilba and the Thursday Island community hub.

In addition to investing in neighbourhood and community centres, the 2018-19 budget has significant funding for other services that contribute to thriving communities. In particular, I am delighted that this government will invest up to \$3.2 million to purchase land and build a new facility for the Townsville Women's Centre. I have long supported and worked with the team at the Townsville Women's Centre to ensure they are able to meet the needs of North Queensland women in their times of need. To address some of the challenges they have been experiencing with regards to their ageing premises, we have committed up to \$200,000 for a scope, design, planning and building options study and up to \$3 million matched dollar for dollar by the Women's Centre towards the build. I cannot wait for the scoping phase to start because this centre makes such a difference to the lives of Townsville women.

We are also making sure that families experiencing challenges can rest easy knowing their children can start the day with a wholesome breakfast, if at times they are unable to provide that themselves. With an investment of \$1 million over four years we will see the expansion of Foodbank Queensland's successful School Breakfast Program in more Queensland schools.

Vulnerable Queenslanders can sometimes find themselves in difficult financial positions, quite often through no fault of their own. Our better budgeting initiative can provide support and financial advice to help them through these challenges. This budget will see us continuing our \$6.5 million per annum investment to this initiative to ensure that these families can continue to access this support through our Good Money stores in Cairns and on the Gold Coast and through a large network of financial counsellors.

Working with communities to understand their needs is another reason we went to the election with a commitment to better support the ex-ADF and defence community in Townsville through the delivery of the Oasis Townsville. I am pleased that this budget will see that become a reality. Once we have services available from this centre we will be better able to support our defence community members through that transition from military to civilian life. This project has reached another significant milestone with the Palaszczuk government allocating \$1.8 million worth of land and building to it, with an additional up to \$4 million to refurbish the site to create a fit-for-purpose service. It is important that our current and retired service men and women and their families have access to appropriate supports at a time when they need them.

The 2018-19 budget also marks an important milestone for people with disability, their families and carers with over \$2 billion in financial support through our state provider services and through our contribution to the NDIS. This year will see the biggest year of transition to the NDIS with Far North Queensland, Maryborough, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast, Logan, Redlands and Brisbane transitioning to the scheme.

While the future for people with disability is exciting, we also need to understand that they need to be protected and supported. This is why we went to the election with a commitment to continue funding disability advocacy services. This budget delivers, with \$9.5 million over three years for these important services that do great work.

The Palaszczuk government will also continue to deliver in areas that are important to our seniors. We know that the cost of living can be a real concern for seniors, and this budget continues to deliver important concessions that make life just that little bit easier, with an investment of \$283.8 million going directly towards electricity, rates, water and gas concessions. There is also an additional \$200 million over two years for the electricity asset ownership dividend to deliver an electricity rebate with a credit of \$50 a year in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for every household electricity bill.


Knowing how important concessions can be and the positive impact that saving on purchases can make to our weekly budgets, we will continue to support the Queensland Seniors Card scheme, helping more than 890,000 cardholders continue to reap the rewards that this scheme offers.

Unfortunately, we know that some of our more vulnerable seniors require protections from those who are often closest to them and from those who wish to take advantage of them. This budget expands the seniors legal and support services to Gladstone, Rockhampton, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Mackay, whilst continuing to fund existing services in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Cairns and Townsville.

Returning to this House for a second term, I am really pleased about what this budget offers the people of Mundingburra. From the many conversations that I have with my constituents, I know how important quality health care and education is to families. This budget again makes a record investment in health, with more than \$980 million for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. This includes mental health funding, a redevelopment of clinical services and a state-of-the-art MRI machine. The same can be said for the investment in our local state primary and high schools—to give our kids a great start.

After working closely with the principal of Wulguru State School, I am particularly pleased that we will be able to deliver much needed security fencing with an investment of \$500,000. Another big win for Mundingburra is the \$26 million to redevelop the Pimlico TAFE training campus. Modernising this facility will mean that so many more of our young people will have a learning environment with contemporary training facilities. This state-of-the-art campus will position our young people for exciting careers and bright futures.

This budget is a budget which delivers for the people of Mundingburra, for the people of Townsville and for all Queenslanders. For that reason I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.01 pm): I am delighted to rise this afternoon to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill 2018. I speak in the context of this being the first Labor budget under this re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government. I have to remind honourable members and people watching this broadcast wherever they are in this great state of Queensland, particularly in the great electorate of Whitsunday, that from my recollection this is their 17th budget out of the last 20. When we talk about the cost-of-living pressures on families, farmers, retirees, pensioners and battlers, Labor has big ownership of that.

I heard the contribution by my fellow North Queenslander the Labor member for Mundingburra, who talked about concessions. Concessions have been going on for a long time. Concessions are not enough for a lot of people in our community. There are a lot of people out there who, more than ever, are doing it tough. The cost of power is out of control. Before I get to the essence of the budget, I want to reiterate my support for the coal industry in Central and North Queensland.

**Opposition members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I appreciate the support on this side of the chamber. It goes without saying. I am happy to drop the c-word in here because coal is king. I am proud of my sister working in the coal industry, my brother-in-law, my cousins, my relatives, my friends, even a few foe. It is a great industry. It is a great contributor to the Queensland economy.

On World Environment Day something dawned on me, not for the first time, when I went over to Langford Island, which has been rebuilt thanks to the great work of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, which has done a terrific job post Cyclone Debbie, unlike the red army—and I will come to that particularly in a moment. I looked across the horizon and saw this bulk carrier coming down the coast of the Whitsundays. You could see three tourists on the spit at Langford Island enjoying the Great Barrier Reef and the Whitsunday islands. It has been going on for decades—the tourism and the resources sector working together and getting on together. The pilotage service that is provided by our pilots through Hydrographers Passage and other places through the Great Barrier Reef is world-class. We commend all of those professionals in that regard.

In relation to power, let us not forget that we have seen this cash cow continue under successive Labor governments. I am not talking about the Cash Cow on breakfast television; I am talking about the cash cow that comes from that side of the House. I see members of the government laughing. The people of Queensland and the people of my electorate are not laughing; they are hurting. Let us have a look at the money—the cash cow. Imagine winning this on breakfast television! The generators are making \$1.24 billion instead of the \$482 million they were budgeted to make. The question must be asked: where did the money go? That is the question that people across my electorate want to know the answer to—the farmer from Foxdale, the retiree from Rural View, the pensioner from Proserpine, the battler from Bucasia. They are all queuing up. They want to know what happened to it.

I have to make the point that it is nearly 15 months since Tropical Cyclone Debbie. We saw the red army with their red tanks and maybe their red submarines. I did not see any but I am sure they are out there. They rolled into my electorate last month. A lot of people are wondering what is happening here. Are they going to help our community? We were hurting after Cyclone Debbie. Last year's budget was a massive let-down. I do not think this one is any different. There is some support for the Whitsundays. I know it is not the trend of modern politics but there are some things in the budget—here it is: the glossy budget regional action plan—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Are you seeking to table that, member?

**Mr COSTIGAN:** There is no need to, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thank you for the question though.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Then either put it down, read from it or table it.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. There are 29 policy initiatives and projects in the regional action plan. There are just six in my electorate of Whitsunday exclusively.

Going into the last state election, the Labor candidate promised \$10 million for the Proserpine State High School. In this regional action plan, this glossy brochure—I have no problem with the glossy brochure; it is the content—there is only \$1.1 million in 2018-19 for the Proserpine State High School. There is a missing \$4.2 million. When you look at the total spend, what happened to it? People want to know what happened to it. People involved with the P&C at Proserpine, people in our local community and people in Airlie Beach are wondering when the Palaszczuk Labor government will do some planning for a new P-12 school at Cannonvale. Councillor Ron Peterson has banged on about it. I have raised the issue. Local people with kids have raised the issue. So many students get bused into Proserpine every day. Where is the planning?

Under the former LNP government—I see the member for Surfers Paradise in the chamber—we had a Schools Planning Commission. Things actually happened. We built the Northern Beaches State High School in the northern beaches of Mackay—those wonderful seaside suburbs of Bucasia, Eimeo, Shoal Point and Dolphin Heads.

**Mr Stevens:** Great part of the world.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** It is a great part of the world. I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. That school was supposed to be up and running by 2002 from memory. They went through election after election after election. The Labor propaganda machine is world-class. It has fooled a lot of people over many years. The people of Whitsunday were not fooled in 2012. I still remember people saying to me after Labor shut down schools in my electorate—and these people had voted Labor all their life—'If you are going to build this, Costo, we're with you.' That school was built, funded and open. John-Paul Langbroek, the then minister for education, was there. It was a great day. When I first burst on the scene it was just guinea grass. We cannot even get guinea grass at Cannonvale near Airlie Beach, to cater for the increasing population there.

There is no money in this budget for new schools. We talk about the importance of educating our future Queenslanders. Where is that funding? It is in that context that I make this contribution. Under various Labor governments over the last 20 years, in my electorate we have seen the closure of country schools at Narni, Yalboroo and Mount Charlton. Before the last election we saw the Palaszczuk government kill off the kindergarten at Seaforth. At Haliday Bay, Ball Bay, Cape Hillsborough, Mount Jukes, a lot of mums and dads were dislocated, with their kids having to move schools because they did not have the kindergarten option on site at the Seaforth State School.

When it comes to cyclone recovery, amazingly we saw the Premier on her feet yesterday morning in this place in what is the talk of the town in Proserpine, because lo and behold—I know it is not everyone's cup of tea and for some it might be a cure for insomnia—last week my newspaper, the Costigan report, said, 'I wonder if we are going to get some money from the Palaszczuk Labor government to help the council reopen the Proserpine Entertainment Centre which was damaged by Cyclone Debbie almost 15 months ago.' Amazingly, it is not in the glossy brochure that I have not tabled here today. It is not mentioned there. I cannot see it in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority budget papers. There is mention of the Airlie Beach foreshore, Bluewater Trail in Mackay and, incredibly, Queens Park, which I will come to in a moment, but there is nothing for the Proserpine Entertainment Centre. Amazingly, after Jackie Trad delivered her first Labor budget the Premier rose and said, 'Abracadabra—\$500,000.' I am delighted. I am tickled pink, and it came after lobbying from me and others in the community to help the council to reopen that facility.

**Mr Lister:** It wouldn't have happened if you weren't the member.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. We get up there and we fire a shot. Some people do not like it, but I will call it as I see it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, if you want to interject please do so in your own seat.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** We did see, as I mentioned, the red army roll into town a few weeks ago. This budget is a massive let-down because tourism is the lifeblood of Airlie Beach. It is the heart of the reef. It is a great place, Airlie Beach. What about the drive market, which is so important to tourism? We come up the battered and bruised Bruce Highway, as I call it, and across the flood-prone Goorganga Plains, which this government is clearly not interested in partnering with the Commonwealth on. Do not worry about that; I will put the asset on Michael McCormack, the Deputy Prime Minister. I have known him for a long time. It takes two to tango, and a lot of people in my electorate, no matter for whom they vote, want to see the state and the federal government working together.

There is no need for me to put on a leotard and do a song and dance about it. It might get a few people excited. In all seriousness, we need to get the Goorganga Plains project happening, but in this budget there is no funding—none at all—for a new visitor information centre for Proserpine. There is nothing at all. I do not begrudge Sarina getting one. It is about to be officially opened on the Bruce Highway at Sarina two hours away, yet there is nothing for the drive market coming into the Whitsundays. I see the member for Cairns nodding. It would not happen on his watch in his electorate or in his region. TTNQ would be blowing up the larks. There are people who are passionate about tourism in my part of the world and they are blowing up the larks.

There is no money in this budget for the RV park in Proserpine that has been championed by the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce. I caught up recently with president Bob Bogie and secretary Karen Vloedmans, who were supporting their interests, supporting their beat and the \$10 million export hub for the Whitsundays through Proserpine. They grow the tucker up the road in Bowen. They can grow it and we can ship it.

This budget was a big let-down. I want to talk about health. I see that there is \$441.7 million in health funding for the regional hospital and health service. I want to pay tribute to Danielle McAlpine because a \$1.5 million funding announcement pre budget was made by the health minister which I am sure would not have happened if that lady had not gone public in her community about her having to wait—get this—well over 500 days to see a specialist. She had to wait 500-plus days. It is well documented in the *Whitsunday Times* and then the minister announced that funding before the budget. Again, in the budget there is no funding at all—

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** The minister obviously has special rules, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, if you want to interject you need to be in your seat. Were you reflecting on my handling of the House, member for Whitsunday?

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Not at all, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Then continue your contribution.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** There is no funding in the budget for additional ambulance services on Hamilton Island. We have only one paramedic there. It is not his fault but it is like banking hours on a big island population. They would not tolerate it on Fraser Island, Magnetic Island, Hammond Island or Thursday Island, but we have to cop it sweet on Hamilton Island and it is wrong. Glenn Bourke, the chief executive officer, has contacted the government. He has said a number of things about it. I have raised it publicly as well. There is no funding in the budget for that whatsoever.

I did mention Queens Park. No wonder Greg Williamson is doing cartwheels in Mackay all the way from Byrne's Pie Factory to the rotunda at Queens Park. I do not remember it being damaged by Cyclone Debbie. I am pleased for the mayor of the city which I represent that he is getting funding from the government, but I was there last year with the then deputy editor of the *Daily Mercury* and we did not see any damage. There might have been a hibiscus knocked out, but they got the money to fix it. In Proserpine we have the show coming up next Friday. Some of these clowns would fit in real good, because we did not get any money in this budget to rebuild the old pavilion at the Proserpine showgrounds. There is a flaw; the walls have come down. It is like Berlin. There is no roof.

Amazingly, again in this budget in the regional snapshot we can see that Labor is loading up the munitions factory ready to wage war on my colleague the member for Burdekin. There is \$1 million in the budget for the Clermont showgrounds and saleyards. We did not get one red cent. I do not begrudge

the good people of Clermont—people who are passionate about the cattle industry in our hinterland—getting that because it is important to them, but we did not get anything. In fact, in the 25-minute contribution by the Treasurer did she mention the word ‘agriculture’?


**Ms Leahy:** No.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** How do you spell it? What a challenge it is! That is an insult to people in regional and rural Queensland following the vegetation management laws introduced in Queensland which farmers and graziers needed like a hole in the head. What is in this budget for farmers—canefarmers from Coningsby through to Koolachu? A big fat zero.

I am very passionate about the Great Barrier Reef. As I said, I was there on World Environment Day on Langford Island seeing the work that can be done with our national parks if they are resourced properly, but there are a lot of question marks over \$5 million in funding for eco lodge accommodation on Whitehaven Beach or adjacent to it. We should be using that funding to build a visitor information centre in Proserpine to drive the tourism industry, particularly the drive market. So much more could be done.

We have been let down—there is no doubt about that—in this state budget. The agricultural sector feels let down, the tourism industry feels let down, and I think our chambers of commerce in Mackay, Proserpine and Airlie Beach feel let down by another Labor budget that is so typical of Labor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the next member, during that contribution there was a phrase used along the lines of ‘I’m not afraid to use the c-word for coal’. I caution all members going forward that, if you want to refer to coal, refer to it as coal. The other phrase I will consider unparliamentary as we move forward.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.17 pm): It gives me great pleasure to speak in support of the Palaszczuk Labor government’s budget. I must say that I have a very different view from that expressed in some of the speeches I have been listening to. This budget is consistent with the true values of this government—one that is delivering a future vision for our great state while not leaving those less fortunate behind. This budget offers a blueprint on how to strengthen and diversify our economy, build the much needed infrastructure to keep up with growth and deliver the priorities that Labor believes in, some of which are great health, quality education and delivering jobs.

The total infrastructure spend over the next four years is \$45 billion. The Palaszczuk government understands how important our regions are, and that is reflected in the fact that 65 per cent of total infrastructure spending of the 2018-19 budget is located outside of the greater Brisbane area. Let me tell the House that the people of Cairns will be very happy to hear that.

Prior to this budget, in the seven months since I have been elected to parliament as a representative of Cairns, we have seen an injection of over \$9.5 million into my seat. Some of these investments include \$1.4 million into the Cairns Hospital for the cardiac laboratory, \$1.5 million to support Indigenous tourism businesses to develop new products, nearly \$2 million to local schools including a new multipurpose hall for Trinity Bay State High School, additional accommodation at Cairns West State School and a new industrial arts complex at Freshwater Christian College.

Our investment also includes: funding for new change rooms for AFL, women’s football and cricket; \$35,000 to the Cairns Municipal Band, and let me tell the House that they play a great tune; a new fire truck with state-of-the-art firefighting equipment; and an upgrade to the kitchen at the West Cairns Bowls Club. In addition to this, we have seen investments from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, and we have seen organisations benefit from the Engaging Science Grants program, the Queensland Destination Events Program administered by Tourism and Events Queensland, and the Small Business Digital Grants Program—totalling over \$580,000. This is before the budget.

Just two weeks ago, I proudly stood with Minister Jones and my learned colleagues the member for Barron River and the member for Mulgrave—unfortunately, the member for Cook was very busy in her large electorate and could not make it—while the minister announced the state government’s investment into the scoping document for the design and business case for the Wangetti Trail. This is a 76-kilometre nation-leading bike and walkway eco-tourism project which is aimed at allowing operators to leverage off and invest in this new ecologically-sustainable, state-sponsored tourism offering. This is a game-changer. This amazing product will benefit our region whilst also providing new and sustainable jobs, in particular for our Indigenous communities. The Wangetti Trail is one part of a new future for tourism in the far north and for Cairns in particular. Another amazing game-changing proposal is the Global Tourism Hub. The government’s commitment to delivering a Global Tourism Hub in the tropical north is already having a profound impact on this sector.

I have heard members on the other side say that this is not encouraging investment. I cannot state strongly enough that in Cairns investors are recognising the exciting opportunities that we have. This can be witnessed in our city with significant developments totalling hundreds of millions of dollars, like the Aboud Corporation which is building a number of hotels and Singapore's World Class Global's Nova development which is already proceeding. These are real investments happening because the government is investing in Cairns.

Tourism in Queensland is a \$25 billion industry and projects like the Global Tourism Hub and the Wangetti Trail will ensure this industry continues to grow, creating jobs and supporting our economy in the north. To be competitive in the world of tourism, regions need to ensure that they have world-class products, and the Palaszczuk government's investment in these key job and regional building developments reflects that understanding.

This budget has delivered for the people of Cairns. The important Skilling Queenslanders for Work program will continue, with \$5 million for the next 12 months for our region. That is more funding for training opportunities. There will be \$26.3 million available in the next 12 months for our region to undertake job-creating activities through the Works for Queensland program. The important Back to Work program, which has been fundamental in seeing a reduction in the unemployment numbers in our cities and regions, particularly youth unemployment, has supported over 13,000 jobs across Queensland, and this will continue.

This government recognises the fact that 80 per cent of Cairns businesses are small businesses and we have invested a further \$40 million into the Business Development Fund, in addition to \$26 million to extend the increased payroll tax rebate initiative. These are key, and they are targeted specifically at small businesses. Cairns will get \$176 million for the expansion and upgrade of the Cairns Convention Centre. This facility generates \$80 million a year for our city. The investment in this important part of our infrastructure is an investment in jobs and economic growth in our city and region. That \$80 million is expected to grow significantly as our Convention Centre does. During the construction phase, it is expected there would be more than 300 jobs, plus 11 direct jobs and 350 indirect jobs once it has been completed.

In addition to these projects, we have seen the announcement that the project to widen the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes between Kate Street and Aumuller Street, immediately south of Cairns, will start construction. I acknowledge that this project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments as part of staged upgrades of the Cairns Southern Access Corridor. It reflects only a portion of the \$253.3 million of road infrastructure in 2018-19 for Far North Queensland as part of another record investment for the third year in a row.

The vitally important area of education has received an extremely positive boost in Cairns, with over \$15 million being allocated in the first 12 months. The Cairns State High School has secured over \$10 million for funding for a new hall and classroom refurbishment, and Trinity Bay State High School gets \$1.3 million for eight new classrooms and four specialist areas. I am so pleased to announce that Parramatta State School gets \$50,000 for those Big Ass fans—and, yes, that is the correct name of those fans. These are just some of the schools benefiting from this major investment. There is \$730,000 being allocated across eight schools in the Cairns electorate for maintenance. In addition to this, over a quarter of a million dollars has been allocated for minor works throughout the 2018-19 year. We know how important education is. We have heard about it and we are seeing the investment. This is where it is hitting the ground.

The fire and emergency services will receive a \$2.5 million investment in Cairns, whilst the environment, the Great Barrier Reef, science and the arts sees investments in the Indigenous and regional arts initiatives, in addition to a \$5 million contribution to the Cairns Performing Arts Centre amongst many other important investments, totalling \$8 million. I am very happy to be part of a government which is prepared to help out the regional councils.

The government is providing over \$900,000 in 2018-19 as part of a \$2.5 million commitment to undertake crocodile population surveying, provide assistance to local government and promote public education as part of a \$5.8 million investment over three years as part of our enhanced crocodile management strategy. The government is providing \$290,000 in the first 12 months as part of a \$1.2 million commitment over four years to provide funding to Queensland based arts and cultural organisations to deliver arts and cultural activities in Cairns. The government is providing another \$260,000 over the same period for additional district domestic and family violence coordinators to provide direction, guidance and training on issues associated with domestic and family violence. We recognise the importance of these investments and we continue to make them.


There will be \$3 million in the next 12 months for a state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatre to meet the future health needs of Far North Queensland. Surgical capacity will expand with three new operating theatres in block D, increasing the number of theatres at Cairns Hospital to 11. Direct admission into the new day surgery unit will improve patient flow and, more importantly, improve the patient's experience.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of protecting vulnerable families, and this budget invests over \$26 million into the Cairns community. This includes funding for out-of-home care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe. In addition to this, we have a four-year commitment to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point. I suspect that is far better than locking people up.

This government understands the importance of the Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries portfolio and will invest over \$14 million into Cairns in the next 12 months to deliver urgently needed reform, improve sustainability of Queensland fisheries, ensure jobs are maintained and deliver a more modern, responsive and consultative approach to fisheries. Included in this figure is \$6.3 million to achieve the government's targets for uptake of best management practices by farmers in pursuit of Great Barrier Reef water quality targets. We are working with farmers, not blaming farmers.

I want to reassure the people of Cairns that this government is committed to the Cairns Shipping Development Project, and that is absolutely well and truly on track. The port is currently awaiting federal approval of their environmental impact statement, and the business case for the project is being finalised. Once that is finalised, the state's funding will be triggered and this will be reflected in future budgets, once all relevant approvals have been obtained.

I take great pleasure in thanking the Premier and the Treasurer and their teams and, more importantly, my fellow ministers and colleagues for providing for the people of Cairns. I will continue to work and be an advocate for what we need in the future.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.29 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2018. In her speech, the Deputy Premier described Labor's budget as a budget of no surprises, and she was right. Queenslanders should not be surprised by this budget because it is reflective of a Labor government that is arrogant, deceptive and incompetent. It is arrogant in the way the Premier and her team treat this House and, in turn, our constituents. This is only our sixth sitting week since the November election and the changes to standing and sessional orders, sitting hours and speech time limits show their arrogance given that they relentlessly criticised us for changes made in the 54th Parliament. Whether it has 78 seats or 47 seats, a majority of seats allows the government of the day to pass whatever it wishes in this place and the executive is riding roughshod over the parliament and the people of Queensland under the Labor government.

Incompetence is evidenced by the inevitable Labor cocktail of more taxes, higher debt and higher unemployment using their own figures. We have a youth jobs crisis, a regional jobs crisis and the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Incompetence is exemplified by the spurious reasons that we have heard from the environment minister, the Deputy Premier and the Premier for bringing in the waste tax after the crisis that arose in a Labor led council in Ipswich.

Deceptive are the four taxes that the government said before the election would raise \$491 million, yet since the election there have been a number of reasons given, as I have said, for the newly announced waste tax and now the budget papers show the total quantum raised by these taxes will be \$2.3 billion over four years. The Treasurer thinks that Queenslanders will wear her barefaced untrue statements that debt is stable and that Labor has repaid debt since coming to office in 2015.

Yesterday we heard lots of quotes selectively chosen by those opposite about people supposedly endorsing the budget. Let's have a look at a couple of people who have also made comments about this budget. Judith Sloan in the *Australian* said, 'Jackie Trad knows as much about economics as I know about astrophysics.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mark Ludlow in the *Australian Financial Review* said, 'Make no mistake, this is a big spending, big taxing and a big borrowing budget by Trad.' Those opposite do want to hear about it from Judith Sloan, but what about one of the true believers, Stephen Conroy? He stated that the new tax on wagering poses immediate and significant—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Logan, if you want to interject you need to be in your seat.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Stephen Conroy, one of the original true believers and a leader of the Labor government in the Senate said about the wagering tax that the new tax poses immediate and significant risks to the already parlous state of racing in Queensland. Labor's deception is due to their unshakeable confidence that their union masters will continue to support them at election time as, thus, the latter and their members will receive favourable policy outcomes masked under the simplistic—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Logan, I have already asked you to return to your seat if you want to interject. I am warning you under standing orders.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Thus, the latter and their members will receive favourable policy outcomes masked under the simplistic 'delivering for workers'. The editorial in the *Australian* on Wednesday was headed 'Unmentionable state of debt', and that is exactly what happened with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who was not even able to mention the word in her 24-minute delivery.

The deception is aided and abetted by other elements in our civil society, many of whom have been appointed or awarded by predecessor governments or this government and thus seamlessly fit in with the agenda. I will acknowledge that it is a clever strategy from Labor, but it comes at the expense of good governance, endangers the financial future of Queenslanders and leads to a crisis of confidence in politics and cynicism about politicians from many day-to-day Queenslanders. No matter how we sugar-coat it, everyone knows that this budget means an increase in the cost of living. Labor is treating Queenslanders like fools.

In her speech, the Treasurer said, 'We understand that Queenslanders are feeling cost-of-living pressures.' That is a bit rich when Labor has been, and will continue to be, the cause of our pain with these increases in the cost of living. As we have heard from numerous members, this budget is slugging Queenslanders with five new taxes, four new fees and charges and a debt bill that is costing Queenslanders \$7,000 per minute. What do we get in return? There is no change in the unemployment rate—in fact a slight increase—no commitment to match the LNP's promise of improving the dangerous M1 ramps, nothing for many rural and regional electorates, no commitment to looking into alternative ways to travel from the Gold Coast to Brisbane, no additional police or Water Police for my electorate or the Gold Coast, no additional funding to fix Eagle Farm racetrack and the issues in racing, no money for the Brisbane Lions stadium at Springfield to give the women's team a permanent home ground—this is a project on which the LNP committed \$15 million at the last state election.

**Mr Dick:** That's not true.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Have a look in the budget papers; it is all there. There is a line item that says that there may be depending on other governments, but there is zero in the four years. There is nothing in the line items there. They have told Queenslanders that this attack on the cost of living is justified because they are delivering a record health and education budget. As we have heard many times before, every health and education budget is a record budget because it is dependent on population growth and inflation. On the Gold Coast the LNP holds the record for the highest increase in a hospital and health service budget, in 2013-14. We are getting breadcrumbs for the high cost that we are paying for this budget. There is nothing to celebrate here.

The Deputy Premier has admitted that Labor has no time line to address the debt that Queensland is racking up under Labor. Michael McKenna wrote in the *Australian*, 'Economist Joe Branigan ... said the government had abandoned its debt reduction strategy.' The *Australian* hit the nail on the head when they likened the word 'debt' to this Labor government to the word 'Voldemort' in the Harry Potter movies. They just refuse to say it. Whatever happened to Labor's debt action plan that they spruiked in the lead-up to the 2015 election? Of course there are concerns that the credit rating agencies will downgrade our credit rating further, just as Labor lost our AAA credit rating in 2009.

In the regional budget papers, the words 'Surfers Paradise' were not mentioned once. This is just pathetic from a Labor government that claims to care about the Gold Coast. No schools in my electorate benefit from this so-called investment in schools. Only the LNP's plan provides benefits for schools in my electorate. It is so disappointing that when the opposition leader made a commitment to provide air conditioning to every state school in Queensland that those opposite just ridiculed the idea. If the opposition leader and I visited Surfers Paradise State School in my electorate and told them that we were funding air-conditioned classrooms for their school, the teachers, students and the school community would be stoked. I thought it was a bit precious.

I want to turn to the comments made by the member for Mansfield last night. She said that there are only seven teaching days in January. I think most Queenslanders would acknowledge that February falls in summer as well. These are the priorities that governments and oppositions can make. That was



a priority that we had at the time and this is a priority we have now. Those opposite are condemned for their criticism of something that the opposition leader announced yesterday. Only the LNP will fund air conditioning for state schools across the state because our students deserve to learn in cool, comfortable classrooms.

On law and order, Labor is well aware of what their cuts to the Surfers Paradise Police Station have meant to my community. I have not stopped talking about it since they stripped the service by a third. Constituents have contacted me concerned that, whilst they are appreciative of our local police, they have noticed that the response times have suffered because of a lack of staff at the station in the heart of the Gold Coast, yet we have seen no commitment for more police officers in Surfers Paradise. There has also been no mention of increasing the number of water police on the Gold Coast. The police minister cannot seriously tell me that cutting the force from 14 to 12 officers is justified given that boat ownership has increased by 4,000 since 2012 and the number of incidents has also risen.

Recently, as part of the *Gold Coast Bulletin's* Golden Age campaign, I called for a mature discussion about innovative ways we can get people to, from and around the Gold Coast. It is time to have that discussion. However, time and time again, we have heard Labor tell us why a second M1, a fast train or any other innovative solution will not work. That is not the kind of attitude we need on the Gold Coast at a time when we are preparing for a new era. We have just hosted the Commonwealth Games and we have welcomed a new Destination Gold Coast CEO. We should not be surprised that Labor's budget is so uninspiring. It is as though Labor thinks the Gold Coast has been given enough because of the Commonwealth Games; but, if anything, this is the time to invest in the Gold Coast.

Under Labor, racing has been battered from pillar to post. Labor will rip \$366 million out of Queensland's wagering and racing industry over the next four years. We were originally told that their wagering tax was going to raise \$30 million a year. At that rate the industry said it would cost 300 jobs. It is now set to raise a whopping \$100 million a year. As I have mentioned, Stephen Conroy has condemned it. In a *Courier-Mail* article by Nathan Exelby, CrownBet CEO Matt Tripp said, 'Queensland would be best served by a rate that was lower than, not twice as high as, Victoria given comparative the size and strength of the Victorian population and racing industry.' Mr Tripp went on to say that this change in the point-of-consumption tax is 'another kick in the guts' to Queensland Racing.

It is not clear how much of the \$71 million in revenue this upcoming year will be re-invested in the racing industry. Trenton Akers in the *Courier-Mail* said, 'Queenslanders will have the most taxed wagering industry in the world after Treasury refused to back down from a 15 per cent point-of-consumption tax.' He goes on to say, 'Ladbrokes told the *Courier-Mail* that it will withdraw support for Queensland racing and focus on Victoria.' The rate in Victoria is eight per cent whilst the rate in New South Wales is 10 per cent. I think that in West Australia, South Australia and Queensland the rate is 15 per cent, and that is considered extreme and detrimental.

I want to turn to the comments made early this morning by a former principal, the member for Mansfield, when she criticised the Newman government of which I was the education minister between 2012-15. I refer to page 1671 of *Hansard*, where the member for Mansfield said—

The Newman government platform and vision for education in Queensland was sacking teachers, teacher aides ...

It was made very clear in Ethics Committee report No. 154 that members should refrain from acting recklessly and making unqualified statements. In that particular report the now Premier, having made the same statements, had to come back to the parliament. The member for Mansfield came in here and said that that was what happened. The true facts are that there were more teachers and teacher aides every year when I was the education minister. We did not sack teachers and teacher aides: we made a change to the rounding-up benefit—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:**—which just meant that schools did not get the bonus teachers that they had in the past.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! I am trying to listen carefully to the contribution of the member for Surfers Paradise.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** The point is that the member for Mansfield is a very new member of this House. There are already question marks about her suitability to be in this House based on the issues we have heard already publically—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member for Surfers Paradise, that is a personal reflection on a member. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your guidance. The member is not here.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Surfers Paradise, you do not reflect on the absence or otherwise of a member. You reflected on the member's suitability to be in this House, so I would ask you to withdraw unreservedly.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I withdraw, but I do want to make the point—


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. Unreservedly, thank you. You can continue your contribution.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** The other thing that the member for Mansfield criticised was the independent public schools experiment. I want to make the point that this was something that was fully part of our unashamed three-pronged plan to have quality teaching, autonomy and discipline.

The example she used was of Mansfield State High School, where she said that the minister—which was me—and the former member for Mansfield pressured the principal to nominate. That is not true. There is no doubt that if you ask the people of Mansfield whether they like Mansfield State High School being an independent public school, they will tell you they love it. In fact, real estate prices have gone up there because people want to get into that school. There were criticisms by the member for Mansfield that it was an ideological progression of ideas from the Newman government. The only ideology came from the new member for Mansfield last night in her reckless contribution. She criticised the principal after the Mansfield State High School joined independent public schools, saying that he was 'chasing greater collegiality, more pay and better packaged conditions', suggesting that these things do not exist in the public sector.

That is very disappointing, and I will tell you why I am so disappointed. I am disappointed because I went to see the member for Mansfield when she was the principal of Glenala and the principal of Cavendish Road, and she never raised these issues with me as minister. I can tell you that no-one would ever have suggested that any principal would find that I was someone with whom one could not raise an issue. The reason I say that is because the member for Mansfield, in her then capacity as the principal of Glenala, did raise with me an issue about students in her school at Glenala who could not get into tertiary courses because they were of Pasifika background and therefore did not fulfil the citizenship requirements. She asked me to do something about that, and I did. I wrote to the then minister for immigration and asked the then minister to speak with New Zealand so we could sort out some of those issues. It was very disappointing to hear that contribution from the member for Mansfield, who has come in here and also bagged the issue of TAFE.

The reason TAFE is a success now is that the LNP made it a success. Everything that we did with TAFE was as part of a national partnership with Labor ministers Chris Bowen, Chris Evans and Craig Emerson. As a result of all of the things that we did, such as turning it into a statutory authority, it is now winning prizes and awards. It is the great success that it now is because under those opposite the utilisation rate was down to about five per cent. Students were embarrassed to go there. I am proud of what we have done with TAFE Queensland. I am proud of the people who work there. I am proud of the fact that it is a place you can go and be proud to have graduated from. Those opposite and the member for Mansfield stand condemned for their words.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.45 pm): I am proud to rise in support of these bills before the House today and the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2018-19 budget, which clearly focuses on our key priorities for advancing Queensland. Through this budget the government is supporting jobs and growing the economy. We are keeping Queenslanders healthy. We are providing a great start for our children. We are protecting the Great Barrier Reef and we are supporting our regions. Importantly, we are keeping our communities safe by not only increasing our police and firefighters but we are also continuing to invest in our broader justice system.

Building on our investments in the criminal justice system in our first term of government, the 2018-19 Palaszczuk government's budget delivers \$5 million to fund 30 staff in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This will see more prosecutors in our courts. We are also extending the Townsville Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court and its associated Mount Isa and Palm Island circuit courts. Tackling domestic and family violence remains one of the state government's highest priorities. That is why \$8.1 million is provided across relevant agencies to expand the Townsville, Mount Isa and Palm Island DV courts to deal with criminal matters as well as civil matters. This will ensure that all who appear before the court have the benefit of the specialist magistrate and access to other support services and builds on learnings from our successful Southport Domestic and Family Violence Court. We have also allocated \$9.1 million to make the successful Murri courts permanent across Queensland and for the expansion of Court Link services to Southport, Mount Isa and Ipswich.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council will receive \$6.9 million to continue researching the effectiveness of sentencing practices in reducing crime, including the current review of the state's child homicide laws. It is vital that our justice agencies keep pace with the changing technological and social landscape. That is why the 2018-19 budget includes \$16.3 million for the Crime and Corruption Commission to enhance its information security platform and deliver digital investigative services. The 2018-19 budget provides funding to help vulnerable members of society and enhance community safety. It includes \$17 million to help implement new Blue Card information technology and reforms, including the No Card, No Start policy. This funding will boost the introduction of an online Blue Card application process and improve processing times. Nothing is more important than the protection and safety of our children, and this money will ensure that Queensland's Blue Card system continues to be one of the country's most effective and comprehensive screening processes.

We have also allocated \$4.63 million to provide for 44 staff at the Director of Child Protection Litigation, which assists with child protection matters in the courts. There is also assistance for community education on cyberbullying, with \$396,000 for the Queensland Family and Child Commission's Out of the Dark Program and Hearing the Voices of Children initiative. Wideranging improvements have been made to Queensland's Victim Assist process, and we have earmarked an additional \$11.4 in financial support to help victims of crime get their lives back on track. Funding of \$910,000 will go to the restorative justice program in Aurukun, which is helping to improve community safety by enabling them to conduct local mediations.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation and an electronic copy of my speech has been made available to Hansard.

Leave granted.

Enhancing justice agencies

Mr Speaker, this Budget is also about enhancing our justice agencies.

We are allocating \$2.5 million to boost staff at the Office of the Public Guardian and Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to meet demands arising from the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to introducing a Human Rights Act for Queensland. That is why we are providing the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland with \$2.5 million to support the Act's administration and operation.

There will also be \$2.5 million for the Office of the Information Commissioner for additional resources and officers to review decisions about access to government agency information.

And there is \$258,000 to assist with the finalisation of the Dreamworld coronial inquest to determine the cause of the 2016 deaths of four people.

Mr Speaker, the safety of our community is our number one priority.

The Palaszczuk Government's 2017-2018 budget delivers for Queensland, committing to investigating crime in all its forms, delivering justice, and supporting victims of crime.

It also builds on our commitment to plan for the future, providing efficient justice and court services for the people of Queensland.

Redcliffe

Mr Speaker, this budget also delivers for my electorate, and the wonderful people of Redcliffe.

Our record spending on health will mean \$3.8 million for new equipment and infrastructure at Redcliffe Hospital's Special Care Nursery, Birth Suite and Paediatric Wards

There's also \$36 million to build the over 600 space carpark at the hospital.

For Redcliffe schools—there is:


- \$400,000 to refurbish the home economics block at Clontarf Beach High;
- \$350,000 for classrooms at Woody Point Special School and;
- \$763,000 for maintenance and upgrade works at eight schools across Redcliffe.

And yes, we will deliver the barge—\$4 million has been set aside to prepare the proposed site at Scarborough for a future barge operation connecting Redcliffe Peninsula directly to Moreton Island.

The budget also continues to provide funding for social housing and support services for people with disabilities and domestic violence services.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget for all Queenslanders, delivering fairness and the services families need and deserve.

I'm proud to be part of this Palaszczuk Government putting Queenslanders first.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the appropriation bills for 2018. This week the Treasurer stood up and demonstrated what we have all come to expect from a Labor government: spend, spend, spend and worry about paying it back at some time in the future. Queenslanders should be worried that this government has moved beyond its election commitments to a point where this state is facing unprecedented levels of debt. Debt is forecast to rise from \$69.5 billion in 2017-18 to a whopping \$83.1 billion in 2021-22. That should be ringing alarm bells for all Queenslanders, because the cold, hard fact is that Queensland is drowning in this debt. When you couple that with an unemployment rate of 6.25 per cent, you have to say that the future is not all that rosy for this state. As the Director of Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions said in his analysis of the budget, we are stealing from our children and their children. It is our future generations who will be saddled with servicing this debt. Whilst the Treasurer and this government might be happy to live in the here and now, I have grave concerns about the ability of this great state to bounce back from this crippling debt.

This is a budget highlighted by five new taxes that will raise a staggering \$2.2 billion. If that is not bad enough, there are four new fees that have come out of nowhere and been lumped on Queenslanders. There is no sugar-coating what this is. Why should the people of North Queensland have to contribute to the waste levy for an issue which exists in the south-east corner of the state? The problem exists because New South Wales is dumping its rubbish at Ipswich—not Townsville or Cairns—so why are we paying? Put simply, this government has broken an election promise to the people of Queensland. Between now and the next election I will be taking every available opportunity to remind people of that fact.

I want to start by looking at my shadow portfolios of natural resources and mines and North Queensland. I note that the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme will receive \$17 million over two years to take action to ensure the regulatory framework for safety and health in the resources sector is contemporary and effective. The health of our mineworkers is paramount, and I have plenty of them in my electorate. I know that this government has been slow to act on the recommendations contained within the black lung report; however, this is an important issue for my electorate and they need to be implemented immediately and monitored closely.

This is a government that does not like to talk about mining, coal or gas, particularly in the south-east corner of the state, but let us look at what the resources sector contributed to state coffers. It was almost \$4 billion in 2017-18. About \$500 million more than estimated in the midyear review, and \$1 billion more than predicted in last year's budget, was collected by the state government in coal royalties alone. This Labor government was elected on a platform of mentioning mining only twice in the entire election policy commitments. The irony is that it is those exact resource industries that have provided the government with the cash it needs to pursue its pet projects rather than reinvest in these profit- and job-creating industries.

Make no mistake: Labor actively undermines and secretly opposes the mining and resources sector to secure Greens preferences in inner-city Brisbane seats like the Treasurer's yet, as QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said this week—

Every Queensland—regardless of where they call home—shares in the wealth of the sector through royalties paid to the Government. These royalties go to schools, hospitals and roads in the south-east of Queensland.

We should not forget that. The LNP is proud to support and stand shoulder to shoulder with our miners in recognition of the contribution they make to this state. 'Coal' is definitely not a dirty word on this side of the House. It will continue to play an integral part in the future of this state for many years to come.

I turn to the Gas Action Plan—a plan that was promised two years ago and still has not been delivered. I note in the budget that \$4.4 million has been allocated over three years to promote the development of the gas sector and bring supply to market through that Gas Action Plan. My question to the minister is: how much longer do we have to wait? I say: get on with the job and deliver the plan that will give certainty to gas producers and consumers throughout the state. As with coal, the government is quick to put its hand out for the royalties but not so quick to put money back into the sector to support its growth.

The Premier is quick to point out the government's record Public Service employment figures, yet when it comes to the department of natural resources and mines the budget papers show a reduction of 11 employees across the department. The Treasurer stood in this place on Tuesday and trumpeted the resource sector and the increased royalties that have flowed into government coffers

from the state's coalmines, yet when it comes to supporting the department that has responsibility for our mines the government has actually cut positions. That highlights for me the lack of clout the relevant minister has around the cabinet table.

On the subject of royalties I want to say that I now have the greater percentage of coalmines in this state located in my electorate. As a consequence, most of the \$3.7 billion in royalties that have flowed into Treasury have come from my electorate. Is it unreasonable for me to expect this government to recognise the contribution my electorate is making to the state economy and fund the critical infrastructure and projects we so desperately need—projects like roads, bridges, dams, the Bowen Marina, Ayr industrial estate and new police stations at Clermont and Nebo, to name a few?

I cannot speak strongly enough on the importance to my rural towns of maintaining and growing the population of these communities. I note in the budget Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities additional funding of \$2½ million over two years to implement and administer the requirements of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017. The object of this act is to implement a 'locals first' program, legislating against the use of a 100 per cent FIFO workforce for the operation of mines located near a regional community. Many of my towns, such as Glenden, Nebo, Clermont and Middlemount, are struggling to maintain services and deliver programs because of population decline. I certainly hope that the funding identified in the budget is put to good use in attracting and retaining workers in our rural and regional communities and is not swallowed up by bureaucratic red tape. This money needs to flow through to the coalface in support of local jobs and training, with a view to attracting workers and their families back to the bush.

I turn to the subject of water. I start by asking the minister: where is the new office of SunWater going to be located? I note that \$6.23 million has been allocated to relocate the office. I certainly hope it will be relocated to the regions, where it makes practical sense given the importance of irrigation water to these areas.

This Labor government has been dragged kicking and screaming to the table to provide funding for the construction of Rookwood Weir. While it is encouraging to see that the state government has finally committed to matching the LNP federal government's \$176 million for Rookwood Weir, that is where it stops. There is no other funding in the budget for dams. Doesn't that highlight the fundamental difference between those opposite and the LNP, who have committed to building the dams that we need throughout Queensland for water security and economic prosperity? Labor does not have a plan for water security—unlike the LNP, which has already committed to delivering the necessary water infrastructure to our state. More dams means more jobs, greater job security and reliable water supplies for decades to come. This Labor government does not understand how critical investment in water infrastructure is for the future of this state. The budget does not allocate the required funding for upgrades or construction of dams that will grow regional Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr Last, adjourned.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.58 pm), by leave: As I advised the House earlier, the keepqldnuclearfree@gmail email account is from a previous work role, before I was elected, and I no longer use it. The existence of this account was known in the previous emails considered by the CCC. One of the emails that was considered by the CCC told people not to send emails to that address. At its hearing of 4 May the PCCC asked the chair of the CCC about these emails. The CCC's response to the question is published on the parliament website. The CCC has advised the committee that in its previous investigation it considered whether this account required investigation and decided that it did not.

The 14 emails identified have been saved on the government server in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial guidelines on this matter. The fact that a right-to-information application from the opposition was able to obtain these documents proves that they are stored and available, like any other public record. I table the RTI in its entirety.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 7 June 2018, from Acting Director, RTI, Privacy and Complaints Management, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Ms Helen Adcock, to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Coulson, regarding an RTI access application decision [[908](#)].

These emails were published on the Transport and Main Roads website last week. For completeness, and to avoid selective quoting by the opposition, I table a copy of those emails released for the benefit of members of the House.

The emails include email newsletter subscriptions from Pedal Brisbane, Solar Citizens and Mackay Conservation Group; emails to government accounts that are on public servers; copies of tweets; and ETU press releases, which, by definition, are not secret.

I am committed to complying with the ministerial guidelines and made these documents available for the RTI like any other public document. For the sake of completeness, I had an outlook.com email account that I used for my 2014 and 2015 election campaign. The existence of this account was clear in the documents considered in the CCC investigation. If the LNP has any matters of substance to raise, it should do so with the CCC as it has done previously.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**


### **REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **BETTING TAX BILL**

#### **Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 1726, on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.00 pm), continuing: Unbelievably, the federal government has \$3 billion of funding on the table for dams, but Annastacia Palaszczuk is not interested in water security.

Moving on to natural resources, isn't it ironic that a month after the vegetation management bill was debated in this House the government suddenly announces funding of \$4 million over two years to establish a scientific program to support an enhanced Statewide Landcover and Trees Study, or SLATS, to identify and report on the condition and extent of regrowth vegetation and inform habitat conservation? Wouldn't that have been handy to have during the recent debate because, as we highlighted, the science used by the minister in his contribution was out of date and flawed in that it failed to measure regrowth? That is too late for our farmers of course, but nevertheless I am sure all of our farmers along with industry bodies such as AgForce and QFF will be eagerly awaiting the next report.

I noted with interest when going through the budget documents that the government has made an art form of reannouncing projects across the state. In my electorate the Bruce Highway Haughton River Bridge project is a good example. How many more times will we see this project announced as a major contribution in a budget speech? This is not new. It has been on the agenda for years and local residents are becoming sick of the constant media spin by this government regarding this project. All I can say is: get on with the project. The construction of a new police station at Bowen is another example. I was in Bowen last week and police officers and staff have already moved in and are working from the station, so never mind announcing that the government is going to build it. It has been built and completed.

The Treasurer is quick to trumpet Cross River Rail and the importance of roads in the south-east of the state, but there are still highways and major arterials in the electorate of Burdekin which are unsealed. That is right: road trains are transporting produce, livestock and resources on unsealed roads. Whilst I welcome the announcement that funding has been allocated to seal sections of the Bowen Developmental Road and Clermont Alpha Road, I will continue to fight to have the remaining sections sealed as a priority given their strategic importance to the region.

What do I see as priorities going forward for my electorate of Burdekin? A new police station at Clermont; a new joint police station and ambulance centre for Nebo; the construction of a food-processing plant at Bowen; funding for the sealing of the May Downs Road and further pavement

work for the Bowen Developmental Road and Clermont Alpha Road; construction of the Phillips Creek high-level bridge on Dysart Moranbah Road; upgrade of the Bowen sports precinct; the Bowen marina and construction of the superyacht service centre at Bowen; funding for the upgrade of the Peak Downs Highway between Moranbah and the Gregory Developmental Road; and funding for the development of industrial land at Ayr. There are local business owners in Ayr who are ready and willing to construct business premises on this particular land, yet it is still being held up by government red tape. We need that development and we need the jobs. How much longer do we have to wait?

I also want to acknowledge the funding made available for the construction of the Moranbah Youth and Community Centre which will be delivered in partnership with BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Coal Operations and a multipurpose hall at the Moranbah State High School. This hall is something that I have been fighting for for some time and I know the school community will be relieved that it finally has a building where it can hold school assemblies and functions out of the weather. I note funding of \$640,000 has been allocated for the Bowen Neighbourhood Centre. I want to take this opportunity to highlight the excellent work that the centre performs in the Bowen community and the untiring efforts of the staff in that centre to make a difference in Bowen and the surrounding areas. This is another project that I have been fighting for, and it will be welcome news for the staff who have persisted for so long in working in unsuitable and cramped conditions.

Turning to the broader North Queensland area and the feedback from stakeholders like councils, advocacy bodies and businesses, Mayor Bob Manning in Cairns says that the budget was underwhelming and he was disappointed that it was only a small percentage of total funding needed for the Smithfield bypass. As he said—

We're not running ahead of the game, we're struggling to keep up with the game.

There is only a mention of a global tourism hub as opposed to a commitment to deliver that. The Advance Cairns chief executive says that there does not appear to be any major infrastructure funding for the region other than reiterating previous budget commitments. There is no new funding for croc management and no budget line for dredging of the Trinity Inlet which is supposed to start next year. In November last year the Premier visited Cairns State High School and pledged \$11 million to build a new multipurpose hall, yet in the budget there is only an allocation of \$900,000 for refurbished classrooms and of course no funding for Nullinga Dam.

Moving on to Townsville, Townsville Enterprise says that there is nothing to cut energy costs and nothing to address unemployment. It highlighted that 11,000 people are still looking for jobs in Townsville. There is nothing on the Mount Isa rail—a vital component of the Townsville eastern access corridor. There is nothing for the entertainment and exhibition centre. These are words from Townsville Enterprise's Chief Executive, Trish O'Callaghan. There is nothing for the Drive It NQ facility, the Townsville concert hall or the Wallaman Falls ecotourism plan. There is nothing for the Australian tropical biosecurity network. The north has been short-changed because these are priority projects that have been highlighted year after year after year and still they remain undelivered.

The Treasurer has clearly shown in this budget that she is incapable of delivering a sustainable, long-term plan for Queensland and an ability to create jobs. Let us contrast that with the LNP, which is committed to getting Queensland back on track. The Leader of the Opposition clearly outlined a plan going forward that will reduce unemployment, manage debt and provide much needed relief to residents in North Queensland in terms of providing retail competition in the electricity sector. Business owners are looking to government to deliver the big-ticket items—the major projects—which would drive investment and boost consumer confidence. Delivering a budget with a forecast debt of \$83 billion and an unemployment rate across the state above six per cent does nothing to inspire confidence. Is it any wonder Queenslanders are bitterly disappointed with this budget? The LNP has a plan to deliver the health, the education services and the infrastructure to grow our regional and rural communities. We have a plan to reduce spiralling electricity costs and cost-of-living expenses because, at the end of the day, unlike those opposite, we are a party for all of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.08 pm): I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's 2018-19 Health budget. I am proud that it delivers a record investment in health services across the state for the five million Queenslanders who call our great state home. I am proud that it provides for regional and rural Queenslanders in every corner of the state, some of whom live closer to other countries than to a tertiary hospital, so I was pretty surprised to hear what makes the Leader of the Opposition proud. She said she was proud of the former LNP government's record on Health.

I assume that means she is proud of sacking thousands of nurses and midwives; proud of spending \$77 million on advertising for a failed wait time gimmick, ripping \$77 million out of actual patient care for glossy TV ads; and proud of leaving over 100,000 Queenslanders languishing on the specialist outpatient list. That is the LNP's waiting list for the waiting list. She is very proud of herself today—proud of threatening to hold our hospital and health services to ransom for their funding and proud to rip more money out of our public hospitals to give to private companies—its donors—even though many Queenslanders do not have access to a private hospital.

Meanwhile, the member for Everton wants to talk about preventative health. This man was part of the LNP government that completely gutted public health units across the state, a government that cut 177 Queensland Health staff working in preventative health, many in our regions. The LNP government completely dismantled Queensland's public and preventative health service and did nothing to tackle obesity and the growing rate of chronic disease in Queensland. The LNP government slashed \$3.8 million in funding from 18 non-government organisations providing vital health promotion and prevention projects, including the Australian Red Cross. I would not be proud of that record and I would not be proud of that plan.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered a record budget of over \$18 billion that focuses on expanding specialist outpatient services, investing in preventative health and strengthening front-line services.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation. An electronic copy of my speech has been made available to Hansard.

Leave granted.

That's why more than \$14.7 billion will go directly to Queensland's 16 hospital and health services, and other providers of health care to public patients, meaning local services are properly funded.

We'll be spending close to a billion dollars—\$985.5 million on priority capital projects including hospitals and supporting infrastructure, mental health services and information technology. Over the next year, we will purchase new diagnostic machines, upgrade or redevelop hospitals, and expand medical units across the state. We are ensuring all Queenslanders have access to high quality, safe and efficient health services as close to home as possible.

Our capital investment includes an additional \$50 million for the Health Technology Replacement program, which will make sure our facilities are equipped with the latest and most efficient medical technology.

There's \$5 million over two years, in partnership with the Cancer Council Queensland, to refurbish the accommodation lodges for regional cancer patients in Townsville, Toowoomba and Herston Brisbane. And the budget includes \$2.5 million continuation of funding to support bariatric trials.

We'll also be progressing important works on major redevelopments like the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment, the new \$90 million Roma Hospital, and the \$44 million Hervey Bay Emergency Department redevelopment.

As well as completing works on three new Step Up Step Down adult mental health facilities in Mackay, Bundaberg and Gladstone.

Mr Speaker, the 2018-19 State Budget is the highest on record, growing by \$729.3 million to deliver more health services to more Queenslanders than ever before.

Mr Speaker, we are seeing unprecedented demand for public health services right across the state, due to a growing and aging population, the federal governments cuts to Medicare and a shift away from private health insurance.

Our extra funding will ensure our hospitals and health services continue their strong performance in the face of significant growth in demand.

Additionally, the detailed business cases will be finalised for the redevelopments of Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals under this government's Building Better Hospitals program, to meet rising demand for health services in South-East Queensland.

And unlike those opposite we won't play games with the books blowing out one waiting list just to make another look smaller. That's why we are investing an additional \$154 million over two years to extend the Specialist Outpatient Strategy.

The extra funding will reduce the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for an appointment. The now \$515 million program is ensuring patients have access to safe, quality health care when and where they need it.

Then there's our \$10 million investment to deliver the Winter Bed Strategy. We are helping our hardworking doctors and nurses keep up with demand during the busy flu season. As part of the strategy, we will expand the bed capacity for South-East Queensland hospitals by around 10,000 bed days during the winter period, equating to approximately 90 beds.

Mr Speaker, our Government is delivering on our election commitments.

Turning to my electorate of Murrumba, this budget also delivers the commitments I made at the recent election and as well as new investments to deal with population growth.

This year's state budget locks in \$60 million for a new high school in Mango Hill.



In it we have delivered funding to build a new building with 6 learning areas and 2 specialist areas at Murrumba State Secondary College.

To cater for student growth we will build 16 learning areas at Griffin SS and 8 additional learning areas in an existing building at Mango Hill SS.

We will also spend \$250,000 to refurbish Science Labs & preparation room at Dakabin SHS.

In addition, \$579 000 will be set aside for maintenance and minor works at schools across Murrumba.

The budget includes the new \$30 million Dakabin Station: A safer and more accessible station that will allow all residents to travel safely, including seniors, those with prams and luggage and those with accessibility needs.

It will include a new footbridge with lifts, raising the height of the platforms, adding hearing aid loops, and building more parking—supporting 250 local jobs during construction.

Artist's impressions of the accessibility options for the new station are out for consultation now.

There's great news in the budget for local boaties who use the Dohles Rocks Road boat ramp at Griffin.

The boat ramp will be upgraded to four lanes with a new floating walkway, at a total cost of \$1 million.

And just outside Murrumba the Palaszczuk Government will fix the bottleneck at the Petrie roundabout where Anzac Avenue, Dayboro Road and Gympie Road meet by replacing the roundabout with a T-intersection. This \$30 million project is great news for locals and anyone who plans to go to the new university.

Also for roads the budget includes funding to commence design of widening and providing three through lanes at the approaches of Morris Road and Deception Bay Road at Rothwell Road Intersection.

I'm pleased to be delivering the commitments I made to Murrumba residents last year.

And as Health Minister I'm pleased this health budget that addresses growing demand for public health services across the state. It focuses on helping Queenslanders improve their lifestyles through prevention and ensuring children get the best start in life. And it highlights the importance of innovative, modern technology that will advance our facilities so they can continue to provide high quality health services.

We promised more support for our health system. This budget will show that's exactly what we're delivering.



**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.10 pm): I would like to go through some of the elements of the budget that relate to my electorate and for which I am grateful. Some of those elements relate to drought relief, much of which was procured by the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce in the last parliament. There are elements in the budget such as education support, stamp duty, exemption for family transfers, and fodder and transport subsidies that relate to the drought. Some large figure sums were procured and have been rolled over. Much of that funding relates to the announcements in this budget.

The western roads package is a large parcel of money that was procured by the KAP in the last parliament. There is a further \$5 million in funding for that. Members in this House who represent the western areas know what roads mean to the economies of their electorates. I am referring not just to the legacy that is left after the construction period but the jobs and the economic stimulus that these projects provide during the construction phase.

The Building our Regions and Works for Queensland programs have been very welcome in the western areas. Although the councils are very appreciative of those programs, I sound a word of warning that some of these towns are being kept alive by these programs. They are nice sugar hits, but they do not sustain those towns for the long term. While that money is rolling out the towns look good. The government needs to think about the industries that are going to remain in those towns to make them sustainable so that these programs are not just sugar hits.

The funding for the Hann Highway is still rolling out. Again, that is something that the KAP fought very hard for in the last parliament. That is a vital transport link. It is an inland highway that every member of this House should be aware of. It connects the billion-dollar banana industry in Queensland with the Melbourne and Sydney markets. If those trucks that transport those bananas can go off the Pacific Highway and not go through the thoroughfares along the coast but instead take that inland route, they will save 13 hours of burning diesel. By doing that, we get a cheaper product and the industry has more security. As well, people in Western Queensland will get a nice inland road—the Hann Highway—that will flood-proof connectivity to the far north. We are still waiting for the finalisation of funding from the federal government, but there has been good funding for that road from the state. There is an additional \$14.8 million for the Gregory Developmental Road out of that \$40 million. Again, that was procured by my colleague the member for Hill. That has been a very welcome contribution to that part of the region.

In terms of disappointments in the budget in relation to our regions, there is still no dialysis machine in Charters Towers. That shows that strong disparity between the service levels for those who live on the coast or in metropolitan areas and someone who lives a couple of hundred kilometres inland. That is very disappointing. Often people move, which diminishes the numbers of people requiring such a service, or what the hospital boards regard as demand for that service. Quite often, people are forced to leave their homes and live in Townsville for the rest of their lives because they do not have that service available to them in Charters Towers.

The budget did not expand the flight subsidies to places such as Normanton. If people cannot fly out from that part of Queensland where I live, they have a 20- or even 25-hour drive to get to Brisbane to receive essential services, such as health checks. Flights mean everything to the people of my area. They would have liked to have seen in the budget an expansion of the flight subsidy to Normanton.

In terms of funding for the agricultural pilot project in Cloncurry as a precursor to water storage development, in the western regions there have been wonderful efforts by councils and some smaller cooperatives on water development. They are doing it all themselves. In the past, the government used to do all the heavy lifting for these groups and these councils. These poor little councils are trying their best. They have put in a lot of hard work. Unfortunately, in that regard there was no funding for Cloncurry.

There is about 13 kilometres of dirt on the Cloncurry-Duchess Road, which goes for about 100 kilometres. That road connects Cloncurry to the highway. It also connects the biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere, the Incitec Pivot fertiliser plant, to the highway. For as long as I have been in this parliament I have been calling for that 13 kilometres of dirt road to be sealed with funding from sources such as Royalties for the Regions. There are 900 people employed by that biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere. None of them live in Cloncurry or Mount Isa; they all live in Townsville or Brisbane. We cannot seal that road. I think it reflects very poorly on the government that that section of road has not been sealed. There is no funding in this budget for the Big Rocks Weir in Charters Towers or the Torrens Creek-Aramac Road. They are vital infrastructure projects that would help rebuild industry in that outback area.

Unfortunately, this budget has been devised in the absence of any consideration of the real drivers in the economy and how those drivers can be stimulated. If the government does not have a good sense of that, it is not going to apply the pressure in the right areas. My area is a very industry-rich area. There is the powerhouse of mining in the north-west minerals province coupled with a substantial proportion of the grazing industry. Not many people live in those areas for leisure; they live there to work and build an industry. The people of those areas have a real appreciation of those industry enablers and how to build them.

My message to the government is that it must stop indulging in infrastructure of convenience and instead focus on infrastructure that is industry enabling. We hear from the government members that the economy is good and that they are very excited. We cannot mess around. We cannot be complacent. When times are good, the government has to invest in the future. That means not building football stadiums, pleasure domes in the south-east and more traffic tunnels, but rebuilding the Hann Highway so that industries in the western region are strong, viable and sustainable. It is great to build pleasure domes and expand the public transport network in Brisbane—that is terrific—but the government should do that once it fixes fundamental infrastructure. Unfortunately, out in my area, that fundamental infrastructure is falling apart.

I want to spend a fair bit of time talking about rail services. During the election campaign I was very disappointed to hear the government say that it was going to spend another \$50 million on the rail. That is going to take the whole situation backwards. As I have explained many times in this House, the rail in my area is the only piece of rail track in Queensland, apart from a bit from Brisbane to Oakey, that is not subsidised by the taxpayer. That means that any maintenance that is announced for that line goes straight back on the cost for the users.

At the moment, the big mines in my area are putting ore on the roads. People are literally dying on our roads. There are more trucks on the roads. We do not get money when the ore goes in the trucks that travel on the road; we get money when the ore goes on the rail because the taxpayers still own the railway line. The government is using this rail like an ATM. The price has gone up so much that people are putting material in trucks to go by road, where we earn no money. That means that whoever is left to put their goods on the rail gets the added benefit—and I say that sarcastically—of paying more, because other people have exited from transporting their goods by rail. The maintenance cost then falls on those who are left using the rail line. It is a self-generating problem.

During the election campaign the announcement was made that the government is going to spend another \$50 million on the line. That shows a lack of understanding of the real problem. The government would not have to spend a lot of time talking to the main users of that rail to realise that. That is a huge problem. That needs to be fixed. Everyone refers to the QCA and says, 'They have guided this.' That is just an excuse. The taxpayers of Queensland own that line, not the QCA. If the QCA is not doing its job, or if the process is not working, then it should be unpacked and restarted. It is falling apart at the seams. We are seeing the evidence of that in the Bowen Basin as well with these rail agreements. This corporatisation or privatisation of the rail is a failed experiment. This budget fails to recognise that and that is a real issue.

Members from Townsville and everyone else in North Queensland need to recognise that rail is fundamental to the viability of the north-west minerals province, which pumps at the very least \$300 million a year in royalties into the state economy, but that money that will not keep coming if things like the rail are not fixed. We talk about the port of Townsville and now everyone is talking about the rail line to Tenant Creek. Because the pricing structure is not being dealt with on the Townsville line, now we are saying that perhaps we should go to Tenant Creek. I say again that it is absolutely fundamental that these things are taken care of in the budget, but they have been overlooked, which is a real problem.

The budget has not dealt with the impact of energy. The north-west minerals province is not connected to the national electricity grid. Energy is a great enabler for the economy. In the north-west, we have had some serious problems because we are disconnected. We are 100 per cent gas fired. We have become a global laughing-stock because of the way that gas has been handled in this state, not just by this government but also by previous governments. There was no reserve and we have gone to the world parity price in gas.

The long and short of it is that in Mount Isa industrial users of energy have faced 300 per cent to 400 per cent increases over the past five to 10 years. If 30 per cent to 40 per cent of a mine's operating costs are energy and the cost of that energy is increased by 300 per cent to 400 per cent, while some mines might hold on and keep jobs I can guarantee that a lot of mines will close. I reiterate that when we talk about jobs a growing and very large percentage of people employed in the north-west are from Brisbane and Townsville. When I am talking about trying to get help to fix the industry in my electorate, I am trying to help Townsville and Brisbane people too, because the big benefit of the mines is the jobs and those jobs are going to people who live in Townsville and Brisbane. We are all in this together. I am not just being parochial.

For the past 10 years we have been talking about a transmission line to connect the north-west minerals province to the NEM. There are pros and cons with that. I have had some good discussions with the minister on the issue. These things need to be vigorously pursued. It is very disappointing to see that the budget has no allocation for a feasibility study or anything to show that the government is driving towards a solution, rather than sitting back idly waiting for industry or others to come up with an answer. I do recognise that the minister is listening on that issue.


Water development is a huge opportunity in the north-west. I do not want to keep coming down here, year after year, asking for more money to prop up towns. In the north-west we can look after ourselves to a great extent if we are allowed to affordably access the water from the rivers that run past us. Each year, arguably three million to six million megalitres runs down the Flinders River system, for example. That is not even including the great Einasleigh and Gilbert rivers, which have far greater runoff. From the Flinders, each year probably only about one per cent is taken. About 30 per cent is taken from the Murray-Darling River. For years, people have been begging to access that water. If we can take water from river systems, industries and towns will be more viable. There would be no requirement for me to come here and ask for money to build school halls in Julia Creek, for example, to keep people employed, because we would have industry there. However, we do not have access to that water.

The government has collected \$10 million in revenue off water tenders and people are paying for water that no-one has used yet. Everyone loves playing around, saying that we need to price the water and we need a market for it, but the biggest problem is that no-one is taking the water and using it, although many people have been trying. Councils, co-ops and private individuals are trying hard to get things done on their own. In the past governments got their hands dirty. They went in aggressively and got things going and we have enjoyed the benefits of that in perpetuity.

The government needs to get their hands dirty. In Charters Towers, Big Rocks Weir needs to be progressed to secure the water supply for that town. There is the HI Corporation development in Hughenden, the Richmond irrigation scheme that is now on the books and the Cloncurry irrigation scheme. Those are all terrific industry-building assets that the government should be investing in. That is where money should go; not to a sports stadium in the city. That is not where we need to be right now. We need to be developing industry-enabling infrastructure.

Another issue that I want to bring up in relation to the budget papers is the contribution towards blue cards. That issue comes up all the time in the parliament and it makes me really angry. Last time I checked, about \$16 million to \$18 million goes to social services in Mount Isa to try to fix social problems. I am not saying they are totally caused by this, but a big problem is that people cannot get jobs because of the blue card. I have brought up this issue in the parliament time after time. If the government talked to the local people and fixed that problem, it would remove what is a big budget item for the government every year. If just a bit of courage was shown on the issue, we could really help people and help the budget.

In this budget there are some things that we are grateful for. I will always say thanks to the government of the day for the things that come into the electorate. Sadly, there has been a big diversion from industry-enabling infrastructure and too many bells and whistles to build infrastructure of convenience, which buys votes but is not healthy for our economy and, in the long-term, is not sustainable.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.25 pm): Today in the House I rise proudly to support the 2018-19 Palaszczuk government budget. It is a great budget for Queensland and it is a great budget for Redlanders. I promised to be a strong voice for our community, to listen, to work hard and to fight for the needs of our growing region. The people of Redlands put their trust in me and our Labor team to deliver for our community and I am pleased to say that we are doing just that. In my maiden speech I said that a measure of my success in this place would be determined by the legacy ultimately left behind, so I am proud to share what the budget means for Redlanders and what it is positioning us for into the future.

In terms of infrastructure and roads, we are commencing the planning phase to ensure we deliver the right road solutions to address our growing pains, with the \$500,000 Victoria Point bypass feasibility study. This looks to support our growing residential community and opportunities to develop our businesses. We are also delivering on the Anita Street intersection with Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, which was a project dumped by the LNP back in 2012. That work builds on our commitment to improving roads in the Redlands, such as the recently completed Giles Road intersection with Cleveland-Redland Bay Road.

We will be delivering a new Victoria Point central bus station to increase the capacity of our network, with sheltered bus platforms and a waiting area, improved lighting and security cameras with 24-hour video recording. We do not have access to train stations, so the bus terminal will be really transformative for our area. It will have bicycle storage, which we do not currently have, and bus driver facilities. For my growing community, not only will that mean greater public transport capacity but it will also provide us with safe and secure transport and active transport to get people onto bikes and using the public system.

The Eastern Transitway is also important for Redlands, although outside of our electorate. We know that every day 70 per cent of our employed residents leave the city for work. The Eastern Transitway will upgrade major intersections on that journey to town, getting our community to work quicker and home to their families sooner.

For our island communities, we are also delivering in spades with much needed jetty upgrades on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra islands. That is on top of the work that we are currently doing at the foreshore of Macleay Island and the recent upgrades that I had the pleasure of opening with the Assistant Treasurer last year at Redland Bay, as well as the Coochiemudlo and Victoria Point jetty upgrades.

This budget is about supporting success for all Queenslanders through jobs and economic growth. It is about how we transition our state in a complex global economy. I am proud to be part of a government that has and continues to invest in our people through programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work. It invests in Redlands organisations such as Running Wild, which is delivering that amazing program for our community. The budget will continue to grow our businesses. The Advance Queensland agenda supports local businesses in the Redlands, such as BOP Industries, a business founded by the amazing Scott Millar, who graduated only last year from Sheldon College. It

is an entrepreneurial business started by a dynamic young man. The 3D hologram technologies business has benefitted from our government's Advance Queensland agenda. Recently Scott was selected to represent Redlands at the Myriad Festival.

Our government is also investing in renewables. This is great for our region as well. There is much innovation occurring as a result of that focused agenda. In Redlands we are benefitting with international investment and collaboration with the government and QUT in this space. We are truly positioning and delivering in a knowledge based economy. This budget will continue to provide those who employ apprentices and trainees with payroll tax rebates. I know that for Redlands where one of our key employment industries is the construction sector, these incentives deliver.

Everyone knows our Queensland environments are spectacular. I am a little biased, but I think Redlands is one of the best in Queensland. It is an environment of pristine wetlands, beaches and sunny natural environments. We are positioning our region to capitalise on our natural assets. In this budget we have committed to delivering an artificial reef dive site in Moreton Bay—an underwater playground that will celebrate cultural heritage and our Quandamooka coast and attract tourism to our region.

We have committed to celebrating the magnificent Migaloo and the Queensland whale migration experience that runs down our coastline with a commitment to an immersive whale-watching interpretive centre. There is so much happening up and down the Redlands coast. The future is exciting for our region. This budget really is delivering.

It is only a Labor government that will invest in supporting our communities, our organisations, our hospitals, our health services and our front-line police and ambulance personnel. In Redlands we are set to receive two new Queensland Police vessels that will increase the capacity and speed of response to our remote and complex islands. We promised to improve our Redland Hospital. The emergency department is being upgraded with additional beds and we are enhancing the birthing suite facilities.

We have an amazing domestic violence shelter in the Redlands. The team at Maybanke are incredible. Valda, we love what you do out there. In this budget Maybanke will receive \$1.95 million in funding over the next five years that will ensure we are delivering the support services our families need for the scourge that is domestic and family violence in our communities. I am proud to be part of this Labor government that is ensuring that the Redlands continues to have a thumping and vibrant community heart and the vital services that we need.

Finally, I want to talk about education. Our children are our future as members well know. A world-class education invests in the next generation. This budget delivers on education. It delivers for our children. It delivers for our families. It delivers on ensuring the future is prosperous for all Queenslanders.

A great education is something every child deserves. It has been a privilege as the member for Redlands to meet with Redlands principals, teachers, parents and students over many months to understand the opportunities and challenges that exist in our schools context. Our government knows that facilities are important. The built environment and design that supports pedagogical delivery is key to a great education. We are delivering upgrades across our schools from building refurbishments through to solar panel installation.

I am particularly excited that our Russell Island State School, which is in a remote community setting, is set to receive over \$1 million in funding for building refurbishments. They are complex and remote communities and Principal Barrett, of Russell Island State School, like Principal Seawright on Macleay Island, are doing amazing work in those communities.

We have increased our teachers by over 10 per cent and we are employing an additional 248 teacher aides. I know how important teacher aides are in our school. I recently had the opportunity to talk with many of our teaching support staff in the Redlands. I know how incredible the work they are doing is. I thank them for the amazing work they do with our young people.

I will finish where I started. I want my Redlands community to know that I will continue to be tenacious and unwavering in delivering for Redlanders. This budget delivers and positions my Redlands community for a prosperous future. I know that there is still much more to do. I will continue to work hard every day on behalf of my amazing community. I commend the bills to the House.



**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. I commend the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the LNP for their budget reply speeches in this House. The Labor government's Treasurer spoke for 24 minutes delivering Labor's debt, taxes and unemployment—although the topic of debt did not receive any specific reference, let alone any indication of how it would be managed. I think 24 minutes is probably the parliament's record shortest budget speech from a Treasurer in recent times. This Labor budget delivers \$2.25 billion of taxes and fees—five new taxes worth \$2.2 billion. It would seem that Labor's election costings some seven months ago whereby they estimated \$491 million would be raised by the four new taxes were grossly underestimated.

In this budget we have a waste tax, a wagering tax on an industry that is already suffering and on its knees, a land tax, a property investors tax and a car stamp duty increase. There are four new fees on veterinarians, home stay regional, labour hire companies and hazard perception. These are all capped off with a higher unemployment rate of 6.25 per cent. I note that the youth unemployment rate in the outback is at an unprecedented 54 per cent. It is extremely disappointing that this government has not acted on that youth unemployment rate. Unlike Labor, the opposition leader has a real plan—a positive plan for Queenslanders to bust congestion, provide cheaper electricity, ensure better health and education services, deliver water security and a guarantee of no new taxes.

I wish to turn to matters of the local government portfolio—an area that is indeed very close to my heart. Queensland's largest local government, the Brisbane City Council, has also brought down a budget. What a contrast it is to this state budget when it comes to debt management. Brisbane City Council has delivered a budget with a lower debt impact on ratepayers. Compare that to the \$83 billion debt bomb from the state Labor government. Labor's debt bomb is costing the Queensland economy \$10 million a day, or \$420,000 an hour, or more than \$7,000 per minute.

Not only is there the debt to pay back—something that Labor seems to have abandoned—but the growing interest bill diverts funds away from necessary infrastructure projects like hospitals and roads. To put this debt in perspective, the quantum of interest payments in one year on this debt equates to \$10 million a day. That could fund the building of 3,650 kilometres of road. That is a distance that is slightly longer than the direct distance from Brisbane to Perth. That is the length of road—Brisbane to Perth—that cannot be built every year in Queensland because taxpayers' money has to be paid in interest repayments on the debt.

There are over 550 hardworking mayors and councillors who will be watching this state budget very carefully. There is already a question about the cut of \$50 million, based on the adjusted budget for 2017-18 compared with the 2018-19 budget. The state government needs to detail to local government why there is this \$50 million funding reduction in the 2018-19 local government SDS papers.

We hear the rhetoric from those opposite about the Great Barrier Reef. The Treasurer said, 'We must clean up the water running into the reef.' Who manages that waste water, the sewage treatment plants in the reef catchment and the urban water quality? It is local councils. If we want to look after the reef water quality, we have to look after the reef councils. It is simple. There is no funding for those reef councils through the Reef 2050 Plan implementation seed funding. Councils already invest their own \$228 million in actions that directly benefit the reef.

I now want to turn to the waste levy, which was originally touted by the Labor government as a way to deal with interstate dumping at Ipswich. From the lack of enforcement, this is now going to cost Queensland businesses and their customers \$1.3 billion over the next four years. This is what Shane Rodgers of the Australian Industry Group had to say about the waste tax—

... a new tax on business in the state dressed up as an environmental initiative.

In terms of the waste tax, this will be implemented through local councils, but support from both councils and ratepayers will disappear if a percentage of the money is hived off for government coffers and not applied to waste management measures. Councillor Mark Jamieson, President of the LGAQ, said in relation to the waste tax—

Councils will also be disappointed that more than 30 percent of the revenue generated by the new waste levy will be channelled into general revenue.

I think the LGAQ are being very hopeful about the figure of 30 per cent.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms LEAHY:** I take the interjection from the member for Broadwater. I think in turn it will be much higher in the future and there will be local governments that will bear the brunt of the ratepayer hostility for this government's waste tax.

Councillor Jamieson went on to say—

On this we are on the side of local communities, who have said loud and clear that they want to see the waste levy money drive innovation not go back into general Treasury coffers.

I keep a bit of a watching brief in relation to two words in the Treasurer's budget speech, and I have been doing that for the last four years. Those two words are 'agricultural profitability'. In the first Palaszczuk government, agriculture did not rate a mention in the Treasurer's speech. In 2016, there was an acknowledgement of agriculture. In 2017, there was a mention of agricultural assets. In 2018, agriculture was punted from the speech. Agriculture did not rate one mention in the Treasurer's speech, and it just goes to show how much this Labor government hates farmers. That is what happens when you speak for 24 minutes: you miss out those very important industries like agriculture. This is what Mike Guerin, AgForce CEO, said about this budget. He said—

Agriculture is one of the pillars of the Queensland's economy and the fastest growing industry in Australia, but has been largely forgotten in the State Budget focused more on big spending infrastructure initiatives in the south-east corner.

True to form, this Labor government has showered taxpayers' money on their greenie mates at the Australian Conservation Council, with \$1.8 million in public funding, but it has provided nothing to compensate farmers who have been left reeling from the unfair and devastating vegetation management laws.

This Labor government talks about a \$17 billion operating budget for Queensland Health, but it cannot find one cent to keep the IDEAS van on the road. The state-of-the-art IDEAS van visits places like Dalby, Charleville, Mitchell, Roma, Quilpie, Cunnamulla and, I might add, a number of communities in Labor electorates such as Townsville, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Maryborough.

**Mr Boyce:** And Bundaberg.

**Ms LEAHY:** And Bundaberg. This Labor government cannot find one cent in that billion dollar Health budget to continue the state-of-the-art ophthalmology services that prevent blindness for hundreds of people who now have to travel thousands of kilometres for treatment. The simple fact is that people in my region will go blind and diabetes will increase in regional areas because the state Labor government will not step up with their billion dollar Health budget and provide some funding to the IDEAS van. It is extremely disappointing for those people.

An issue that affects pretty much everyone in my electorate is the ever-increasing cost of electricity. This issue impacts right across the state, and the Palaszczuk Labor government has not addressed the increasing cost in regional areas for business, households, pensioners or, for that matter, local government who are also considerable consumers of electricity. We know from the Hugh Grant report that 50 per cent of an electricity bill is network costs and 47 per cent of that 50 per cent goes directly to the state Labor government. Put simply, this is taken as tax. That is about \$470 a year that is taken from a typical family.

I received a very passionate email from constituents I know well—Emily and Rodney Geiger of the Eulo General Store. It sums up how they feel about Labor's electricity pricing and taxes. This is what Emily said—

Good afternoon Ann

I wanted to forward you this copy of our power bill which is from 23rd November 2017 to 23rd February 2018 with a total of \$8129.89. Given that this is the most quiet period for our shop, this bill is very difficult for me to pay. I made a point of finding our account for the same period last year. We used more power and paid less for it. As you can see I pay \$200 a week to try to reduce our bill but this is not a drop in the ocean of \$8000.

Electricity prices are just another kick in the guts for small businesses in rural areas. We are currently struggling alongside our local graziers due to the ongoing drought as well as losing a number of people from our community to foreign property investment and property sales for carbon credits. Not to mention the difficulties and expenses involved with freight, which I have discussed previously with you.

We currently have our business for sale and if it does not sell by June, we will be closing the door. This will be sad for the people that do support our business but we simply cannot keep our doors open for a few loyal customers and be slammed with expenses like this.

I fear for Western Queensland's future, as the changes I have seen in such a short time are nothing short of devastating, especially for those wanting to be out here and trying to have a go.

This is what the Labor government's electricity policies are doing to small businesses in south-west Queensland in my electorate. As I move around my electorate, I find more and more Emily and Rodney Geigers—good, young people having a go in business only to be slammed with electricity charges, which this government is using as an unfair tax on pensioners, households, businesses and farmers. It gets worse. I table correspondence received by constituents in the Murweh and Barcaldine shires that are currently drought declared.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents, dated 4 June 2018, relating to drought declarations and ineligibility for drought relief electricity rebates in Morven and Alpha [\[909\]](#).

This government, with Ergon Energy, has seriously stuffed up and revoked the Ergon Energy drought declaration for constituents, and this is wrong: these farmers are in drought declared areas. Unlike the government, farmers can actually read a drought map. To add insult to injury, the letter from Ergon says—

While we're hoping this is good news and you're now receiving sufficient rainfall, it also means from this date you are no longer eligible for the Queensland Government's Drought Relief from Electricity Charges scheme.

What a stuff-up! This government cannot organise a chook raffle, let alone an Ergon Energy drought rebate.


We want to address the electricity costs across regional plans. The first part of the LNP plan for cheaper electricity would see the restructure of the government owned power generators from two to three entities. The government's own modelling shows that creating three state owned generation companies will reduce wholesale prices by more than eight per cent. This is a long-term structural reform that is backed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, as well as small business and consumer advocates.

We heard the announcement from the LNP leader, Deb Frecklington, that a future LNP government will extend retail competition to the whole of Queensland. Regional Queenslanders like Emily and Rodney are being squeezed by an energy market that is stacked against them. We need to change that and the LNP are prepared to do that. Labor for too long has allowed Ergon to enjoy a monopoly in regional areas, despite the Queensland Productivity Commission calling for greater competition outside the south-east a year ago. If elected, the LNP will implement the recommendations of Labor's own Productivity Commission report into electricity pricing. The LNP will end the massive electricity divide between the south-east and the rest of Queensland. We will help drive down the electricity prices for people like Emily and Rodney and so many others in my electorate.

I wish to speak in relation to the Warrego Highway upgrade program, which is outlined in this budget. This program was agreed to by the former LNP state government and the former federal coalition government. It has not been well managed by the state Labor government. The Chinchilla open level rail crossing was due to commence construction in mid-2017; construction will now commence in June 2018—12 months late. The Dalby to Miles overtaking lanes were due to commence construction mid-2017; construction will now commence in January 2018—six months late. The Miles western access upgrade construction was to commence in late 2017; construction will now commence in May 2018—late again.

The Dalby eastern and western access are both underway. Sadly, during construction this year a child lost his life and another two have been injured. Small businesses along this highway are really suffering from the loss of passer-by traffic. The parking has been disrupted and business takings are down, and small business have reported to me that they do not know how they will survive these roadworks. The state Labor government needs to make sure that there are no more delays with the Dalby eastern and western access projects because the businesses suffering now will definitely not survive any delays, and many are uncertain if they will survive to the expected completion date of the work in December 2018. There are many other roads in the Warrego electorate that the Palaszczuk Labor government is neglecting but, unfortunately, I will not have enough time to go through them.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2018-19 state budget. This may be the fourth budget delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government, but it is the first for the Macalister electorate and, may I say, it is a cracker. I am pretty chuffed to be able to stand here and tell the people of Macalister that this government, the Labor government they voted for, has delivered for them and for the wider Logan community. When I ran in 2017, my local commitments were measured and considered. I know that many in my electorate are not overly passionate about politics in general and at best might think very cynically of the political process. I was cautious that no-one was really going to believe a politician when they went out and promised the earth.



My specific commitments to the people of Macalister were clear: that a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government would install lights at the Eagleby Giants footy field and that we would partner with industry to build a world-class trade training centre in Beenleigh for the plumbing and fire safety industries. I am pleased to say that this budget delivers on those commitments.

What I am most proud to take back to the people of Macalister is this government's commitment—their investment in our school kids. The 2018-19 budget delivers just over \$10 million in capital works for Macalister schools. This amount does not even include facility renewal or maintenance. This is capital works spending—new classrooms. As someone who has trained as a teacher, I commend this level of funding. Ensuring our kids have the facilities to learn is an important factor in their engagement and enjoyment in their education and, therefore, their educational outcomes.

Beenleigh State High School received \$7.9 million for a new two-storey building containing 12 classrooms to prepare the school for growth to 1,500 students by 2020. This represents the most significant investment at Beenleigh State High School for over 30 years. Windaroo Valley State High School receives \$1.2 million to commence construction of six new classrooms with more funds to follow next year. Beenleigh Special School receives \$1 million towards 10 new classrooms with \$3 million for the following year. Eagleby South State School will receive \$1 million towards four new classrooms with \$3 million next year to complete the build. Beenleigh State School will also receive \$83,000 to upgrade outdoor facilities, and I was very pleased to share that information with the grade 6s when they were here visiting yesterday.

This is not just about facilities. It is about the people who deliver our vital education services and our programs. In Logan this budget will deliver 312 extra teachers and 77 new teacher aides. These are the people who make a difference in our kids' lives.

I would also like to make special mention of the extension to the instrumental music program in state schools—more instruments and more teachers. As a former state school concert band and string ensemble member, I thank Minister Grace. However, as a parent of a potential string student, I may reverse that decision.

Education is best when it is well rounded and diverse enough to cater for all of our students, so I am proud to go back to my electorate because it has backed a winner with the Palaszczuk Labor government. As I said, there is over \$10 million in school funding this year alone. As a matter of interest, I went back through previous budgets to see what the capital works funding was for the schools in Macalister. Macalister, being a new electorate, comprises parts of five previous electorates. I went back through and had a look at the budgets from 2012 to 2014 to see how much the LNP funded my schools during this period. Between five different LNP members over a three-year period, how much funding did they provide for the 10 state schools of Macalister? Nothing—not a single dollar!

This budget will also see \$225,000 for an electrical safety upgrade to the Windaroo Valley State High School. This school needs this because of the air conditioning they have installed in the school. When you install air conditioning in schools you need to make sure that their electrical supply can be guaranteed for the high-use days. Unfortunately, my school learned that lesson during the hot months of this year as they suffered repeated blackouts. Seeing that those opposite have produced no costing for their promise to air-condition every classroom, I highly doubt they have costed the required upgrades to the supporting electrical infrastructure for every school in Queensland.

No-one in my electorate could doubt my support for local junior sport or my willingness to put my body on the line for my electorate, and I am proud to be a member of a Labor government that supports our grassroots sports through the many facility upgrades in and around my electorate. As I mentioned earlier, lights will be installed at Bishop Street Park, home of the mighty Eagleby Giants Junior Rugby League Football Club. The Giants are our newest club and have only recently settled into their new ground located in the heart of Eagleby. Families in Eagleby repeatedly told me throughout the most recent campaign that they needed more activities for kids to undertake after school and into the night. By lighting Bishop Street Park, the Giants will be able to grow with extra training sessions and games after dark.

Through the female facilities grants, two of our local sporting grounds—the Bill Norris Oval and Cornubia Park—will receive almost \$1 million in upgrades between them to build new dressing sheds for their female teams. Outdated, antiquated and unmistakably male facilities can often be a barrier for young women to participate in sport. I spent many years playing sport where it was more comfortable changing in cars or car parks or simply going home in my playing gear. As we move into an age of professional sporting opportunities for women, we need to provide them with the same facilities as their male counterparts.

The biggest investment in Logan in this budget is the M1 upgrades currently underway. Motorists travelling the Gateway merge can see the work commencing as grading equipment is about to roll out following the clearing of the acquired buildings and vegetation. This government is getting on with it, but the work will not just stop at the Gateway merge. The planning for the M1 upgrade all the way through to the Logan Motorway starts now with funding now. Logan motorists cannot wait for federal funding to turn up two federal elections from now. The funding must come now, and that is what this government has committed to do.

As someone who has been a daily commuter on public transport from Logan to the city, I commend this government on its funding of public transport with additional bus lanes on the M1 as well as the massive investment in Cross River Rail. Logan's public transport commuters are winners in this budget because we know that we cannot just keep widening motorways. We need to provide accompanying public transport. With Cross River Rail, Beenleigh's train commuters can look forward to more frequent and faster services into the city.

At the heart of this budget, at the heart of all Labor budgets, is jobs and training. All those on this side of the House believe that there is dignity in work; that when Queenslanders have secure work they can plan and provide for their families, and they can have a crack at the Australian dream. I am proud to see the impact that a Labor program like Skilling Queenslanders for Work has in my area. For many, this is the first time that anyone has taken the time to give them a legitimate shot at a job, and in an area where intergenerational unemployment is a real concern this cannot be understated.


Skilling Queenslanders for Work has resulted in over 2½ thousand Logan residents now being employed. I have seen firsthand the work that organisations in my electorate like Logan Women's Health and the Twin Rivers Centre have done with trainees, and the passion and commitment with which these trainees have now gone into the workforce. While some may consider the outcomes as just a certificate, for graduates of these courses it is so much more. It is an achievement and the first step for many into the workforce.

Ensuring that our young people have the skills needed for the workforce of the future is just as important. The trade training centre to be built in Beenleigh is an absolute boon for our local area. Built in partnership with the plumbing and fire safety industry, once fully built it will be able to train up to 700 trainees in the latest, most technologically advanced training facility of its kind. The flow-on effect for local businesses again cannot be understated.

Finally, I would like to make mention of the court upgrades to occur at the Beenleigh Magistrates Court and the increase in specialist police numbers and equipment that will make a difference on the front line. A total of \$3.7 million will kickstart an \$11 million increase in the capacity of the domestic and family violence courts. It will also increase safety measures for victims and vulnerable persons in the court's precinct.

I applaud the increase in funding for equipment for our front-line police. More QLITEs and body worn cameras will increase the investigative capacity and safety of our men and women in blue. What I am most pleased to see is the increase in domestic and family violence coordinators within the Queensland Police Service. I spent many years working with these dedicated, hardworking officers. For many years they have carried an ever increasing workload, and I am glad to see their burden being shared with more specialist officers.

I am proud to be a member of this government as I take the message back to my electorate that the Palaszczuk government is working for them and that it is delivering for the people of Macalister. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill which was presented by the Treasurer on Tuesday. This is a very disappointing budget both for the people of my own electorate of Southern Downs and also for people throughout Queensland. There is certainly nothing at all in it for the people of Southern Downs, other than the promise of new and higher taxes. Being new in this House, I perhaps too optimistically thought there might be some compensation for the people of Southern Downs buried deep in the documents so that we would get something back for the huge amount we have been slugged in taxes. I eagerly immersed myself in the budget documents, with eyes peeled, looking for investments that we need—like fixing the Eight Mile intersection at Warwick, funding for the Accommodation Creek bridge south of Stanthorpe, or much needed upgrades to the Gore Highway between Goondiwindi and Millmerran.

I listened keenly to the Treasurer's speech, waiting to hear that the people of Southern Downs would be rewarded for the huge contribution we make to this state. I thought there might be: meaningful reform of the electricity industry, like the LNP is proposing, to cut down on power bills; some restraint in the cost of vehicle registration, which has risen obscenely under Labor; that they would cancel their plans to abolish the irrigation electricity tariff which is depended upon by so many farmers who pump water for their irrigation; or better funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health Service in my electorate, which is so important to help kids in need by getting them the diagnosis they need so that the schools can be funded for the additional staff they are entitled to.

Alas, my hopes fell on stony ground—nothing, not a sausage, nothing real. I looked at the glossy Darling Downs budget bauble and I saw that the government are claiming they are going to spend about \$800,000 on the roof at Stanthorpe Hospital. That is not new money, that has been planned for ages and it is maintenance. Are they going to let the hospital fall down? What about the money they are planning to spend on Glen Niven Dam? The state government have an obligation to maintain that dam in a safe state. I hope the Treasurer does not expect us to thank her for those announcements.

What we do see, however, is gargantuan spending in Brisbane on projects of dubious importance, including billions all up on the pet project of the Treasurer, Cross River Rail. Perhaps this might help the Treasurer to stay on good terms with the dwindling number of Labor voters in her electorate, but for the good folk and true of my electorate of Southern Downs it offers nothing. We see millions and millions of dollars showered on inner-city Brisbane Labor seats for things like bike trails. In one case, there is \$17 million this year alone out of an eye-watering total spend of \$45 million.

This money could be much better spent on water infrastructure in my electorate which would expand agricultural production and provide jobs and prosperity in the bush. Just imagine how many isolated families, like those in the Traprock district in my electorate of Southern Downs, could have a proper school bus service for that kind of money. What about the dog fencing that is vital because it keeps lambs and sheep safe? I can see that my honourable friend the member for Gregory agrees with me on that. How many kilometres of dog fencing could be built for over \$40 million? How many surgical procedures could be undertaken at Texas Hospital, keeping local patients close to their homes and families?

I have heard the government wax lyrical about how this is a true Labor budget. Obviously, I could not agree more with that assertion. I well recognise the re-announcements of old money and the pledges to spend money on infrastructure, which so frequently never actually gets finished. True to Labor's long established form for high-taxing, high-borrowing economic backwardness, we see before us yet another budget which mires us and future generations unborn in permanent debt. It extorts from the productive and hardworking people of Queensland new and increased taxes and charges, and it will result in reduced economic and employment growth.

We need to be really clear about this. Labor have given up on even the pretence that they will ever pay back the debt. We are talking about Labor's debt here. Remember that they have been in power for 23 of the past 28 years. They promised before the 2015 state election that they would repay the debt, but of course this has never happened and, according to this budget, it never will. Labor never learn—or maybe they just do not care—that you do not tax people into prosperity, nor do they appear to understand that you do not borrow into prosperity. We used to have a AAA credit rating in this state, but that is just a memory now thanks to Labor. Queenslanders are condemned to paying \$400,000 an hour on interest payments alone to sustain this enormous \$83 billion debt.

The LNP knows that a strong and growing economy is essential to sustainably fund the things that we need government to provide. The roads, the infrastructure and the health, education and law and order services that we need cannot be provided over the long term without a strong and growing economy. The flip side of this is that you cannot have a strong economy if your government is bloated, overtaxing and hopelessly ridden in debt.

Not only does such a government ultimately deprive the people of the state of the services that they need, but it also condemns the state to a perpetual downward spiral—where more and more tax needs to be extracted from an ailing economy to pay higher and higher interest bills, which in turn become even greater when the inevitable credit downgradings flow. We need only be reminded that the Leader of the Opposition said that the vulnerability of the state to economic shocks and natural disasters is increased by having high levels of debt.

Labor boast about putting their people first. Let us have a look at that and at this government's outrageous waste tax—one of the many new taxes and charges in this budget. It is an atrocious \$1.3 billion impost on Queenslanders, a tax which will drive up prices for goods and services and houses and which is yet another millstone around the neck of the families, regional councils and small businesses. We were told by the government that this giant tax was strictly essential to prevent interstate dumping, but this was only an issue for Ipswich thanks to its infamously odious council. That Labor council there gave the nod to the dumps where this interstate dumping occurred, yet now we have this huge statewide tax.

What on earth do the people of my electorate of Southern Downs get for this? Nothing but increased costs and the depressive effect they have on jobs and small businesses. It is iniquitous, but it gets worse. When the Labor city council in Ipswich suddenly announced that it was going to cease recycling, the Treasurer—ever keen to get her hands into the pockets of Queenslanders—gleefully used it as an excuse to bring forward the introduction of her huge waste tax. When the very next day the Labor council in Ipswich backflipped on its decision to end recycling, we would expect the Treasurer would cancel her early introduction of the tax but, no, the early introduction of this appalling tax stayed—such is the insatiable addiction that this government has to spending our money.

I am thinking about a few examples which are interesting for my own electorate. I have tried with very little success to get answers from the Minister for Transport and the CEO of QR over the depositing of railway sleepers along the sides of the Wallangarra line in my electorate. Thousands of railway sleepers were taken out on trains at great expense and dumped by the railway line and left there for six months. They were then picked back up again at great expense and taken away somewhere else and then a few months later they were redeposited by the line—that was about seven months ago—and they still sit there. The only work which has been done in that time, according to constituents around Ballandean, was that a load of railway navvies arrived—on Anzac Day, no less—to shuffle sleepers for a few hours, and that only occurred after I made complaints to the local media about the wastage and the profligacy in Queensland Rail.

In the city, we have examples where we cannot find drivers apparently. We are not allowed to look outside Queensland Rail, according to the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union, so we are now instead paying \$41 million in overtime for drivers. At the same time, we are getting 470 fewer services per week. If this is the way that Labor spend the money, I can understand why people are reluctant to give it to Labor because they do not spend it so well that they need extra. This government would prefer to take the easy option of slugging us more in taxes, rather than doing their job properly and working out ways to manage this state with the money they earn and spend our money better. Queensland families have to work under that rule. Families have to spend their money better. There is a limited amount a family has access to, and they have to prioritise and spend it well. We do not find that from this government.

What about employment in our state? The Queensland jobs market is beginning to reap the bitter fruit of years of Labor's economic mismanagement. Next year employment growth is forecast to fall by 1.25 per cent and with economic growth projected to decline, this number is in danger of worsening further. Labor needs to understand that putting on thousands of senior bureaucrats in Brisbane is not job creation. On the contrary, it burdens the economy and promotes the growth of red tape and regulation. Those jobs have to be paid for by the hardworking people who run and work in small businesses on our farms and in our shops: our butchers, pharmacy assistants, truckies, tradies, hairdressers and newsagents. We must remember that it is the initiative, investment, dedication and imagination of small businesses and their staff that is the powerhouse of jobs in our state, not a bloated government in Brisbane.

Of course, we do understand that public services need to increase in response to population growth. However, the ranks of senior executive public servants have grown by more than 30 per cent. That is a whopping 4,158 officers under this Labor government—if we can believe their statistics. They are not front-line staff nursing patients, taking classes and arresting criminals. I will wager a penny to a pound that not one of them is in my electorate of Southern Downs. I will bet that almost all of them are here in Brisbane.

The ballooning of the Brisbane bureaucracy is a real slap in the face for the people of Southern Downs, the people who live in and on the land around Warwick, Inglewood, Texas, Goondiwindi, Killarney, Stanthorpe, Millmerran, Allora—whatever it is that these bureaucrats do. Some of them have most probably worked on the development, marketing and implementation of this government's miserable attack on the property rights of farmers and on the economic and social interests of rural communities like mine.

I was proud to listen to the budget reply speech by the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington. She called out this budget for the failure that it is and outlined the LNP's alternative with the authentic voice and common sense of a person who really gets it. She talked about electricity reforms; breaking up the government generators from two into three to improve competition and drive down prices for consumers; a 30-year water security plan, recognising the vital importance of water for our industry and for our consumers in this state; our commitment to air-condition every classroom in this state so that teachers and students can be comfortable while they learn; and of course to bring in no new taxes. Deb Frecklington is comfortable in the real world of families, schools, pubs, country shows, city streets and small business. The Leader of the Opposition understands that governments exist to do the basics, and they must do them really well whilst always respecting the hard-earned money of Queenslanders.

I was pleased to see that this budget received from the press the criticism that it deserves. Overwhelmingly, media reports noted and criticised Labor's budget for broken promises, excessive and growing debt, ballooning bureaucracy and high taxes—and rightly so, too. I would like to refer to an article by Judith Sloan, which appeared in the *Australian* earlier this week. She stated, 'Queensland Treasurer and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad knows as much about economics as I know about astrophysics.' She went on to say—

She gets an A+ for her double standards: She is more than happy to spend the surging royalties from mining in her state (more than \$800 million in additional royalties over the forward estimates), while actively whiteanting the Adani coal project and bagging the resources industry more generally.

The article goes on to say—

Unable to escape its runaway spending on public servants, it is at least conceded in this year's budget papers that "the average growth in employee expenses over the five years to 2021-22 is 4.5 per cent per annum ...

That is about double the inflation rate. I am glad to see that the analysts in the media see this budget for what it is. I table that article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 13 June 2018, titled 'One thing is crystal clear, Jackie doesn't have a clue' [\[910\]](#).

This budget is one of taxes, debt and unemployment. It condemns generations yet unborn to the millstone of debt. This budget fails the people of my electorate of Southern Downs and all Queenslanders, unless of course they are high-ranking bureaucrats who ride bikes in Ashgrove.



**Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.14 pm): If honourable members ever wondered why the LNP has only three Brisbane seats and one Redland seat, I give them Exhibit A. That was just unbelievably boring. This is a fantastic Labor budget that delivers for the people of Queensland, Redland city and my electorate of Capalaba. This is a budget that delivers on the promises we made in the lead-up to the election. I congratulate both the Premier and the Deputy Premier on their hard work and commitment towards the people of Queensland, Redland city and Capalaba.

Our kids are the most precious resource we have and we are investing heavily in education. I congratulate the Minister for Education for her work. There is \$4.25 million for Alexandra Hills State High School to build a new state-of-the-art building that will house three new classrooms and two specialised areas, one of which will be the centre of excellence for robotics and automation. We are creating the education for the future to ensure that these kids have the tools and skills they need to get the jobs of the future. An amount of \$545,000 has also been allocated to eight schools for the maintenance program and also \$214,000 for minor works across those eight schools in my electorate.

When I came to office, the Alexandra Hills TAFE was run into the ground—courses cancelled, students sent away and teachers sacked. I remember being shown by the teachers at SkillsTech—the remaining two—students who were studying in a shed locked out in the cold in the middle of winter because they could not get into well equipped, empty classrooms. I remember seeing the staffroom with only two teachers in it. Three years later we have a Labor government, and what a difference we have made to our TAFE. In the same staffroom the desks are full of teachers. In fact, they have had to use a second staffroom because we have hired so many teachers there. Students do not have to do their written work outside in the cold; they are back in the classrooms.

We have doubled the number of students at Alexandra Hills TAFE and increased the number of units studied by close to 300 per cent in our first term. We are going further than that. We are investing another \$85 million across the state into TAFE, \$10 million of which is coming to Alexandra Hills TAFE. I cannot wait to consult with locals in my electorate about the courses they want to see at their TAFE which will help them and their kids into the jobs and careers of the future. We know that if we give people a skill, we give them a job, we give them a career. That is what Labor is all about.

This is also a budget that delivers on the promises for infrastructure. There is over \$700 million for Cross River Rail. We know that, once completed, this will make travel on the Cleveland line 14 minutes shorter and there will be services every six minutes during peak time. This will take thousands of cars off our local roads.

We will also see funding for the start of the \$22 million Eastern Transitway, which is a precursor. I note that the member for Oodgeroo claims that we need to have the line duplication and the Eastern Busway, but they did not plan for this infrastructure. They left it off. The only reason we can do this infrastructure is, firstly, Cross River Rail gives us the second crossing and so then we can do the line duplication.

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** The member does not know which order to do them in. I take the interjection from the member for Oodgeroo. The only reason it is back on the—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Members, address your comments through the chair.

**Mr BROWN:** The only reason it is back on the plan is that we are doing Cross River Rail. In relation to the Eastern Transitway we are also doing precursor work to the Eastern Busway: \$22 million on Old Cleveland Road upgrading five intersections, which will mean buses and cars will travel quicker into the city.

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** I was not going to go there but because of the interjections of the member for Oodgeroo I will talk about his electorate. We are actually delivering in his electorate as well. There is \$11 million for Stradbroke and a mammoth \$21 million for Cleveland State High School. I have a document that I want to table for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Redland City Bulletin*, dated 27 January 2015, titled 'MP rejects school hall funding claims' [\[911\]](#).

This article talks about the Cleveland hall, which we are delivering. It states that three days after the election—

Mr Robinson said claims funding was taken from Cleveland and given to Ashgrove were "wild accusations" and he had never had a commitment money was set aside for the hall.

...

Mr Robinson said the Cleveland hall was not on his top 10 list of projects to fund in the electorate.

However, we are delivering it. I look forward to the contribution from the member for Oodgeroo.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much conversation and toing and froing across the chamber.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Logan, I notice you already have a warning here.

**Mr BROWN:** That was before lunch, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is getting rather noisy and I cannot hear the member for Capalaba. Let us hear his contribution.

**Dr Robinson:** Be honest.

**Mr BROWN:** That is what the article says, and I tabled it for the benefit of the House so that—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have just made a direction regarding conversations across the chamber and interjections. I would caution members to listen to what I am saying in the chair.

**Mr BROWN:** I hope that during his contribution the member for Oodgeroo thanks the minister for her contribution to his local area, where there was a massive injection to education. We will also invest \$20 million to upgrade the Leslie Harrison Dam. This will support much needed local jobs in my area. During the Newman years we saw firsthand the savage cuts to front-line health services. They were dumb cuts, because I saw staff re-employed 12 months after they received massive redundancy payments. We also heard the Leader of the Opposition say in her budget reply speech, 'I am very proud—very proud—of the LNP's record,' during this time, and that is unbelievable. Instead of cuts we have delivered much needed extra staff at Redland Hospital during our first term, and in this budget there is also an upgrade. If the member for Oodgeroo did his homework—

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I would caution the member for Oodgeroo. I have mentioned interjections and conversations. I would caution you to listen to the directions of the chair.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. When the member for Capalaba directly refers to the member for Oodgeroo in his speech, it is standing convention in this House that the member for Oodgeroo is entitled to respond.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand that the two members understand that convention and they will allow the contribution to proceed.

**Mr BROWN:** There is an upgrade to Redlands Hospital, four extra emergency beds and a new water-birthing suite. As a new parent, I know that mothers in the Redlands area have been asking for that for years. They want access to world-class birthing options close to home. I love the community of Capalaba. It is where I went to school at Birkdale State School; it is where I played Rugby and cricket—

**Ms Pease:** It is really a great school!

**Mr BROWN:** I take the interjection from the member for Lytton, who is also a past student of Birkdale State School. I played cricket and Rugby for the mighty Redlands—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Lytton, remember that you need to be in your seat to make an interjection.

**Mr BROWN:** It is home to my old swimming club, the Birkdale Breakers; it is where I played basketball at the Redlands PCYC. It is great to see our government delivering for our community yet again.

I was thrilled to see the looks in the eyes of the young women at the Capalaba Warriors leagues club when they heard the news that they are going to get their own change rooms, with the delivery of a female facilities grant to the club of close to \$500,000. I thank the Minister for Sport for this fantastic initiative. I can tell you that these young women play the game as hard, if not harder, than their male counterparts and they deserve the same facilities. It is only the Annastacia Palaszczuk Labor government that would do something like this. It is only Labor that would think of this fantastic initiative to ensure that we have an equal playing field when it comes to these sports.

We are again building on our investment into IndigiScapes with a \$641,000 investment in stage 2 of the construction and expansion of the site. I was there recently for their open day. Thousands of Redlands locals—and I think also Brisbane and Logan locals—came to witness the facility. I note that the member for Ferny Grove announced the first round. It is a showcase of the wonderful flora and fauna that Redlands has to offer.

In conclusion, this is a budget that delivers in all key areas for the people of Redlands and Capalaba: education, infrastructure, transport and health. This is a great Labor budget. This is a budget that delivers for the people of Queensland, Redland City and Capalaba. I commend the bills to the House.



**Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.24 pm): The member for Capalaba is quite correct. This budget does deliver—new taxes at a cost of \$2.25 billion a year. Worse than that, and probably most importantly, the failure of this budget is its ballooning debt. We will have \$83 billion worth of debt, so after a generation of Labor governments it will take four generations to repay. To put that into some perspective, if poor baby Elizabeth—our five millionth Queensland resident—spends her entire life with \$1 billion surplus budgets, with the money being used to pay back the debt she will be 83 before the debt is paid back. She will have to pay a billion dollars over and above what is spent on the services she receives in her lifetime to pay for the services that the Labor government has run up in one generation by overspending.

We will end up in a situation where we have \$10 million a day in interest payments. If it were not so disturbing it would be funny. Imagine the 93 of us here each having an extra \$40 million, roughly speaking, to spend in our electorates with no change to the bottom line of our budget. Everything else that we are doing could be done, and we could all have an additional \$40 million to spend in our electorates per annum if only we did not have to pay the debt. By not addressing debt we are giving an intergenerational time bomb to our children. When we talk about their education and how they are our most important resource—and I agree with all of those things—why would we burden our most precious resource, our children, with a time bomb of \$83 billion? This budget fails miserably because it does not address that.

There are other failings: taxes. The taxes that are introduced in this budget, \$2.25 billion, would roughly speaking—not quite—pay for our police force and its services on their own. We are talking about the same amount of money we commit to our police force. As a shadow minister, I have the privilege to represent the areas of Corrective Services and police. The interest that we are paying on the time bomb of debt is a billion dollars more than the cost of running the police and Corrective Services. The entire budget for police and Corrective Services is a billion dollars less than the interest we pay to some merchant bankers. That is the problem we have with this budget. We cannot provide the services that Queensland deserves because of this debt time bomb.

Let us have a look at what has happened to the police budget. There were lots of things said by the minister about how great the budget is for the police and how he is very serious about making sure the police get what they want, so let us go to road safety. The underspend in the 2017-18 budget on road safety was \$9 million and this year's budget has been slashed by \$8 million, so in two years a total of \$17 million has been slashed and heartlessly cut out of our road safety budget. I assume we have no road safety problems in Queensland. If we are taking \$17 million out of the road safety budget across two years, I assume we have no problem. I would be interested to hear the minister come in here and tell us that we have no problem with road safety and that is why \$17 million has been ripped out over 24 months.

Let us look at what is happening across Queensland. Robberies are up 26 per cent, assaults are up 11 per cent, home invasions are up 12 per cent and car thefts are up 19 per cent. What is the response of this government to these shameful increases in crime throughout our community? This government's response in 2017-18 was an underspend of \$40 million. The government came in here, brought down a budget and said, 'This is what we are going to spend to drive down crime,' but it underspent by \$40 million while robberies were going up 26 per cent. That is shameful, but what will happen in 2018-19? What is in this budget? Some \$36 million is carved out, slashed away. I ask again: if crime and public order are doing so well in Queensland, why are we taking \$76 million out of the budget over two years? It is absolutely shameful. I cannot believe that robberies are up 26 per cent yet the budget has been slashed by \$76 million across two years. Why would you do such a thing? It is unbelievable that someone could think that means they are doing a good job running the department.

As I said, this could easily be solved, not only by spending the money that is allocated in the budget. I really hope that the money allocated in this budget is not underspent as much as last year's budget was, because the Police Service needs our support. It needs the services, the numbers of police and the capability to drive down crime such as robberies, which are up 26 per cent. We want to drive that down. How will we do that? By putting police out on the beat. What happened in 2016-17? How many additional police were added in 2016-17? Three police were added. Meanwhile, assaults are going up by 11 per cent. It is unbelievable that you would do that.

To show how weak this minister has been about his portfolio, let us look at FTEs. We see the number of the FTEs in the Public Service growing. We are told it is for front-line services, so let us assume that numbers are growing on the front line. We see an increase of about 15 per cent across the so-called front-line services, but what do we see in Police? Over a three-year period—from March 2015 to March 2018—we see a 2.7 per cent increase in boots on the ground. You would think with such a minor increase that crime must be going so well and that we are driving crime rates down in this state, but we do not see that happening. We have a slashed and cut budget, we have a lower increase in FTEs than all the other services are getting and we have a weak minister who will not stand up and strengthen the Police Service to make sure crime rates in this state are driven down.

It is absolute lunacy to come in here and suggest that this government is tough on crime while it takes \$70 million out across two years. I look forward to the day of estimates, when we can dig down into these numbers and find out what services, what officers and what stations have been left short and overworked and where crime reports are not being investigated on time—not because of a lack of hard work on the part of our Police Service and not because they are not making their very best efforts but because they simply do not have the resources and the numbers they need to do the job they have been burdened with by this government.

As unemployment goes up we see more and more problems arising in some of our communities. The law and order response to that needs to be an increase. Instead we see slashing and cutting in funding. That is shameful. The government should not come in here and laud the merits of this Appropriation Bill while leaving our police exposed on the front line and leaving the community of Queensland vulnerable to being assaulted, attacked and robbed because it has not stood up for law enforcement.



A lot of the other public servants on the front line have really strong unions, so I wonder if the reason the minister has not been able to get the same numbers as some of those areas is that he is in the wrong faction. If he is, I beg the Premier to appoint someone to law and order who is in the strongest faction so that we can see some serious money being poured into the Police budget. It certainly needs to improve. This sneaky, untrustworthy minister has shown his incompetence in managing the portfolio by slashing money out of it and telling us it is a good thing.

I will move on from the police portfolio to talk about a couple of other things related to my electorate and my shadow portfolio. We have been told that there will be a new police station at Highfields. It was much lauded in the election campaign. There was \$100,000 in last year's budget for planning. That amount was underspent by \$30,000, so they did not manage to get all the way through the announcement they made during the election campaign. This year do we see construction starting, trenches being dug or the station being built? No. Out of a \$2.8 million budget we see another \$100,000 for a bit more planning. Let us hope that amount is not underspent. Let us hope the plan is finished and we can get on with building the police station that the people of Highfields deserve. It is the same with the Newtown police beat—a much lauded police beat in my electorate that needs attention. We have heard an awful lot of talk but we have not seen a lot of action.

Another issue in my electorate is the master plan for Baillie Henderson. We have heard that this is the biggest Health budget ever. What a load of nonsense! Every year is the biggest Health budget ever. In fact, under the LNP the average increase was seven per cent a year. What do we find under the Palaszczuk Labor government? The increase is four per cent. It is actually a cut of three per cent on what we were spending on Health. It is not a real increase at all; the government has not kept pace with the extra money we were putting into Health. The government has cut it by three per cent.

Locally we need the master plan for Baillie Henderson to be finished and we need to get on with the moving of the hospital to Baillie Henderson. Someone needs to be brave enough to stand up and say, 'This is what we are going to do.' They need to plan it and get on with it. That way we can eke the life out of the building we have and the hospital we have, which gives a great service. A great hospital and health board is running that, but it needs the government to get off its back and allow it to plan to build a new hospital at Baillie Henderson. That is what we need locally.

Time is short, but I want to speak about the intersection of North and Ruthven streets. This is something that came up during the campaign. I was campaigning on it; the Labor Party told us the money was in the budget. The money has been in the budget, but I do not see any action. The people who drive that road every day cannot get through the intersection. They are not interested in hot air and numbers on paper that never materialise. They are only interested in someone fixing up the intersection. I very much hope we see work starting on that intersection.


I want to talk about the cost of living. We know that people across Queensland are feeling the pinch of the rising cost of living. I want to talk about electricity. People need to understand that, when they plug in the kettle and turn it on, they are paying a 47 per cent tax to this government. That is the money that will end up back in government coffers. That is driving up electricity prices and the cost of living. We just need to be honest about it and say, 'The simple fact is that that is a tax.' That is why that exists.

I will briefly talk about the impact of the cut in the First Home Owners' Grant, the waste tax and the land tax. This will result in an impact of about \$8,000 per new home. That will have a massive impact on the people in my electorate who are trying to get ahead and want to buy their first home. They have been saving up but suddenly find themselves \$8,000 behind where they were. They might have to rent for a bit longer and work harder to achieve their goal. It is a shame we do not have more time to talk about things that are very important to my electorate. I think air-conditioning classrooms is a great thing.

The LNP really needs to get into government, because we will guarantee no new taxes, we will guarantee to reduce the cost of electricity and we will ensure better health and education services. People should not be fooled by all of the rhetoric in this place about the record Health budget. In fact, the increase is three per cent lower than the increase to the Health budget delivered in our three budgets in government. People should not fall for it. They should watch out for sneaky, untrustworthy, union controlled ministers saying one thing in this place but doing a different deal behind the scenes. Only an LNP government will be able to bring prosperity back—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Before I call the next speaker, two times during that speech there was what could be considered personal reflections or unbecoming or offensive words about another member who is not in the House to call attention to that under standing order 234. I caution members to be very careful about using unbecoming or offensive words about another member, especially if they are not in the House to defend themselves.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.39 pm): Today I rise to talk about the budget. This budget is about creating jobs in a strong economy and building the economy of the future. We are delivering for today's Queensland and also planning for the economic future of the state. I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on a great fourth budget of the Palaszczuk government—a budget that delivers for all Queenslanders with a record Health spend, a record Education spend and sensible fiscal management which honours our election commitments. The world is changing, how we communicate is changing and technological innovation is increasingly impacting on every aspect of Queenslanders' lives. I am very pleased to be part of a government that is tackling these issues head-on and a government that is striving to improve the lives of all Queenslanders.

In terms of the raw figures, this government delivers for Queenslanders in this budget and also delivers to Queensland communities on a real basis, with strong investments in Health, Education and Transport, particularly in the Aspley electorate. The budget expects a surplus of \$1.5 billion in 2017-18, which only has a few weeks to run, which is more than three times the size of the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review forecast. The budget also forecasts operating surpluses over the forward estimates, starting with \$148 million in 2018-19, and economic growth is forecast to accelerate from 2.5 per cent to three per cent by 2018-19. Queensland now has the second highest annual employment growth in the country. Employment growth is forecast to strengthen to 2¾ per cent over the year to the June quarter 2018, the strongest growth in more than a decade. More than 150,000 jobs have been created since we came to government in 2015. That is the equivalent of 4,000 new jobs in Queensland every month since January 2015.

In this budget we see the biggest capital works program since the 2011 floods recovery. Yesterday I heard a lot of noise from those opposite about infrastructure, specifically infrastructure and funding they want in their areas, but not once did I hear anything from those opposite about standing up to the federal government and demanding our state's fair share in funding. There was nothing about honouring 80-20 funding splits on either the M1, the Bruce Highway or the north coast rail line. There was nothing about the lack of federal funding for Cross River Rail—a crucial project that is the precursor to any future additional capacity on the entire South-East Queensland network—and absolutely nothing about the pending Turnbull government response to the Productivity Commission's review into GST.

Our delivery of the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project is still sadly opposed by those opposite, but we are getting underway with it. When in government those opposite had a chance in 2013 with federal money on the table, but instead they pursued the fanciful BaT tunnel which has not been heard of since. What a joke that project was, but we are getting on with it. During the five-year construction period, Cross River Rail will support an average of 1,500 jobs every year and up to 3,000 jobs in the most intensive year of construction. There will be an economic benefit of \$1.41 to every \$1 invested on the project. It will reduce commuting times for people of Aspley by up to 15 minutes a day by unlocking half of the CBD which is currently more than a kilometre away from any station and allowing more express trains to come from my electorate. In contrast to the smoke and mirrors approach of the budget reply of those opposite, this budget actually delivers.

Looking more locally, this budget is a great win for the Aspley community, with funding for new projects locally as well as delivery of my election commitments. The Palaszczuk government and I are delivering on transport solutions in Aspley, with local sporting infrastructure and schools also getting a boost in this budget. No-one wants to be stuck in traffic, which is why I am getting on with real transport solutions in the electorate. Some \$2 million is being allocated for a detailed design into a completely new interchange at the intersection of Gympie Arterial Road and Strathpine Road in Bald Hills. Money is being set aside for design works for an on-ramp extension at the intersection of Linkfield Connection Road and Gympie Arterial Road in Bald Hills.

Geebung Bowls Club is a fantastic asset to our community. However, a number of its facilities are outdated and in need of repair. Some \$500,000 has been allocated in this budget to assist in the upgrade of the toilets and other infrastructure at the club. The bowls club has recently become the new home for the Queensland Blind Bowlers Association which bowls there every Monday, so these improvements will also make the facilities much more useable for the vision impaired. Congratulations to Ron, Richard and everyone down at the Geebung Bowls Club for taking the blind bowlers on board. These funds will definitely provide a much needed boost locally.


Aspley State High School is receiving a \$10 million funding boost for new and upgraded infrastructure as part of the Palaszczuk government's Renewing Our Schools program. This funding will be a great boost for a quality local school that is going from strength to strength. I am very pleased to see that the hard work of the Craigslea State High School and the Craigslea State High School P&C is coming to fruition in that we are backing in its canteen upgrade. We are putting in more than \$150,000 to match its \$142,000 commitment to upgrade the canteen at the school.

Geebung Station is a major train station in our area and I am very excited to confirm that there has been money allocated for 70 extra car parks at the park-and-ride to get more people on public transport and relieve some congested local roads. This budget also delivers funding for the Northern Transitway, a \$53 million project that goes from Kedron to Chermerside with dedicated bus lanes during peak hours without losing any existing car lanes. That will certainly reduce commuting times into the city.

Basketball has been growing fast in Brisbane for quite some time now and the Northside Wizards Basketball Association has done a fantastic job of creating a welcoming and inclusive community. I am extremely happy to announce that this budget confirms \$5.5 million for converting a disused shed in Zillmere into a new home for basketball on the north side. The proposed plans include five indoor courts, with the potential to expand into the future. I am very excited about this project and the local benefits it will bring to the whole community. In fact, the location for this project is a disused shed that used to be the home of the SDS, the government stationery supplier, until it was closed down by Campbell Newman in 2012. We are re-using a disused government facility and this is just a great community outcome all round.

Speaking more broadly, of course we realise that the workforce is changing and we need to be constantly poking and pulling economic levers where needed to correct market failures and the take-up of new technologies in particular. The Premier and Treasurer are to be commended for seeking out that new overseas investment in new and non-traditional industries which drive the economy into the future. The opposition likes to mock our industry attraction efforts, but at the end of the day no-one is going to back a state and invest in it if it does not have the confidence to back itself and to actively seek out new investment. Investors do not just fall into your lap; you have to chase them down. In this vein I congratulate the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the member for Woodridge, and the former minister, the member for Stafford, in getting Rheinmetall to choose Queensland as part of its massive Defence bid which will deliver quality jobs for Queensland for many years to come.

I look forward to seeing the benefits of this budget roll out broadly in Aspley and I commend the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the Premier on delivering a great Labor budget. I will not ever apologise for getting funding and resources for Aspley and I will endeavour to continue to do so long into the future.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (3.46 pm): Like the member for Nanango, I want Queensland to be a state of opportunity. I want Queensland to be a place where every person has an equal chance to live the life they want to live. As a young Queenslander, this budget does not give me hope for a future like that. First and foremost, we are being left to foot the bill for an extraordinary amount of debt. A major concern for young people is whether they can find a job and, further to that, a full-time job. Without a job, many of those things that we take for granted are completely out of their reach—things like financial certainty, being able to live without having to check your bank account every week or to start putting bills on the credit card and the ability to get a mortgage and to own a home, something our parents and grandparents had a much easier time doing.

All of that is under threat. Queensland has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation and the last figures I saw for my electorate of Bonney show that we have it worse than any other part of the Gold Coast, with a rate of 7.2 per cent. That is over 2,000 people unemployed. One way of addressing this is through the Back to Work SEQ program. It offers incentives of \$15,000 for businesses to put on long-term unemployed jobseekers and \$20,000 to employ young or mature age jobseekers who have been unemployed for at least four weeks. The businesses have to keep them on for at least a year, and rightly so. I am sorry to say that this budget contains savage cuts for the program from 1 July. Having 'South-East Queensland' in the title will be completely misleading from that date.

Unemployed jobseekers from the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane local government areas—where most of the population in this state lives—will no longer be eligible. This is in the context of youth unemployment in the double digits in Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast and sitting at around 8.4 per cent on the Gold Coast. I have already had a job agency on the Gold Coast contact me to say

how disappointed it is at this decision and how important this funding was to help businesses hire new staff. The government should be doing everything it can to drive down unemployment, but for those looking for work on the Gold Coast they have been badly let down.

We have also seen a cut to the first home buyers grant to the tune of \$5,000. This is no small amount to a young person saving for their first deposit. Many will be impacted, most likely those who can least afford to take the hit. That is without even factoring in the added cost of construction that will be imposed by the new waste tax or even the potential impacts of the changes to the vegetation management laws.

The people of my electorate of Bonney have the chance to live a great life—one that is close to the water; transport; the Gold Coast's major university and hospital; fantastic state schools and their only private school, AB Paterson College; and major shopping centres all within commuting distance to Brisbane. The opportunity that the people of the electorate of Bonney will have to enjoy all of those things will be secured only through smart spending. If members could not tell already, I would not call this budget an example of that.

The M1 is nearing capacity. In its present form it was built and almost fully funded by a state government, thanks to Premier Borbidge—a man who knew how to get on with the job, to not manufacture a fight with Canberra, or make excuses. That is in stark contrast to the antics that we have seen from those opposite until they were finally forced into agreeing to come on board with the federal government. I welcome the investment into the M1, but it will be simply not enough to keep adding extra lanes. We need to sort out the congested off-ramps of the M1, of which exit 57 is a good start. To borrow the slogan of my good friend the member for Theodore, in this vicinity we need slip lanes, not solar panels.

The Gold Coast needs an alternate route—a second M1 or Coomera connector. That could take up to 60,000 cars a day off the main route to Brisbane and provide transport security for my region. I note that there is \$56 million in the budget for construction in the south coast region and I will be doing everything I can to have some of that funding put towards upgrading the intersections of Brisbane Road and Olsen Avenue and Oxley Drive, and Pine Ridge Road and Captain Cook Drive. I welcome any investment from the City of Gold Coast towards upgrading the local roads in these areas. Everyone is sick and tired of being stuck in traffic there and waiting for several light changes before they can get to the other side of the intersection.

Another major threat to the lifestyle of the people of the Bonney electorate is rising crime rates. For example, Labrador is a suburb that has everything at its fingertips. It has some of the most beautiful coastline on the Gold Coast along the iconic Broadwater. It has the centrality to give Labradorians easy access to all the education, health and other infrastructure they need. Yet Labrador still struggles to lose its reputation as one of the crime hot spots for the Gold Coast. Labrador has double to triple the crime rate of its neighbouring suburbs and, in recent years, nothing has significantly changed. In the past 12 months alone there have been 1,820 offences committed in the suburb. Labrador is not a central district like Southport or Surfers Paradise; it is predominantly a suburban area. This situation cannot go on. The only way it can be fixed is with a numerically greater and more localised police presence in the area.

I was happy to see the government committing \$2.4 million to finally get on with building the police hub in Arundel six months after purchasing land there. With the Gold Coast so geographically long, it makes sense to have a station for officers to deploy from and a large evidence storage in the middle of the Gold Coast. However, I think the lack of clarity around a time line for the project is a demonstration that Labor does not hold this infrastructure as a high priority. There is also a real concern that the Rapid Action Patrol squad will not even get to call this new facility home, with the report evaluating that squad still remaining a secret.

There is also only 14 water police for the entire Gold Coast region. I found out through an answer to a question on notice that the Gold Coast has had this same number since 2006. That is over a decade with no increase in staffing for one of the busiest waterways in the country. Even almost two decades ago—in the year 2000—that figure sat at just 12 officers. Boaties pay huge amounts of registration, so they expect the government to reinvest at least some of that money back into services to make their experiences better, particularly when it comes to safety on the water. With increasing rates of boat ownership and our waterways getting busier and busier, we need our police numbers to keep up.

I think that every member would agree that education is one of the most important areas for a government to focus on. The LNP has committed to something that Queenslanders have long been crying out for: air-conditioning every classroom in our state schools. The number of people I have spoken to who bring up this issue is huge. If we look through the feedback to any major school upgrade, one of the most common comments will be, 'What about air conditioning?' Teachers have said that, during the summer months, the afternoon hours after lunch are a write-off in terms of teaching and learning. There has been a major focus of schools in my area on how attendance impacts a student's overall performance. The government's own every day counts report gives the statistic that one missing day per fortnight equals missing one year of learning by the end of a child's schooling. When teachers are writing off a least an hour a day for much of terms 1 and 4, we are going to see similar outcomes.

In terms of school infrastructure, I was glad to see funding for Southport State High School to provide much needed new classrooms. However, it is disappointing to see no new funding for every other school that I represent. That is in contrast to the desperately needed money that has been budgeted for schools on the northern Gold Coast as Labor plays catch-up in one of the fastest-growing regions in our nation.

The news is not as good for many of the more central Gold Coast schools, of which a large proportion of their facilities are temporary accommodation—portable demountable classrooms. Arundel State School and Coombabah State High School fit this category as well as Biggera Waters State School, as my good friend the member for Broadwater mentioned yesterday. I will keep fighting to have permanent buildings in place at these schools.

Labrador State School and Musgrave Hill State School are in a similar situation, but those schools have older buildings that need upgrading. Despite that, I look forward to seeing previously announced projects, such as the new library for Southport State High School, the shared prep and special needs playground for Labrador State School, the hall upgrade at Arundel State School, the new playground at Musgrave Hill State School and shade covers at Coombabah State High School come to fruition within the 2018-19 financial year as confirmed by the minister.

The budget also provides the final amount of funding for the Gold Coast Hockey Centre, which is the home of the mighty Labrador Tigerstix, with \$1.3 million for that club's post Commonwealth Games conversion. That club will soon have a new full-size grass pitch, a larger junior development area for their fantastic program for young players and new technical benches and dugouts will also be built. The other local sporting clubs in my area have not fared as well. The Parkwood Sharks was promised world-class upgrades to its field, but it ended up with only some Commonwealth Games-branded goalpost pads.

I will be keeping a close eye on the other remaining legacy projects of the games, in particular, the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. The authority in charge of business and economic growth, Economic Development Queensland, is facilitating that project. It worries me that EDQ has failed to deliver on its measures of effectiveness. It misses targets to facilitate private sector investment projects by 40 per cent—a staggering \$120 million of investment. One would think that that type of underperformance would be a concern to EDQ. Fortunately, EDQ has a simple solution: just shift the goalposts. It got rid of four other measures of how it was tracking after failing to achieve three of them. I hope EDQ does not bring that same record of management to the GCHKP.

The health and knowledge precinct has the chance to be a hub of innovation and a new and highly desirable residential estate. Its location right next to Griffith University and the Gold Coast University Hospital as well as the Gold Coast Private Hospital is second to none. It could be a longstanding legacy of the 2018 games and I am keen to see the precinct developed. Yet the information that Labor has provided for its plans for the precinct is vague and unclear. The government should be doing whatever it takes to base the right companies at that precinct. Without careful management, this precinct will no soon longer be an asset but a monument to a lack of planning and understanding of my local area. Last year, \$35.1 million was listed as the total spend for the health and knowledge precinct. This year, the spend comes in lower at \$29.4 million. I hope the government is taking this precinct seriously and doing everything in its power to help it reach its potential.

The largest part of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, the Gold Coast University Hospital, is located in my electorate. As we see every year, there is a record Health budget—a 7.4 per cent increase. We are yet to see the government get anywhere near the funding increases of past years, which were 16.43 per cent in 2013-14 and a further 10.37 per cent in 2014-15. I hope that the increase in this budget can ensure that all emergency department performance measures are met and that we can improve the category 2 and 3 figures. I applaud all of our healthcare workers and thank them for their hard work on the front line.

One of the biggest issues for Queenslanders is managing their cost of living. The proposed waste levy is completely unnecessary. The government continues to pretend that this levy is the same one that Queenslanders paid back in 2011. The government's new tax is twice as much per tonne as the previous waste levy. The government says that there will be no direct impact of this tax on households, yet every person who goes to the tip will now have to pay. How is that not a direct impact?

The Gold Coast City Council has already taken its own measures to ensure that residents are maximising their recycling opportunities. The council is showing that we can take action in this space without imposing a new tax. This month, Recycle Street opened at the Helensvale Waste and Recycling Centre. It aims to promote positive recycling and waste disposal behaviours within the community. It is a self-service street with colour-coded shopfronts for every type of recycled material. It is doing exactly what this tax grab aims to do: ensuring that the level of our avoidable waste is lowered by maximising the opportunities for recycling.

They also have measures to ensure commercial enterprises are not using the free access as dumping grounds. The Gold Coast has shown that there is no need to have a waste levy, particularly not one that is as far reaching as Labor's. When one-third of the revenue goes towards general revenue, it is an unnecessary burden on Queenslanders and an extra tax grab by Labor.

I stand here to represent the people of Bonney. Whilst I appreciate the money that is going into my area, I think the lack of planning by this Labor government has been shown up in the budget. Whether it be on employment, transport, crime, education, sports and recreation or the cost of living, we need strong planning and a clear vision to ensure that this is a state of opportunity for every Queenslanders.



**Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.00 pm): Today I rise to speak on behalf of my constituents and the communities that I serve and to congratulate the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, the Hon. Jackie Trad, for handing down a phenomenal budget—a budget for all Queenslanders. I thank the Premier and the Palaszczuk government for their ongoing commitment and support to communities in my electorate.

The electorate of Cook is very unique. It is vast and diverse. From Saibai Island in the Torres Strait—which is in fact the most northern point in Australia and is just kilometres from PNG—to the Cape York communities in the north, out west to Mareeba and the tourist heartland of Port Douglas in the south, I am very lucky to represent an electorate where the unique geography shapes the various communities I have the honour of representing. The geographical size of the electorate is a major influencing factor that underlies the types of opportunities available to people living in rural and remote areas of Far North Queensland. For instance, the issues and challenges facing communities in the Torres Strait are vastly different from those faced in the southern part of my electorate due to the unique geography and diversity of my local communities. The Palaszczuk government understands the challenges that regional and remote communities face. That is why, when it comes time to deliver, the Palaszczuk government delivers.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of supporting health services in regional communities. Health is undeniably one of the most critical services that supports community wellbeing and longevity. In regional communities, investing in the right infrastructure ensures better quality and access to services locally, meaning local people do not have to travel long distances from their families for specialist health care. It is also vitally important to build infrastructure that will increase and support staff capacity.

Shortly after the election in 2017, the Palaszczuk government wasted no time in getting to the regions when the newly appointed Minister for Health, Minister Miles, visited the Mareeba community to discuss health infrastructure and resources in the region. As a result, the Palaszczuk government honoured its election commitment and I am pleased to inform the House that Mareeba and surrounds will benefit from a significant \$12.1 million investment to support health infrastructure and services to ensure the best possible outcomes for the community. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$5 million for a new CT scanner, \$1.5 million for staff accommodation and \$3.8 million for endoscopy services. That means less patient travel and the ability to attract quality health professionals to our region. To further support the growing demand on health services in Mareeba, the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$1.8 million to build a new ambulance station, which I welcome because it means effective and responsive services to deal with any emergency in a timely manner.

I am even more excited that the Palaszczuk government has committed over \$21 million to build health infrastructure throughout the Cook electorate. The Palaszczuk government's investment is a huge achievement for communities in Far North Queensland, as it will build stronger services

throughout the electorate. Whether it is upgrades to and the refurbishment of existing infrastructure in the Torres Strait Islands and Cape York, building new staff accommodation in the northern peninsula area or committing grants for over five years to provide the management of environmental issues that impact on health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Cape York and Torres Strait, it is all part of the Palaszczuk government's vested interest in health for communities throughout my electorate.

What about schools in my electorate? When it comes to backing the education needs for children in Queensland, only the Palaszczuk government can do it so well. The Palaszczuk government continues to support schools, because this government understands that every child deserves quality education no matter where they live. We can expect this budget to focus on supporting the ongoing maintenance of infrastructure with the refurbishment of school blocks at Mareeba State High School, Western Cape College, the Hopevale campus of CYAAA and Cooktown State School. It will provide funds for maintenance and electrical safety upgrades for Tagai State College campuses on Thursday Island and Horn Island, and the Pormpuraaw early childhood site. It will also provide for the replacement of school perimeter fencing at Mareeba State School. This all highlights the government's commitment to children in regional and remote parts of Queensland.

I am also very proud to support the funding that is going to the First 5 Forever family literacy program. The initiative will support librarian allocations for Mareeba, Cook, Douglas, Torres and Weipa. That important initiative responds to the educational needs of kids from a very young age and commits funds to supply library resources to public libraries. This is a great example of a government that is thinking not only about today but also about future generations to come.

When it comes to the holistic wellbeing of children, youth, adults and community, the Palaszczuk government stands firm on supporting communities. The government has released a budget that will do exactly that. It will provide essential services to support out-of-home-care placements. It will provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and provide intervention support. It will provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and families in high-risk situations. It will give support to vulnerable women and individuals who need to get their lives back on track. It will also support women and youth by strengthening their connections with community.

Every child and family deserves the right to a roof over their heads, no matter where they live. On 30 June 2018, just over two short weeks away, the federal LNP government will turn its back on communities by walking away from a 50-year-old program to support housing in remote Indigenous communities. Government support for housing in remote Indigenous communities is absolutely vital. Unlike other areas of this state and other parts of Australia, people living in remote Indigenous communities do not have options available to them. If the Palaszczuk government had not stepped in to make up the shortfall following the federal LNP government's reckless decision, we would have seen a vast increase in homelessness, overcrowding, and poor health and educational outcomes in remote Indigenous communities in my electorate. Our government did that because we believe in a fair go for everyone. I acknowledge Minister de Brenni for his strong advocacy on this issue.

We all know that security plays a vital part in keeping communities safe. The Palaszczuk government continues to support police and corrective services in my electorate. The funds that Cook will receive will assist the Aurukun Aboriginal community's four-point plan in relation to the Adult Prisoner Reintegration Program and the upgrade of the water treatment plant at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre. I acknowledge Minister Ryan for his hard work on that.

Supporting local sporting groups and providing adequate infrastructure is particularly important in my electorate due to its limited opportunities. I am very proud of the work that the Palaszczuk government has done to support sport and recreation in my electorate. The Mareeba and District Cricket Club was thrilled to receive an election commitment of \$90,000 to extend and upgrade their clubhouse, saying that they can now grow and offer more opportunities for locals to participate. I am excited about the allocation of \$4 million to fund splash parks in Mapoon, Napranum and Pormpuraaw, which will offer safe water spaces and encourage children and families to interact in their communities.


Through the Building our Regions program communities such as Lockhart River will receive almost half a million dollars to build a new terminal at Lockhart River Airport and over \$400,000 to upgrade the ageing and failing freshwater station at Erub Island in the Torres Strait. This is truly a government that believes in building the regions. The Palaszczuk government looks after all Queenslanders.

The 2018-19 budget speaks for itself. Whether it is supporting a new animal shelter and boarding kennel for Paws and Claws in the Douglas shire, building better roads for people travelling throughout the region, commencing construction on the two-lane Newell Beach boat ramp, road safety improvements for Mossman-Molloy or investing to get the best out of future road infrastructure by funding the planning of the Mareeba bypass, Labor delivers for all throughout the region.

With the progressive sealing of the Peninsula Developmental Road there will be an increase in the number of tourists. That will open up immeasurable opportunities for jobs, small business development and investment throughout Cape York. I give a special thankyou to the Minister for Tourism, Minister Jones, for being a strong advocate for the Wangetti Trail—a 76-kilometre-long nation-leading bike and walkway between Palm Cove and Port Douglas showcasing the beauty of the Wet Tropics, the reef and World Heritage areas.

The natural environment is particularly important in an electorate such as mine. I commend Minister Enoch for her work in this area. Over \$5 million will fund critical projects, including the Springvale Station erosion management project, the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program and funding to support the Queensland Conservation Council and regional conservation groups.

This is a budget that creates jobs in a strong economy and supports growth and development in the regions. As a first term member of parliament, I am proud to represent a government that looks after the needs of all Queenslanders. I would like to commend this first budget of the Hon. Jackie Trad that creates jobs in a strong economy, supports growth and development in the region and delivers for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise to speak in the debate with respect to the Appropriation Bill and the other bills in cognate. I start by first congratulating our leader, Deb Frecklington, on an incredibly strong response to what is a very disappointing budget. This is a budget that is actually at odds with itself.

On one hand, those on the other side of the House love to brag about growth. They love to talk about how important the growth of the Queensland economy is—the growing population and the record growth numbers. We hear regular accounts of the increases in tourism and the numbers of international students who are coming here and how important that is to the Queensland economy, but what do those on the other side of House do? They introduce policies that discourage growth.

One only needs to look at the South East Queensland Regional Plan, which those on the other side of the House have been working on for the last few years. What are the targets? What are the things that that plan is designed to do? It recognises the need for infill development or brownfield development, as some prefer to call it. Some of those targets are for something in the order of 60 to 70 per cent of infill development.

What will a waste tax do to the cost of infill development? It will rack up the cost. We have heard many accounts in the House over the last day or two about this insidious waste tax—this huge tax on everyday Queenslanders. It is not just mums and dads who will pay for it. We heard about this last night from the member for Hervey Bay. It is not just councils that will have the impost of collecting this grubby tax on behalf of the Labor government but there will be a huge impost on the construction industry as well. It adds to the cost of housing.

For those on the other side of the House who do not understand, infill development means knocking other construction down and removing the rubble so that something else can be built on the site. That involves a waste tax. This is another tax not only on everyday families but on the construction industry. It is a tax on growth in Queensland.

This budget is also disappointing in that we have heard so much from the government about how important education is. What a disappointing contribution we heard from the member for Mansfield last night. She stated—

We have the rollout of Independent Public Schools, with school councils made up of dentists, solicitors and business worthies who would all be experts in education because they went to school.

I find that comment incredibly insulting. I have been involved in P&Fs as a parent. I proudly sent my four sons to Musgrave Hill State School. That school was more than happy to have our family involved. They were more than happy to have my wife involved in the P&F, serving in the tuckshop and as a treasurer at the school. It is the families and parents of the children who go to our schools—I think the member for Mansfield has forgotten this—who have the everyday needs of our kids at heart.



I point out to those on the other side of the House that one of the most successful independent public schools in Queensland—one of the first, in fact—was Southport State High School, which is now in the electorate of Bonney. The member and I share the constituency of that school. Bob Panter has been the chairman of that school for 47 years. He has had 47 years of involvement in that school. He is the proud chairman of that school. It has set up a business innovation network that comes and engages with the school. They have businesspeople coming into the school and talking to the students about careers and opportunities. It is a world-class example of how the independent public school system can work.

I started by saying that I am disappointed with this budget. One of the things that I am disappointed about is that after the LNP's commitment to new roads, new hospitals, improved facilities, new recreational facilities, support for the light rail extension and so much else, what does Southport get this year after five or six years of incredible growth? It gets not much at all.

I have 18 schools in my electorate. It is one of the fastest growing areas of the Gold Coast. What is there for local schools? There is \$1.6 million of repromised money for some classrooms at Southport State High School. We all expected that. What is there for Benowa State School or for Ashmore State School or Bellevue Park State School? There is nothing absolutely. These are all schools that are under enormous pressure in terms of growth.

It would be good for members of the cabinet to actually go down and drive around the electorate sometime because there is this great big thing on the fringe of my electorate—with the boundary changes the member for Bonney and I share it—it is the Commonwealth Games village. We are all waiting to find out what is going to happen there. There are some 1,600 or 2,000 dwellings. At some point in the next six months or year—we are still waiting to hear from the government what is happening—there are going to be people living there. There are going to be families there with children. They are going to need to go to school. Our schools in the electorate are already under pressure. Back in March I asked a question of the Minister for Education. I asked if they could please provide details—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I am not taking those interjections. I asked the minister for details of the current enrolment numbers and the built capacity of all the schools in my electorate and on the fringe of my electorate, including Southport State High School. I also inquired about Arundel State School, even though that is not in my electorate. It is very close.

I circulated that response to all of the principals in my electorate. I am not going to name any of them because they have concerns about the response. The numbers they have are substantially different to the numbers that were provided by the government. They are very concerned about the ability of those schools to cope.

Then there is my old school, Keebra Park State High School. I am a proud public schoolboy. I went to Keebra Park. It is growing again. It sits right in the middle of one of the oldest housing commission areas of the Gold Coast. The previous minister for housing killed off the program for the reinvigoration of an entire suburb.

What do we get for public housing this year? I think it is a paltry \$12 million for the coast. That is about 24 dwellings. There was an opportunity through that reinvigoration program to work with community housing providers to regenerate an entire suburb adjoining Keebra Park State High School and see an extra 200, 300, 400 or 500 new dwellings in the public housing and affordable housing mix on the Gold Coast.

It is 'Labornomics'. I know they do not like to do things that are progressive, that are entrepreneurial, that make a real difference in people's lives. They would rather buy solar panels from China and put them in paddocks and farmland around the state and call it an incredible jobs program.

I will come back to my commentary around schools. Keebra Park has an incredible sporting heritage, but the concerns that I have—and I have asked—is that the school has no change rooms, no sports centre of excellence, no decent facilities down near the oval. We have heard many times from both sides of the House about the changing nature of sport and the increased participation of both young men and young women in school sport.

Keebra Park is the breeding ground for some of the best Rugby Union players in Australia, some of the best women's netballers and some of the best swimmers. What do they have down on their oval? It is the same as what we had the year I started there in 1973. There is grass but no change rooms and no new facilities. What that school desperately needs is a decent amenities centre and a sports excellence centre, and there is not one cent from those on the other side of the House to support what is one of the great schools in my electorate.

I want to take a minute to talk about roads. We have heard about the congestion-busting initiatives from the government, but there is still no money for the Southport-Nerang Road upgrade. I have beautiful brochures in my office that the previous member for Southport had produced showing the upgrade some 14 years ago. Today, still, there is nothing in the budget for it. In fact, it suddenly disappeared out of the system—I think it is called QTRIP—yet we see terrific pork-barrelling by those on the other side of the House in their own electorates.

I am a proud member of the LNP. I am proud to be part of an opposition that believes in responsible stewardship of our future. What this budget and future budgets are about is just more debt. Let us spend our kids' future! Let us spend my new granddaughter's future! As we have heard from some of the other members on this side of the House, if we repaid \$1 billion a year off the debt, it is still going to take us another 80 to 100 years to make any sort of dent in it. I struggle with the fact that those on the other side of the House do not understand how important it is to have a responsible fiscal plan to reduce debt and to manage the Queensland economy.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Members, there is an increasing amount of noise and disturbance creeping in. Can we keep that in check?

**Mr MOLHOEK**: I, like so many members in this House, have great dreams for my electorate. I still have a list hanging on the wall in my office of the things that I want to achieve.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! Members for Gladstone and Greenslopes, I caution you. You have been instructed about this.

**Mr MOLHOEK**: I do have to acknowledge one good thing that has happened in the budget, but not before time—that is, it is particularly pleasing to see a significant amount of money allocated for the redevelopment of the Gold Coast ambulance centre within my electorate. While I think that is a great initiative, one can only wonder whether it is worth the effort because we may end up with even more ambulances ramping at hospitals. That is what we see under Labor. They go back to their bad old habits. They do not keep their eye on the ball. They do not focus on the discipline of running great hospitals. They let things slip away. Where are we now? We are back to ambulances ramping at Gold Coast University Hospital which, I think, is an absolute disgrace.

There are other things in my electorate that are important. We have the Southport Courthouse, or the Gold Coast courts as they are probably better known as these days. There is no money in the budget for any upgrades or improvements at some of the busiest courts in Queensland. I am very grateful for the extension to the light rail. I do not believe that anyone in the House does not think that the extension to Helensvale was a good idea. I am pleased that we have all worked together for that—the council, the state and our federal colleagues. There is no money, no discussion and no mention of an extension of the light rail to the Gold Coast airport or to Burleigh. There is absolutely nothing in the budget for that.

What is more concerning is that I heard yesterday some comment around the issue of ice addiction and the challenges that we are seeing both in regional Queensland and here in the south-east. It cannot be overstated. It is an absolute war on drugs, but there is not one cent in the budget for the Gold Coast for increased rehabilitation facilities. I have been told that the challenge with rehabilitation for ice addiction is that the time young people or addicts need to spend in rehabilitation is significantly longer than what is required for other substance addictions. There is a desperate need for increased rehabilitation facilities on the Gold Coast.

Likewise, there is a desperate need for an increased focus on crime on the Gold Coast. We saw in the last term, sadly, a significant wind back of the LNP's tough laws on crime. We are seeing some of the gangs coming back. We are seeing the bikies back in town flaunting themselves. I feel that it is absolutely beholden on me to remind everyone in the House that it is so important that we maintain the focus on law and order in one of the most incredible cities in Australia. It is a tourism mecca. We have international students there. One of the questions I get asked all the time is: 'Is this a safe place for me to send my children? Is this a safe place to come?' One of our second biggest exports now is international education. It is critical that we not only protect those who come to visit the Gold Coast for holidays but also protect those many families who send their kids here to study and enjoy the Gold Coast way of life.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills before the House. In doing so, I reflect that this is a budget that is delivering on the election commitments that we, the Australian Labor Party, made to the people of Queensland—including in my own electorate of Sandgate.

The Premier and Treasurer have unveiled another step in Labor's economic blueprint for Queensland in this budget. They have spelled out a plan that seeks to deliver inclusive growth while continuing the restoration of front-line services and investing in critical infrastructure. In my portfolio areas, this includes investing in job-creating infrastructure through our \$600 million Works for Queensland program in partnership with councils; in multicultural affairs, by delivering record funding of \$15.5 million in 2018-19; and by injecting an extra \$55.4 million into country racing, bringing the total amount invested in the country racing support package to \$70.4 million over four years.

We went to the last election with a commitment to introduce a point-of-consumption betting tax in Queensland, and that is exactly what the state budget and the bills before the House deliver. The 15 per cent tax will apply to the net wagering revenue of betting operators licensed in Australia from bets placed in Queensland. As the Treasurer said, the government has delayed the implementation of the tax until 1 October to allow for further consultation with the industry.

We still do not know whether those opposite will support the point-of-consumption betting tax. It is a simple question: do they believe that corporate bookmakers should pay their fair share or don't they? There is no each-way betting on this one—either you support the tax or you do not. This is about levelling the playing field, and it is not unique to Queensland. All Australian states and territories are introducing, or have introduced, a point-of-consumption betting tax.

Importantly, there will be no tax payable on a betting operator's revenue up to and including \$300,000 in a financial year. This means smaller betting operators, including many on-course bookmakers, will not be subject to the point-of-consumption betting tax. Let me make it very clear: Queensland's racing industry will be no worse off as a result of this new measure.

I am often guided by the principle that, when it comes to financial or taxation matters, you cannot always believe what you read in the papers. You cannot rely on the rhetoric trotted out by commercial interests in the mainstream papers. However, there is generally one exception to this rule, and that is when you read about it in the *Financial Review*. When you read about these types of matters in the *Financial Review*, you can just about bet your bottom dollar that it is well grounded in fact. What did we read in Thursday's *Financial Review*? We read that Macquarie is predicting that Sportsbet's earnings could slump from \$141 million to \$79 million as a result of the PoC tax being introduced throughout Australia, but it had one very important proviso. As reported in the *Financial Review*, the Macquarie report then conceded that its modelling was somewhat—

“an unlikely outcome given that the cost could be partially passed on to consumers through reduced marketing [and] promotions and/or lifting yields”.

What does that tell us? It tells us that, despite the crocodile tears of those opposite, the PoC might not be the worst thing in the world. In fact, it might even be capable of delivering tangible benefits to Queensland's racing industry. I reiterate that the government will consult with industry during the lead-up to the commencement of the PoC tax, including on any measures to provide support for the industry. These measures and these issues were set out in the budget papers and I encourage all members to look to those.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation and an electronic copy of my speech has been made available to *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, the age-old Labor prioritisation of investment in education and quality school facilities is again on display in this budget. This is particularly evident in my electorate of Sandgate.

There's \$665,000 worth of funding for critical maintenance and other minor works across nine public schools in the electorate of Sandgate.

The State Budget also includes \$150,000 to refurbish the Block B classrooms at Shorncliffe State School. It also provides \$13,720 to deliver the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative in Sandgate.

Mr Speaker, I'm pleased to say that the Palaszczuk Labor Government's fourth Budget also delivers on a key local election commitment. Namely, a \$1.5 million contribution for a replacement Fire and Rescue Station at Bracken Ridge—part of a \$6 million overall project.

There's also funding to enable ongoing support for vulnerable children, young people and women in Sandgate. The State Budget locks in more than \$5.25 million in funding over the forward estimates across the Child Safety, Youth, Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence portfolio.

I also welcome over \$1.2 million of disability assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Sandgate residents.

We're also getting on with the job of funding important transport infrastructure upgrades that will benefit motorists right across Brisbane's northside road network.

The Budget includes the final \$45 million instalment needed to complete the \$1.143 billion Gateway Upgrade North project. There's also \$1.5 million to complete the detailed design of the interchange on the Gympie Arterial Road at Strathpine Road and Hoyland Street.

And there's \$380,000 to continue the feasibility study of the Beams Road level crossing, with \$2 million earmarked for an intersection upgrade at Biarra Street.

I've long campaigned for these important road projects and want to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in bringing them about.

Train users in 4017 are also going to be winners from the State Budget, with \$4.3 million in funding for renewal work at Shorncliffe Station, returning this iconic station to its former glory.

Queensland's number one infrastructure project, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail, also gets a major boost from the State Budget. With \$733 million allocated in 2018-19 to progress planning, procurement and development, this game changing project continues to gather momentum.

Cross River Rail will mean more trains, more often—and it will also help to tackle congestion on our roads, while supporting jobs and economic activity.

The Government has also allocated \$634.4 million as part of its capital works program for delivery of the European Train Control System between Milton and Northgate Stations. This will enhance passenger safety and provide capacity to run additional rail services, as the Cross River Rail project is being delivered.

Mr Speaker, Northsiders will also enjoy upgraded Cabbage Tree Creek boating infrastructure, thanks to a State Budget contribution of \$1.3 million.

I now turn to the important work in my ministerial portfolio being supported by this budget.

As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to local government reform, \$14.1 million has been allocated over the forward estimates to support the new Independent Assessor as established in the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) Act 2018 that was passed earlier in the year. This is an important accountability measure aiming at bringing about higher standards of behaviour in Local Government.

This budget confirms a further \$200 million for the successful Works for Queensland program to date has supported more than 10,000 jobs across regional Queensland, while delivering new and improved infrastructure in partnership with local Councils.

There's also \$20 million included in this budget to construct seawalls, drainage and groynes on five islands in the outer Torres Strait.

This important investment will strengthen these communities and assist them to tackle the risk of coastal inundation. I commend the Member for Cook being a great Champion of these initiatives in those communities—she's very clearly delivering great outcomes for her constituents.

Other initiatives funded in this Budget to deliver on election commitments include \$400,000 for an amphitheatre at Mount Archer in Rockhampton; \$1.5 million for the nature-based playground in Ayr; and \$5 million for the Beautiful Bowen town project—which I had the pleasure of opening last month.

As I said earlier, the Palaszczuk Government is a great supporter of the Queensland racing industry—as shown by the additional \$55.4 million in the State Budget to fund our Country Racing Support Package.

This honours another key election pledge, bringing our total investment in country racing to \$70.4 million over four years. And isn't that music to the ears of the 40,000-plus Queenslanders employed or engaged in the racing industry.

Our country racing package supports another of our great initiatives—The Battle of the Bush series. The final of this outstanding series will take place on Saturday week at Doomben, when 16 country gallopers compete in a \$100,000 race on a Group 1 race day. I wish all connections the very best of luck.

Mr Speaker, this State Budget also delivers a record \$15.5 million Multicultural Affairs Budget.

This includes delivering on our 2017 election commitment to double the funding available for multicultural events and projects through the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program.

Funding for this program will rise from \$1 million to \$2 million each year, over the next three years—with total funding of \$6 million available.


We're also investing an additional \$4.5 million to extend the Community Action for a Multicultural Society for a further two years from 2018-19.

I'm pleased to inform the House the Budget also locks in a total of \$4.3 million over three years, to deliver assistance to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Queensland including financial and material aid, housing assistance and other support.

Our funding increases reverse the savage cuts inflicted by the LNP—who slashed the funding of Multicultural Affairs Queensland by 40 per cent when in office.

Mr Speaker, this is a strong Labor Budget with strong Labor values. A Budget that delivers on health, education, jobs, the environment and frontline services.

I commend the Treasurer on her first Budget, and I commend the Bills to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.31 pm): Labor is right: this is a Labor budget. It is absolutely a Labor budget. It is a dodgy Labor budget. It is a socialist Labor budget. It is a Bolshevik Labor budget. All it is is debt, taxes, taking from the rich, taking from the poor, taking from the middle class, taking from everyone. I absolutely agree that it is a perfect Labor budget.

It is a perfect Labor budget that will continue to put Queensland in the decline it has been in for a generation under Labor governments. This budget is no different. When Andrew Fraser was the Treasurer and I was in here, he got up and delivered the same great Labor budgets. Andrew Fraser was of course the Treasurer who lost the AAA credit rating. In this budget there is no mention of the AAA credit rating, there is no intention to get the AAA credit rating back, there is no intention to pay down debt, there is no intention to look at debt, consider it and worry about it. It is not even mentioned.

We had the shortest budget speech for a Treasurer in recent history. She was delivering a bonanza budget, yet the Treasurer could only manage 24 minutes of her important time. I saw that the Treasurer tweeted a handwritten letter to her children saying, 'Sorry kids. I can't be home much this week because I've been very busy writing the budget.' She was not that busy. It was only a 24-minute speech which would not have taken long to write. If the Treasurer had spoken about what is really in the budget, she would have had plenty to talk about in the hour that she had—the debt, no AAA credit rating, the taxes, the broken promises. This is a Labor budget through and through. It is a Labor budget which will, unfortunately, impact on all Queenslanders. It does not matter if you live on the coast or in rural or regional Queensland, it will impact on everyone.

There is an \$83 billion debt. That is more debt than the national debt when John Howard was elected in 1996 and he paid off the debt. All that the government members look at is coal. They think, 'Coal is going well so we've got all these royalties.' We have a Treasurer who absolutely hates coal. She goes into her electorate and says that she is anti Adani and anti coal, but then she rubs her hands together with Treasury and takes all of the coal money.

What will happen when we have the next property downturn? What will happen when we have the crash? What will happen when we have the next mining downturn and we have the crash and bust? And that will happen. History, unfortunately, will repeat itself and there will not be a cent for a rainy day, there will not be a cent for the property downturn and there will not be a cent spare for when the mining industry goes into a downward spiral—as history has shown us over the years.

That is okay for Labor because they then say, 'The LNP government will fix it when they get in. The LNP are the financial managers and they'll fix it. We'll just spend all the money we don't have.' This is a whopping credit card. If all of these little credit cards were put together, they would go around Queensland a few times with the amount of debt that we have got now—that \$83 billion debt. What is quite concerning is that Labor have no plan to repay the debt. I have not seen much of the Premier this week. I have not seen much of the ministers today, I might add, after Mark Bailey's second secret email account was announced.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Member for Kawana, please refer to members by their right title.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I refer to the minister with the fake email accounts. We have not seen much of the ministers today. I heard that they had three television interviews lined up which they have canned because the mangocube email account has come to haunt them again.

We have seen the Premier get very arrogant with this little majority that she has. The Premier is getting very arrogant and we saw it during the week when she was speaking—where, basically, until she received absolute silence in this chamber from everybody, she would not continue with her speech. It was like, 'How dare you interrupt me. I'm the vice-regal Premier of the state. How dare anyone interrupt or breathe when I'm speaking.' This is the arrogance that is now coming out of the government, and it has always been there.

The Premier, the member for Inala, was a cabinet minister in the Bligh government that sold off all of our assets in Queensland in 2009. I was sitting over here in the shadow ministry when Rachel Nolan got up in question time and said that Queensland Rail was not for sale. The member for Inala was sitting over there as well at the time, and of course two days later they announced the budget and Queensland Rail was actually for sale. They did not let the minister in. The Premier is increasing the cost of water right around South-East Queensland, but she would not even know that because the government announced it when she was jetsetting around the world with celebrities, famous people and boxers. She would not know that the day she was in Las Vegas her government put in \$80 water increases on the Sunshine Coast.

The LNP delivered on the Sunshine Coast. We delivered the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We would not have any commitment to rail duplication from the federal government or the state government, with that little bit there, had the LNP team not been a united team and fought the good fight for rail duplication on the Sunshine Coast. We have heard members of the government, ministers like the Minister for Main Roads, and particularly Mayor Mark Jamieson, saying that the LNP did not deliver for the Sunshine Coast. I am not going to cop that. Every time there is a minister on the Sunshine Coast, the mayor takes them on a great tour of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. It was not the Sunshine Coast council that delivered the hospital; it was an LNP government that turned the first sod, brought forward construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and got that hospital up and running—and, by the way, we saved \$200 million for the Queensland taxpayers in the process.

What is in the budget for Kawana? The government have re-announced a roundabout upgrade. The roundabouts were actually opened about a year ago, but there is \$5 million spare so they are now going to open some road out on to Kawana Way. That is the most they have given. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would know all too well about the traffic congestion on Caloundra Road, because your electorate and my electorate share that road, but there is no money in the budget to upgrade that road.

In terms of education, I cannot believe Labor government members have been out there criticising the fact that we will air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland. It is unbelievable that they have been tweeting how bad of an idea this is. I am taking note and I have printed every tweet from every Labor member who has been whingeing about air conditioning. When I go on my road trip around Queensland next week, they are the schools I will be doing my press conferences out the front of, and I will have those tweets from those Labor members saying they do not want air conditioning in their school classrooms. Every kid in Queensland deserves to be a cool kid because cool kids are smart kids, no matter where you live in Queensland. I cannot believe the education minister has been criticising the LNP's plan to air-condition all of our classrooms. It will be fantastic and we look forward to 2020 when we can get Deb elected as the premier and she and the LNP government can deliver air conditioning in all of the state school classrooms across Queensland. We can build the roads, the infrastructure and the priorities that Queensland actually needs.

**Mr Minnikin:** Have some train drivers perhaps?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Indeed! I think a few months ago they were announcing new trains but they did not have any drivers.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They were not automated, either. I take the interjection from the shadow minister.

The government goes on about record spending in education. Of course! The population is growing. Poor baby Elizabeth. I would hate to be poor Elizabeth when she turns 21 and has to produce the record of *Hansard* because she has been quoted so often in this place. When Elizabeth is 21 her water bills will be through the roof and she will not have public transport or decent roads if the Labor government are still in power.

The LNP want to declutter our curriculum. We want to make sure the kids are getting taught what they need to be taught, not this ridiculous social engineering rubbish that the socialists are putting in our schools like the Respectful Relationships program or Safe Schools program. The LNP is going to get rid of them because we are going to concentrate on maths and English. There is no use our kids graduating if they cannot read, write or do maths. That is what we will be doing. They will be our priorities. We are going to invest in it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Order, members.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Here we are; they are interjecting about kids being able to read and write. They do not want cool kids in schools; they do not want kids to be able to read or write. I cannot understand why they object.

While we are talking about the Sunshine Coast, let me talk about an issue. Members may know that I have been fairly critical of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and I will put it bluntly. The local government on the Sunshine Coast has forgotten the 'local' in local government. They are running a corporate organisation now and they are forgetting their role and responsibilities to the constituents in their particular divisions. In a minute I will be tabling about a hundred pages of RTI documents that have been released from the Sunshine Coast council.

The mayor of the Sunshine Coast and the likes of Councillor Christian Dickson have been criticising the LNP again for what they are apparently not delivering on the Sunshine Coast. I think this will give an insight into how this council operates. There it is just a collective thought. The documents that I am about to table show that the divisional councillors are not sticking up for their individual constituents; they are doing what council want them to do, what bureaucracy wants them to do. When the mayor was challenged on a couple of these things, he wrote an email to all his councillors. He said—

Councillors, I am more than happy to lead as agreed and take it up hard to get the results we seek—but I want to know my team is right behind me (not 200 metres back) and are as committed as I am to getting the outcome ...

We can look at verge parking. When the mayor did not have an open forum on verge parking—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that verge parking may be important to the member for Kawana, but it has nothing to do with the state budget. I would bring him back to a relevant contribution to the debate on the appropriation bills.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have taken advice on this point. It is a very wide bill that we are talking about covering many SDSs. I do not see any point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The reality is that in our budget reply the LNP announced if the local councils are not going to fix local roads we will, and that includes parking on these local roads. Here we go; this is what the mayor said about not wanting to have an open forum. He said, 'I want to avoid providing platforms for would-be councillors looking for a profile issue.' He is deliberately making sure that people do not go there who would be running against his councillors at the same time.

Here is a doozy. I ran a campaign about paid parking at the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the issues surrounding that. Councillor Christian Dickson then emailed his other councillors saying, 'Hey, guys look at this. I've blogged on this site.' Councillor Christian Dickson is running a fake Facebook profile account and commenting on blogs of state MPs without identifying himself as a councillor in the Sunshine Coast council. He is hiding that fact. Now when we go to that particular blog—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Now that the RTI has been released, the comments have been deleted.

We also had the issue on the Sunshine Coast where the whale washed up and there was a funding issue about who was going to pay to take it out to the ocean, bury it or take it into the waste landfill. Councillor Christian Dickson writes, 'I've had enough of being nice guy and turning the other cheek. Jarrod is attacking our mayor, our council and our community.' No, I was sticking up for my community, the electorate of Kawana and the people in Kawana. Councillor Christian Dickson also emailed when we ended up having the whale taken off the beach and put into the dump site. He said—

I would absolutely take the opportunity given by the Mayor to participate and share my views on all matters more regularly and should've ignored the officers of council advice and followed my gut instinct by sharing my strong level of dissatisfaction with the way the matter was being handled ...'

It says here in the subject line—

We let Jarrod have a win by letting this all occur in the first place. He's right, we need to stop giving away opportunities for him and others to belt us over the head.

If the council just did the right thing by the people of the Sunshine Coast they would not need anyone to belt them over the head and bring these issues to their attention.


Then we had Councillor Jason O'Pray admitting that he agreed with me but for the sake of defending council he went out there and blatantly told the people of the Sunshine Coast that the best resolution was for this whale to be buried on the beach because that is what council said. This is the reality and I table a copy of all those documents.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents, released under the Information Privacy Act 2009, by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council [\[9121\]](#).

Mark Jamieson stands up on the Sunshine Coast and attacks the LNP for not delivering, yet during the election campaign we announced the full duplication of the rail corridor and the Mooloolah River interchange—billions of dollars of investment on the Sunshine Coast. Now I see Mark Jamieson attacking the Labor government for not delivering on the Sunshine Coast and yet he asked people to vote for Labor. Thankfully, they did not listen to him on the Sunshine Coast and they voted in a great team of LNP members including the new members for Ninderry, Buderim and Nicklin.

I can give this commitment to the Sunshine Coast: the Sunshine Coast MPs will never let the Sunshine Coast community down. We will fight hard to have the infrastructure delivered: the rail duplication and the Mooloolah River interchange. We will work with council where we can to deliver the appropriate infrastructure. I finish where I started. This is a dud Labor budget, but it is a Labor budget through and through: higher taxes, higher unemployment and higher debt with no plan to pay it down.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.46 pm): I am not going to take a novel approach here. I am not going to talk about the Brisbane City Council budget that was brought down this week; I am going to talk about the state budget. Let's start talking about the air conditioning. We cannot get a straight answer about whether it is all schools, some schools, no school or one school. What we also cannot get a straight answer about is how it is going to be funded. No, we cannot work out whether they are going to borrow or put up taxes. I think we know how they will do it because they did it last time: they will cut services. It is hard to be a smart kid when they walk into a classroom and there is no teacher there. That is exactly what happened the last time.

Last night in this House the member for Condamine asked me and the Minister for Transport to enjoy a ride along the Veloway. I would be very pleased to have the member for Condamine join me for a ride around my electorate and we would start off on the Veloway. Before we set off I want to point out to the LNP that they cannot sit in this place carrying on about congestion and then run down Labor's programs that are aimed at dealing with this issue. We are not talking—or perhaps as the member for Hill put it so eloquently last night, we are not squawking like parrots; we are delivering. As we would set off, I would point out all those people using the cycleway. Why do those people not deserve to get home faster and safer—all those people taking cars off the road?

Then I would point out something that the member for Condamine may not be able to easily recognise: the lights that are powered by renewable energy. The LNP have just started talking about renewable energy. They do not believe in it. They do not know why we need it. They certainly have no idea how we are going to fund it, but they now seem to understand that perhaps we should talk about it. The tour will give me a chance to point out how this budget is delivering on the commitments that I have made to our community.

Let's head over to the Coorparoo Secondary College to see how I am backing our local schools. We will be refurbishing the school oval at Coorparoo Secondary College. That will allow the school to work with the Coorparoo junior Aussie Rules club to run an AFL excellence program.

Then we will head over to Whites Hill State College, where I have advocated with the school for something called a skunk worx—for those of you who do not know, that is a STEM learning centre—so we can prepare our young people for the challenges of the future. Perhaps they may give the member for Condamine a lesson or two on renewable energy. I back our local schools because the future holds many challenges, and a good education equips young people with the ability to turn challenges into opportunities.

Let us continue the tour and head back down to Camp Hill. On the way we will see where work will soon start on the Eastern Transit Way, a project that will get people in my electorate—and the electorates of Chatsworth, Capalaba and Redlands—home sooner. Perhaps on the way we will have a chat about Cross River Rail. I know that people in my electorate will be thrilled that 50 per cent of the staff on this project will be apprentices. We might stop at a bus stop and talk to some of the constituents about that Cross River Rail project, but they will probably want to talk about Fairer Fares and how that program is saving them money on every trip. Those people will certainly understand why I am committed to improving public transport. Cross River Rail, the Veloway and the Eastern Transit Way: these projects will get you home faster, create jobs and are good for the environment.

I know that the member for Condamine has parroted the same nonsense about debt that I have heard over and over again. I encourage those members opposite to stop just picking up the notes that you have been handed; start reading the budget, start thinking for yourselves and at least make an attempt to put your own words around the budget. While we are talking about this I would try to explain to the member for Condamine that if he and his LNP colleagues are concerned about debt, they should head to Canberra and ask the Prime Minister to cough up their fair share for the infrastructure we are building. While they are not, we will continue on with the job.

I might even try and educate the member for Condamine about our current economic conditions, as it is a good time to invest in infrastructure. We are in a low interest rate environment, we have a mining boom that is coming off the boil, and it is crucial that governments reinvest in productive



infrastructure. He may not want to talk about the debt to gross state product ratio and what this means for affordability of borrowing. No, it is far easier to continue the scare campaign about a very big number rather than admit that the debt to GSP ratio is lower under Labor than it ever was under the LNP.

Since we are discussing infrastructure on our ride, let us stop at the top of Camp Hill and consider the LNP and Labor's records on infrastructure. From up here we can see the only thing the LNP built: 1 William Street, a big plaything for themselves. Sorry, I take that back. They did build something else. If we turn to our left perhaps we will be able to see the Cavendish Road high school where there was a commitment to build a hall. In fact, Campbell Newman grabbed that hall and took it over to his own electorate of Ashgrove. That is a pretty pathetic record, so I am pleased that we are building that hall now at Cavendish Road. We do not see it stopping there: Cross River Rail, the Townsville stadium, Works for Queensland programs, the Veloway, Gold Coast Light Rail, and new and upgraded schools and hospitals.

In relation to infrastructure we could not be more different. When the LNP were in government last they loved opening infrastructure that was built by Labor. They loved cutting ribbons almost as much as they loved cutting Public Service jobs. We make no apology for investing in infrastructure to build our economic future. Why are we building infrastructure? To deal with our growing population, to boost business confidence—which will boost private sector economic activity—and to create safe and secure jobs. That is what I committed to at the last election: more local jobs.

Let us cycle down the hill to Vision Australia at Coorparoo, where we can meet people on a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. That program, which is funded by our government, is helping people with no or low vision—who face a 60 per cent unemployment rate—and helping to bring that number down. They will be thrilled that we are increasing the amount of funding for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. A skilled, well-educated workforce will give our state the flexibility to respond to a rapidly changing economy. Do not take my word for it. That is what Peter Crone, the chief economist of Ernst & Young, believes.

In addition to our infrastructure and employment-boosting programs, we continue to repair the damage of the cuts of the LNP. We are employing more nurses, teachers and fireys in this budget. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition tried to portray that increasing numbers of teachers, nurses and cops is just what a government does in response to a growing population. It is just part of normal business. Well, it was not normal business when she was part of Campbell Newman's government. She sat at a cabinet table and sacked nurses, teachers, child safety workers, cops and public servants. These savage cuts damage workers, their families and the community and they destroyed small businesses, so do not come in here and pass off what this government is doing as just normal business. We are repairing the damage. This is special. We are doing it, and we are managing the budget and delivering surpluses.

Those opposite want to run a scare campaign about a very big number. Instead, they come in here with fairytales about delivering everything to everyone, but with no real plan on how to pay for it. The last time they did that they paid for it by sacking thousands and thousands of workers, wrecking community services, gagging community organisations, wrecking communities and destroying businesses and business confidence. I lived through that. At the height of the Newman era nine of my friends, who were in their forties and fifties, were unemployed. Some are just getting back on their feet. I hate to speak about this because it was only for a few months, but even as a nurse I found it difficult to find a job.

We have gone on a big tour around the electorate of Greenslopes with the member for Condamine. You can all rest assured that we are not in our lycra—we are more trackie daks guys—but we will finish the ride by congratulating the Premier and Treasurer on another surplus budget that delivers on our commitments. I will be speaking to people right across my electorate as we finish this ride—people in Holland Park, Holland Park West, Greenslopes, Camp Hill and Stones Corner. This is a budget of hope. It is a Labor budget. It is a budget that delivers on commitments to my community. We are backing our local schools; we are improving public transport; we are creating more local jobs; we are building community.



**Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.56 pm): This is my 10th budget as the member for the Cleveland district—formerly the Cleveland electorate, now the Oodgeroo electorate—and it is the worst and most irresponsible budget of the 10. Labor have set 70 per cent of those budgets and have been in power for over 80 per cent of the last 30 years or so, so all of the long-term, systemic and cumulative problems—like our unsustainably high level of state debt and infrastructure deficits—have occurred on

the watch of successive Labor governments. Ambitious Labor premiers and treasurers over the last 30 years or so decided to not live within their means. Traditional Labor budgets over the long term have left our state in a parlous economic situation.

It was largely during Premier Bligh's time during an economic mining boom that debt levels soared to unsustainable heights. Debt is climbing once again under the current Premier and Treasurer. If I may channel Kath and Kim for a moment, this is the Treasurer's 'look at me, look at me, I can be Premier' budget. It is a budget that puts her ambition to be Premier above the needs of the state government's finances and the people of Queensland. Sadly, the Treasurer confuses big taxing and big spending on the state's credit card with high achieving. This bad Labor budget repeats the mistakes of some of the worst Labor budgets of the past. If you understand that it is all about the Treasurer's ambition, then you begin to make sense of this power-seeking budget.

This budget has been described as one of taxes, debt and unemployment. The budget can be further characterised in various ways. It is a terrible tax budget with record high levels of tax, five new taxes, and more to come. The waste tax is a terrible tax and will impact on small businesses. Every Queenslanders indirectly will pay for the sins of one council. Redlanders will be paying for an Ipswich problem. How is that fair to Redlanders? The waste levy will also add an expected \$1,400 to the average cost of a new home, according to Master Builders. Thousands of young couples who want to buy their first home in the Redlands will pay more. How is that fair to them? The government will be tempted to roll out more taxes; for example—I predict—like a recreational fishing licence or fishing tax. What was needed, however, was the LNP's economic plan of no new taxes.

This budget is also a debt denial budget: \$83 billion of state debt and no plan to pay it down, not even to stabilise it. There is not even a plan to make a plan; not even a thought bubble; not even whispered aloud. It is an intergenerational theft budget, a shocking act of theft from our children and grandchildren. This Treasurer is loading future generations of Queenslanders with today's unsustainable debt.

The Treasurer is guilty of stealing from Redlands children—stealing their future lifestyles and prosperity, stealing their jobs and opportunities. What was needed was the LNP's economic plan to not load up unsustainable debt on the generations to come.

It is also a splurge spending budget. The Treasurer is spending like there is no tomorrow, and on the state's credit card—using money we do not have instead of living within our means. What was needed was the LNP's economic plan to not spend more than we earn.

It is a discriminatory budget. It discriminates against the Redlands. While I have said that the government should first live within its means, whatever it does spend within an affordable budget should be spent fairly and evenly, treating people equally. This budget, however, discriminates against Redland City people with respect to the infrastructure spend. Of the \$45 billion infrastructure spend, up to \$1.5 billion is the fair share that Redland City should receive—calculated per person or calculated per state seat, depending on whether you calculate three or four seats for Redland City—but this budget delivers not one big-ticket item in Redland City, a region of 150,000-plus people. There is nothing in terms of road duplications, rail duplication, busways, metros or major hospital upgrades like the ICU unit that is needed. There is nothing big. What was needed was the LNP's economic plan to govern for all Queenslanders, to spend fairly and evenly in all of the regions across the state.

This is also a ratings risky budget. The record spending and record debt put our ratings at further risk. Let us not forget it was a Labor government that lost the state's prized AAA credit rating, having gone broke in a mining boom and before the GFC. With budgets like this one over the next four years, there is no plan to get our AAA credit rating back. Every Redlander will pay more state taxes, levies, fees and charges just to meet the ever-growing interest payments, not to ever pay off the principal. Now this Treasurer has put our current rating at risk with unaffordable spending and unsustainable debt which she has no plan to get under control. What was needed was the LNP's economic plan that provides a steady and balanced approach to the state's finances.

Lastly, this is the 'saved by coal' budget. The higher than expected coal royalties saved the government's budget. How ironic that the budget of the anti-coal crusader the member for South Brisbane was saved by coal! I am sure that irony will not be lost on those in South Brisbane who thought she stood for renewables and climate change only to find that she was happy to bank large amounts of coal royalties in the government coffers. What was needed was the LNP's economic plan that balances the long-term phase-out of coal and the responsible phase-in of renewables.

Speaking statewide, this budget was a chance to treat all Queenslanders fairly; to bring down rising state debt; to live within our means; for real and solid surpluses over the forward estimates; to bring down the cost of living and doing business; and to bring down unemployment, especially in regional towns. Instead of being fiscally responsible, the Treasurer has blown out the debt to spend big on herself, to save herself from the Greens.

This should have been a fair budget for the people of Redland City and the Cleveland district. In particular, the government had the chance to deliver a fair share of infrastructure funds but it has not. The state budget tragedy started badly for the Redlands, with an epic fail to recognise Redland City as a distinct region. Labor failed to provide a separate regional action plan for the Redlands, though the ALP member for Redlands publicly said that she supported our plan for a separate budget region. Instead, Redlands was lumped in with Greater Brisbane, hiding the government's failure to deliver in Redland City. This lack of recognition of the Redlands demonstrates that the three Labor state MPs for Redland City are ineffectual.

The Redlands' fair share of the \$45 billion infrastructure budget is up to \$1.5 billion, but sadly we see nothing invested anytime soon in major road duplication, rail duplication, major hospital upgrade et cetera that will benefit Redlands. This was the chance to put an end to Labor's three-year-long infrastructure freeze. Instead we get four more years of freeze with no big-ticket items. It was the government's chance to show Redlands the money. Sadly, all the Labor MPs could manage was to vote for and in one case speak for record high water price increases for the Redlands and vote for higher power prices.

**Mrs Lauga:** That was eight years ago.

**Dr ROBINSON:** We are still paying for them today. I refer to the freeze on health and hospital infrastructure. If Redland City got its fair share—up to \$1.5 billion—then Redland Hospital would be getting a major upgrade like Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture and Nambour hospitals. I wish them well, but this should have been equally applied to the Redlands. There is a need for a new ICU, rehab beds, an expansion of the palliative care service to a full 10-bed unit—and even just car parking. Even more could have been done with our fair share. While the maternity water-birthing suite is to be provided in response to my Better Redlands plan, much more is needed. Our ED waiting times continue to grow under this Labor government.

In terms of transport and main roads, if we got our fair share then much more could have been done. Cross River Rail is of questionable value to the Redlands, if it is ever fully realised. It appears that it may not even connect effectively to the Cleveland line and may not save much time at all. How will it save time if the Manly to Cleveland section remains a single track? It does not achieve anything without the duplication of that rail line. To date these questions have not been sufficiently answered. The rail duplication would benefit Cleveland and Redland commuters in the short to medium term and save them time—now and soon—going to and from the city. This duplication has been promised by Labor before but is not yet built. It is another unfulfilled Labor promise, not unlike Cross River Rail I suspect.

The budget even fails to address Labor's 40-plus cuts to train services on the Cleveland line. I suggest it should spend some time fixing that before it tries things that are much bigger. Commuters are being stranded at stations. Robert Dow from Rail Back on Track spoke of a case of a person who was waiting 44 minutes, stranded at a station on the Cleveland line, because the train was deemed as 'express'—not because it was planned that way but because it was full, it did not stop and the person had to wait.

Since Labor withdrew funding for the Eastern Busway in the 2011 budget and forward estimates, after committing to the Redlands to fund it solely with state funds by 2026, the busway project has not gone ahead on Labor's promised scale.

In terms of roads, there should have been funds to fix congestion on major arterial roads: duplicating Cleveland Redland Bay Road, duplicating Mount Cotton Road, even upgrading the Shore and Wellington streets intersection. For the Shore and Wellington streets intersection, the LNP federal member has put \$3½ million on the table. Our commitment was for \$5 million. That would be an \$8½ million build and would provide plenty of funds to do it. Labor had an opportunity to stump up the money and move on, but instead the minister has blocked the funding and reversed TMR's previous determination that the intersection is not safe. It has loaded a \$4 million contingency on a \$6 million project. That is pretty typical Labor economics.

In terms of North Stradbroke Island, the \$11 million funding to the Straddie ETS is welcome, though too little too late. It is playing catch-up and falls far below the identified economic need created by Labor's rushed shutdown of mining and the sacking of workers on Straddie. I could say much more on that if I had more time. To bring in laws that shut down a mine and sacked workers in such a rushed way, in a short period of time, causing such hardship to the workers, is disgraceful, particularly when you think that we are trying to close the gap on North Stradbroke Island between the Quandamooka people and the opportunities they have and non-Indigenous people. Some 30 per cent of the Sibelco workforce were Aboriginal workers who are being sacked and will be sacked by the end of next year. That is a disgrace that only widens the gap and does not close it. There are many things we could say about that. It took the visit to the island of the shadow minister for tourism, to flag some of these things, for the Treasurer to suddenly turn up and announce the \$11 million in the lead-up to the budget. I thank the shadow minister for his good work.

There is a freeze on education infrastructure. If Cleveland district got its fair share, we could build a new high school or create a second campus of Cleveland high school on the under-utilised old DPI site and make significant investment in Wellington Point State High School. These things are needed and I invite the education minister to look at these important projects with me for the medium to long-term planning. With the growth of Cleveland District High to 2,000 students and almost 100 per cent capacity, new buildings are needed now. This budget does provide some funding for a new building in response to my plan for a better education in the Redlands. At the same time the minister could come and reassure the principals of my IPS schools that she is not going to cave in to the union and cut or reduce their funding or autonomy given that the report from the previous IPS review was mainly positive.


The federal LNP has renewed its commitment of \$247 million to the chaplaincy program in terms of education. Our chappies in our local schools in Redlands and across Queensland do a great job, but across the nation more than 3,000 schools do not know whether Bill Shorten is going to cut funding for their chappie, let alone what other political agendas he plans to foist on them. If I lose them, I will not be a happy chappie.

**Mr Costigan:** And you won't be alone.

**Dr ROBINSON:** There will be many of us. In terms of water, if Redland City got its fair share we would be able to put the dam gates back on the Leslie Harrison Dam. The member for Capalaba knows how important that is to the local community.

In terms of recreational fishers and boaties, I welcome the continuation of my plan for a better bayside with the announcement of a new artificial reef for Moreton Bay off Point Lookout. I have long called for many more artificial reefs to continue the LNP's rollout of reefs throughout the bay. Wellington Point is one that I will continue to signal. In summary, this bad Trad budget discriminates. It has record debt. It hits many records and records that are—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.11 pm): Today I rise to support the Appropriation Bill handed down with the state budget delivered by the Treasurer earlier this week. It is a great Labor budget. It is a budget that delivers jobs and infrastructure, it delivers for Queensland and it delivers for Thuringowa. As the re-elected member for Thuringowa, there is more that I want to deliver in my patch and I want to share that with the House today. As I said, it is a great budget and builds local infrastructure in my area. To those knockers who did not want me back—possibly some on the other side looking at me now—they probably did not realise that I like to deliver real projects in my patch like the Hervey Range Road project, Riverway Drive, the Kirwan Ambulance Station and the Kirwan hall. These are creating local jobs and are great for our area.

When we came to government in 2015, the good people—my constituents—of Thuringowa sadly suffered job losses under the former LNP government, the mining downturn and of course the QNI closure of the nickel refinery in 2016. We shared the bad times, but the memories are still fresh. I recall talking to some of those sacked workers and their families who were desperate to know how they were going to put food on the table, fuel in the car or just wanting their basic entitlements. Those stories were shared at each of those unemployment forums held at the Riverway precinct in Thuringowa. We now have the recent news of Mr Palmer seeking to reopen the Yabulu nickel refinery. Excuse me if I remain somewhat cynical, like many in Townsville, of promises being peddled out to the media. The wounds are still too raw for many. However, as I have said in this House previously, it would take a strong Labor government led by our Premier, Treasurer, ministers and three dedicated local Townsville Labor members to stand up for Townsville in its time of need.

After hearing the contribution from the member for Burdekin, who said today that there was no infrastructure delivered in Townsville, I urge the member to listen to this: \$250 million to Townsville Stadium; \$225 million for the Haughton water pipeline; a commitment towards the \$1.6 billion Townsville port expansion through the berth 4 upgrade; and \$40 million, \$75 million and now over \$100 million towards the much needed channel widening to come to fruition. What about the \$386 million for Powering North Queensland where we are seeing possible hydro-electricity built at Burdekin Falls Dam and the building of a high-transmission line connecting all of those renewable projects? I know the opposition likes renewable projects like the 124-megawatt Ross River Solar Farm or Clare Solar Farm or the Kidston or Collinsville or the Whitsunday projects. We are going to connect them all up and they are going to support thousands of jobs. That is building infrastructure in North Queensland. We are doing that and we will be doing even more after this state budget.

In Thuringowa one of the major job-generating infrastructure projects—the Riverway Drive duplication stage 1—has received \$14.8 million in this state budget to complete this project. Some 25,000 people use this road every day and they are seeing real progress and it has become a catalyst for private investment, with a company recently submitting a development application to Townsville City Council for a \$60 million shopping centre and medical centre. Through our investment in trunk infrastructure, people are seeing that they can invest in our area and that is a great sign for our local economy. On the back of delivering the Riverway Drive project and supporting local jobs—and it is only stage 1—I know I have to give the residents a break on Riverway Drive because we want to do stage 2. However, I think we need to give them a rest. They were fatigued with all of that roadwork.

It does not end for another year, but guess what is in the budget? Some \$36 million to start the Townsville Ring Road stage 5, but guess where it starts? You thought you might have heard the last of Riverway Drive! It starts at the Riverway Drive interconnection and runs six kilometres out. It is valued at \$180 million and is going to create a couple of hundred jobs on that major infrastructure project. Our money is on the table. Our contribution of 20 per cent funding for this state and federally funded project is in place, but what is missing? What is missing is the money from the federal government. It did not invest in this ring-road. It did not invest in the port. It did not invest in water. As we heard from the opposition leader this week in her budget reply speech, there was nothing to do with roads in Townsville, nothing to do with water, nothing for Townsville. Those opposite are simply out of touch, much like Malcolm Turnbull. I am working closely with the federal member for Herbert, Cathy O'Toole, to get that important funding to complete that project.

We already know that it is going to take a federally elected Labor government along with our strong Queensland Labor government to build the infrastructure for Townsville to attract more investment in that area. When we get the Townsville Ring Road stage 5 complete, it is going to provide increased connectivity for 1,400 more families moving into the Upper Ross area. It will get an interconnection off Beck Drive just down the road from Riverway Drive connecting on to the ring-road getting them to work, to the Townsville Hospital—our tertiary hospital—James Cook University or perhaps Lavarack Barracks 3rd Brigade that employs 5,000 of our ADF personnel. We need that trunk infrastructure in place to get all of those transport links connecting to the port and further north and south.

I am amazed that the member for Burdekin said that there was nothing in the budget for the rail line. I have the budget paper in front of me and it says that there is \$50 million for the Townsville-Mount Isa rail line. I do not know which budget paper he is reading from, but he is clearly not paying attention. We are investing in North Queensland. We are very clearly investing in Townsville.


Education is key and getting our kids a great education is the key to getting them jobs in the future. I am very happy to see in the budget for Thuringowa \$13 million for Heatley secondary school. Steve Miskin, the principal, and Louise Wilkinson from Heatley primary are counting on new security fences. Thanks to the education minister, they are in the budget and they will get those fences. Willows principal Helen McCullough wanted shade structures for her school. That is in the budget and it is done, as well as \$480,000 for Kirwan State Primary School.

Even better, under the Works for Queensland program there is \$4.2 million for facilities for the Upper Ross Charles Moroney Park. That is great. Those facilities will benefit my local community. Charles Moroney Park is home to the Upper Ross Rams. There would be members who know who comes from the Rams and that is the great Sharks player Valentine Holmes. Hopefully, he will soon be a North Queensland Cowboys player.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** No. He is a great advocate for sport in my area. I know that a lot of people in my area look up to JT, but Valentine Holmes would be welcome in the Cowboys. He comes from the Upper Ross Rams. I am going to work really hard with the sports minister to deliver those facilities. He is a pretty good bloke. He listens to me. Once we get that \$4.2 million sporting work done under Works for Queensland, we will have a new sports complex.

There is so much more to talk about with this budget. It is a good budget for the Thuringowa electorate. We will get more teachers and more nurses in our hospitals. This budget focuses on infrastructure, jobs and improving services in our local areas.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill and about my disappointment in this Labor government's 2018-19 budget. How wrong was I to have hoped that the Labor government might have learned from its past mistakes and remembered to include regional communities in this year's budget! Just like last year, and many years before that, my community and other regional Queensland communities have been left out in the cold. I am disappointed for not only the residents of the Bundaberg electorate but also all Queensland residents who deserve so much more from their state government.

Under Labor, each and every Queenslanders will continue to suffer, especially those who do not live in the south-east corner. This budget will help drive Queensland into a record \$83 billion debt and will steal \$2.25 billion straight from Queenslanders' pockets to pay for Labor's five new taxes and four new fees. What have the people of Queensland done to deserve this? Labor's debt will cost the Queensland economy \$71 million a week, \$10 million a day, or \$420,000 an hour. That is absolutely shocking.

Under Labor, in last year's budget the Wide Bay-Burnett lost millions in capital dollars. This government has not even bothered to reinvest that money back into my community this year. Clearly, Labor's plan is to just ignore my region for many years to come. This is this Labor government's fourth budget and it is the fourth time my community has been let down.

Since I was elected, every single day I have been out in the beautiful Bundaberg electorate meeting with, speaking to, and asking the residents what they desire for their great community. At every parliamentary sitting, I have stood up and spoken for what I know the residents of the Bundaberg electorate want, need and deserve. This week, it has become obvious that those opposite do not even listen to what is said in this chamber.

I say to members to not get me wrong: my community appreciates every single dollar that is listed in this budget for the Bundaberg electorate, but my electorate needs an array of things and next to nothing has been delivered. My community and I wanted to see funding allocated towards projects that create jobs, support local businesses, fix dangerous roads, air-condition our schools, make school zones safer, lower Queensland's debt, implement flood mitigation, lower fuel and electricity prices, guarantee a new hospital, fund a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, or implement projects that generally make life for the residents of the Bundaberg electorate better and easier. Instead, Labor has put Queensland into more debt than ever before. It is slugging people with unnecessary and exorbitant extra costs and is seemingly just going to carry on overlooking regional Queensland.

The Wide Bay-Burnett region has the largest regional population outside the south-east corner, but that area has been given the second lowest capital budget in regional Queensland—only just coming in front of outback Queensland. That is really disheartening. Why do the people of this area not deserve to be on a level playing field? Why is the Wide Bay-Burnett area always left to fend for itself?

Many people who live in the Bundaberg electorate are doing it really tough. A high number of retirees and small business owners call the Bundaberg electorate home. My electorate also has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the country. The government should be trying to reduce that, instead of further inhibiting regional Queensland communities from thriving.

Under Labor, unemployment in Queensland has risen to 6.5 per cent, which makes our state the equal worst in the nation. The unemployment rate for the Wide Bay area sits at an even higher 9.5 per cent. Youth unemployment in outback Queensland has now reached 54.2 per cent and it is sitting at 29 per cent in the Wide Bay—the highest it has ever been. Stagnant wages growth, high unemployment, a youth jobs crisis and flatlining business confidence are all symptoms of Labor's economic mismanagement. Something needs to give. These extraordinarily high youth unemployment rates need to decrease.

In comparison to the LNP's last state budget, the Wide Bay is facing infrastructure funding cuts and job opportunity losses of \$229 million and 710 jobs. Labor continues to only make things worse. It is failing to create jobs or support small business. This budget hits small business with a new waste tax that will cost them and their customers \$1.3 billion over the next four years. This cruel and crass tax takes more than Labor is giving to businesses in any cash incentives. Labor claims that this tax would not hurt Queensland mums and dads, but it does just that. Worse than that, this government is now keeping 30 per cent of that tax and putting it back into its coffers rather than using it to reduce waste for landfill and recycling initiatives. It is a blatant money grab. There is nothing at all in this budget to show small businesses that the government is serious about getting out of their way and letting them succeed.

In this budget Branyan Road State School is the only school in the Bundaberg electorate that will benefit in any way from a new capital project. I am sure the teachers, principal, students and parents are very happy about that. The construction of Kepnock State High School's multipurpose hall that was announced again in this budget is already well under construction. That is just another required book entry.

Queensland kids are being short-changed. There is no money in Labor's budget for an increased number of swimming lessons, or for air-conditioning our schools. We have previously seen Labor commit \$97 million to installing solar panels in over 800 schools in order to save it money and contribute to its own renewable energy target. I am failing to see how solar energy helps our kids learn. The government's goal should be to want our kids to be the smartest in the nation. Investing in education is the best chance children have to get a job and succeed in life. Studies have shown that employability is linked to education and that comfortable learning environments help students stay focused and engaged.

At the last election, the LNP committed \$2 million to assist in air-conditioning state schools in the Bundaberg electorate. Labor has made no air conditioning commitments. We have not heard a peep from Labor about it this week either. Under Labor, any school based south of Gladstone is expected to raise funds themselves through their P&C groups if they want air conditioning. If members have ever been to the Bundaberg electorate they would know that the people there have their fair share of hot and humid conditions every year. Obviously, this weather is not extreme enough to get the government's attention. For many months of the year, our kids struggle.

Countless teachers, parents, principals and students have approached me to ask when air conditioning will become a reality for our schools. Unfortunately, I have to tell them that Labor is not interested. Labor seems to expect our kids to be able to learn and concentrate when they are sweltering in the heat. It is upsetting to see that, once again, Labor has chosen to turn its head and pretend that this problem is not there. I can also tell my community that the LNP team is committed to air-conditioning every state school classroom in Queensland. At least one side of this chamber knows that cool kids are smart kids.

Labor made no mention of installing vital flashing lights in school zones in the Bundaberg electorate either. The safety of our children must stay a priority. Only the LNP listens to the concerns of communities and only the LNP will better support families by building a better Queensland. As the former deputy mayor—

**Mr Power:** What about the Gooburrum State School?

**Mr BATT:** I take that interjection. That is not even in the Bundaberg electorate. As the former deputy mayor and flood recovery coordinator for Bundaberg's 2013 major flood event, I am extremely passionate about ensuring that everything possible is being done to protect my communities from such extreme devastation. After the last major flood, Bundaberg looked like a war zone. Family homes and businesses were lost. People were distraught and had nowhere to go. Yet everyone stood up, put on their brave face and helped each other put the pieces back together. We rebuilt our city. The least the government could do is show it cares, but it has not.

No commitments have been made for any flood mitigation in this budget. Once again, this government is going to continue reviewing ideas that were handed to it and never fund them—something this government is very good at doing. Flood mitigation is expensive and takes time with engineering and design. I understand that, but we cannot put a price on people's lives. We need to see a commitment from the government to give the people of Bundaberg peace of mind before another flood comes raging through.

Just weeks ago, the Labor government announced they would finally adopt the LNP's compulsory real-time fuel monitoring policy to make it fairer and cheaper for everyday Queenslanders. However, there is no mention of this anywhere in the budget. Labor has been forced into a trial after the LNP highlighted that motorists are being taken for a ride by petrol companies. The NRMA has estimated that real-time fuel price monitoring would save families \$500 a year, which RACQ estimated would save motorists a total of \$70 million a year. Each family could use that spare \$500 to pay for some of their car registration, which Labor has decided to again increase in this year's budget.

Queenslanders are already paying the highest registration charges in the nation and Labor's above-inflation rises will further add to the cost-of-living pressures borne by motorists. When the LNP was in government, registration fees were frozen for three years, saving motorists up to \$44 on car registration. The LNP promised to again freeze car registration this term, because motorists are paying too much. It is a shame that Labor did not follow suit.

Residents in my electorate constantly struggle to make ends meet when faced with expenses such as electricity bills. The huge prices are a result of Labor's poor investment decisions. The gold plating of transition lines and fat profit margins being collected are the key drivers of power prices that have seen household electricity bills surging over 60 per cent above inflation in the past decade. Labor continues to use electricity as a secret tax, with record dividends extracted from government owned electricity corporations used to prop up their budget at the expense of Queensland taxpayers. In contrast, the LNP has committed to implementing the recommendations of Labor's own Productivity Commission report into electricity pricing and end the electricity divide between the south-east and the rest of Queensland. A future LNP government will extend retail competition to the whole of Queensland, giving householders in the regions the opportunity to shop around, which should save them about \$300 a year.

Just like the rest of Queensland, the people of Bundaberg deserve a world-class health system that the Labor government simply will not deliver. The Bundaberg Base Hospital is over 100 years old. Over the years it has had numerous facelifts and upgrades. It is time for a new category 5 hospital for Bundaberg, to give our residents and our healthcare staff the facilities they need and absolutely deserve. Last week it was announced that the \$3 billion business case that Labor promised at the last election would go ahead. According to our health minister, Dr Miles, it is already underway and has been since at least March this year. It seems that that announcement is yet another distraction from the lack of new funding going into the Bundaberg region. At the last election Labor was too busy worrying about hospital upgrades in the south-east to promise a single additional hospital bed outside the south-east corner.

The LNP is the only party that knows what is needed for rural and regional health care. Labor like to talk about record investment, but the fact of the matter is that they failed to deliver \$115.54 million worth of Queensland Health capital projects that they promised in the 2017-18 budget. Is it any wonder that the desperately needed hospital upgrades are years away from delivery? The current Bundaberg Base Hospital is in a flood zone and all patients had to be evacuated during the last flood event. It can simply no longer cope with our ever-growing population and healthcare needs. We need a new hospital for Bundaberg. It is on the top of my and my community's must-have list. It is a need, not a want.

To add to the list of missed opportunities, in this week's budget the Wide Bay has missed out on a drug rehabilitation centre. There is only mention of a rehabilitation facility for Rockhampton. That is very disappointing, especially since the LNP committed to building not one but four rehabilitation centres across regional Queensland, including one in the Wide Bay area, to help those who are struggling with the scourge of ice addiction. It was great to hear the Leader of the Opposition state in her budget reply speech that the LNP is still committed to building those four drug rehabilitation centres when it comes to government.


I will finish by speaking about the lack of funding allocated in this Labor budget to fix some of the worst roads in the Bundaberg region. In my electorate, two intersections need to be upgraded in order to protect the safety of Bundaberg residents and everyone who makes use of those roads. At the last election, the LNP committed to those upgrades. Of course, Labor did not and did not commit to them this week either. The upgrade to the FE Walker Street and Ashfield Road intersection is a critical project that has been at the centre of community concern following the tragic death of a Bundaberg Christian College student who was killed attempting to avoid the intersection in 2014. That project would not only improve the safety of local motorists but also provide local jobs, ease congestion and make it easier to get products to the port of Bundaberg. The intersection of McCarthy and Goodwood roads is also a major concern for Bundaberg residents. It is a chief contributor to local traffic congestion. Goodwood Road is one of the busiest roads in Bundaberg.



At first I thought, yes, the upgrades are expensive, costing \$3 million in total. Then I thought, no, money should not be a barrier to protecting the safety of our people. I was interested to see that Labor could not even allocate \$3 million to the Bundaberg electorate to fix those roads but is more than happy to throw \$17 million into commencing the construction of a cycleway in the transport minister's patch. The two road upgrades in Bundaberg would have cost only \$3 million in total; the cycleway in the minister's own backyard will cost \$45 million in total. The entire Wide Bay-Burnett region has been given a total of only \$100 million for its transport and main roads capital budget, with not one project listed in Bundaberg. That is unbelievable.

The Labor government has done nothing but hurt, disappoint and ignore Bundaberg residents. That is not good enough and I will never stop fighting for what I know the people not only of Bundaberg but also all of Queensland want, need and deserve. Labor has done itself no favours. Nothing has been just bad luck. Those opposite have made the choice to hurt Queensland and they have only themselves to blame.

An LNP government is the only government that will actually build a better Queensland. I am very confident that after this week the whole of Queensland will very quickly realise that.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.35 pm): Over the past two days in this chamber, I have heard comments made about the duration of the Treasurer's budget speech as those opposite loudly crowed that the Leader of the Opposition took the entire 60 minutes to deliver her reply. One of the most famous speeches of all time—a speech that changed the world—was the Gettysburg Address, delivered by Abraham Lincoln. It was 271 words long and lasted just over two minutes. Quality is not measured by how long you stand on your feet or how much you say; quality is measured by the lasting impact of your words, such as those of the Treasurer.

There is no doubt that Townsville has been doing it tough for the past five years, due to the impacts of the downturn in the mineral commodities market, the long-term drought and, of course, the mass sacking of Public Service workers by the former Newman LNP government. It is disgraceful to hear the Leader of the Opposition say that she is 'proud—very proud—of the LNP's record in government'. I suggest that she does not use those words when she is next in Townsville, particularly if she visits the Townsville Hospital from where the first nurse was sacked. Those devastating events, coupled with Clive Palmer's Queensland Nickel closure, where 800 workers lost their jobs in one day, have left Townsville reeling.

A report from BIS Oxford Economics has indicated the major project spend in the Townsville region since the 2010 financial year, from both government and non-government investment. The report showed that, under the Bligh government, spending was between \$400 million and \$600 million. Under the LNP government, spending on projects was at an all-time low. In fact, in the 2014-15 financial year, spending on major projects was at a paltry \$110 million.

I wonder whether the Leader of the Opposition is still proud—very proud—of those achievements. During the Labor Palaszczuk government, spending on major projects exceeded \$1.2 billion in the 2017-18 financial year. Is it any wonder the people of Townsville have put their faith in the Palaszczuk government that is spending record amounts on major projects to create jobs—jobs for locals, jobs like the Townsville stadium, jobs like the Townsville Port berth upgrade and jobs like the Accelerated Works Program when Queensland Nickel closed its doors on 800 workers. This is a budget where we want to create jobs in a strong economy.

As a former teacher and principal, I was very interested in hearing what the opposition leader's vision was for education. We heard their key driver is going back to the basics—the three Rs. I am absolutely positive that this strategic approach will more than adequately prepare our students for the 19th century. I would not have been surprised if they introduced the cane as their behaviour management breakthrough.

I also listened with intent to their plan to introduce air conditioners into every classroom across Queensland because the weather in Brisbane is too hot. My initial thoughts were reactionary, to say the least, but I thought with a \$2 billion investment this must be a major issue for the south-east corner. I did my research into Brisbane temperatures. I looked at [weatherzone.com.au](http://weatherzone.com.au).

From my experience, my teachers did not turn on their air conditioners until the temperature reached 30 degrees. I researched how many days on average the temperatures in Brisbane equal or exceed 30 degrees. The result was 66.2 out of 365 days. Remove the average number of days students are on holidays in December and January in relation to high temperatures—remove 19.2 days. Remove

the average number of weekend days during those months—remove 11 days. It will cost \$2 billion to air-condition classrooms for 36 school days a year—seven weeks in a school year. This is thought bubble policy with populist politics. It is not founded on any research but on reaction.

There is no doubt that all members of this House know how passionate I am—given the many speeches I have delivered—about the port of Townsville and its essential work that drives our local and regional economy. The port of Townsville was one of those assets that those opposite when they were in government wanted to sell. This is the jewel in the crown of North Australia's import and export trade across our oceans. This is the asset that those opposite wanted to sell to the highest bidder. It is worth around \$1 billion. In return, Townsville would get \$150 million to help build the stadium. We still own the port and we are building the stadium. It is the Palaszczuk government that is investing \$18.6 million of \$27.3 million to commence acquisition of berth 4 cranes and development of the associated cargo terminal areas to cater for future trade growth.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation and an electronic copy of my speech has been made available to *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

But I'm worried the largest commercial port in North Australia will not reach its full potential if the Federal Government doesn't invest their fair share to widen the Port Channel, which will leave North Queenslanders left behind.

It's the Palaszczuk Government who understands the importance of our Port. 8000 direct jobs are associated with our Port. 800,000 people in North Queensland rely on our Port to export our minerals and produce and import fuel, cars and food. And that's why Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is investing \$44.3 million to continue preparatory and initial works to widen Townsville's shipping channel to allow larger vessels to access the Port of Townsville and supporting our region.

It is the Palaszczuk Government who will keep the cost of living down for regional Queenslanders because we know that the Turnbull Government has turned its back on those in the North. The Turnbull LNP Federal Government won't fund the widening of the Port channel and there was no mention of this in their budget reply speech. The Turnbull LNP Government won't support the 8000 jobs linked to the Port. The Turnbull LNP Government won't support the farmers who rely on the Port to export their sugar or cattle from the Port. The Turnbull LNP Government has set regional Queensland adrift, but it is the Palaszczuk Government who is lowering the life-rafts and sending the rescue ships because it is the Palaszczuk Government who is investing in regional jobs. Containerisation is up by 65% at the Port of Townsville. Jobs are returning and Townsville is ready to boom again as the powerhouse of North Australia.

Mr Speaker, when I talk to workers on the stadium, they tell me that they are proud to work on a project that is being built by locals for locals. And I can tell you Mr Speaker that come the kick off to the 2020 NRL stadium, Cowboys supporters from far and wide will flood into that stadium and watch the Cowboys knowing that that project is what kick started the Townsville economy and brought investment back into the city. They will know that local tradies and contractors put that little extra into the stadium which will give it that extra special North Queensland feel. And I invite every member of this House to come to Townsville for that first NRL game and watch the Cowboys play in that stadium. The stadium that North Queenslanders built.

But the Palaszczuk Government is not just hanging our hats on one project in Townsville. One of the cornerstones of the ALP is providing a world standard health service that serves its community. In this budget Mr Speaker, \$4.7 million will be spent on a second MRI machine that will help doctors pinpoint with miniscule accuracy, medical ailments in patients and therefore enable correct diagnosis and more importantly the right treatment. That's because we're keeping Queenslanders healthy.

The allocation of \$16.5 million for the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre and, Mr Speaker, I was once again at Palm Island on Friday for their 100th year celebrations with Mayor Alf Lacey and I took a quick look at the new facility under construction. I can tell you that the locals on Palm Island are very excited about the new facility and what it will mean for health care for them on Palm Island.

In fact Mr Speaker, an additional \$50 million will flow to the Townsville Hospital and Health Service taking the annual budget to \$983 million, to ensure it is staffed and resourced to meet the growing health care needs of not only the largest city in North Australia, but to provide vital support for those communities that rely on the tertiary hospital in Townsville. This will mean more doctors and more nurses will be employed in our local hospital. This is great news for those students studying medicine related courses at James Cook University right next door to the hospital.


The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to a world class education continues to be delivered in spades Mr Speaker. Pimlico State High School will receive a total of \$3.4 million for additional classrooms and two purpose built music studios. Pimlico State High is an instrumental music and performance school of excellence that attracts students from right across the Townsville area and this announcement will be no doubt met with great enthusiasm. I am sure that Principal Joel Buckholtz will be very appreciative of this outcome as the school continues to deliver quality learning outcomes for every student.

Mr Speaker, at a recent Townsville Industry Breakfast hosted by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, there was much discussion and anticipation about the Bruce Highway (Ayr to Townsville) project. Work will start construction of bridges, cane tramway overpasses and intersection upgrades as well as 13.5km of the highway across the Haughton River floodplain for a total cost of \$514.3 million of which \$37.7 million will come from the Palaszczuk Government. The Member for Burdekin will no doubt applaud with me as he knows probably better than most in this House, how important that project is in creating local jobs, but more importantly, flood proofing that part of the highway. There have been countless times where the flooding Haughton River has cut the major arterial road north and south rendering food supplies and vital necessities at the mercy of the elements.

It is the Palaszczuk Government who has been doing the heavy lifting to create jobs in the region. It is the Palaszczuk Government who is invested in the infrastructure build that will ensure Townsville is the powerhouse of North Australia. I commend the Treasurer for her budget in investing in jobs, infrastructure and services unlike those opposite who, when they were in government, failed to invest in jobs, failed to invest in infrastructure and failed to have vision for Townsville.

The Palaszczuk Government is driving the new wave of jobs and economic growth in Townsville. This is a government who believes in Townsville and its future.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate in relation to the 2018 budget. One would have thought that with debt to increase over the forward estimates to \$83 billion the northern Gold Coast would benefit in some way, shape or form from that expenditure. Once again, not surprisingly, this budget fails to deliver for the people of the northern Gold Coast. It has happened every other year.

I was expecting something different. There was a little bit of noise about the need for the upgrades to exits 41, 45 and 49 coming through, but to no avail. There is nothing there in relation to that. We have reannouncements of the school upgrades which are almost complete. They have reannounced these numbers. By the way, do we need these school upgrades? Absolutely, we do. Why? We are the fastest growing region in Queensland. We are second fastest growing region in Australia.

Government after government over the last decade have seen the need and built 10 new schools in the area. We also have in the budget a new high school commencing in 2020. It was an election promise. Is it any surprise that a new high school is being built? It is absolutely not. Why? We are the fastest growing region in Queensland. We are the second fastest growing region in Australia. We need those schools to accommodate our students.

Over the last five years, from 2013 to 2018, we have seen the population of the schools in the Coomera electorate grow from 10,200 to 15,360 students. Over the last five years there are more than a thousand additional students a year in the Pimpama, Coomera and Ormeau region. There is no doubt we needed those schools. I congratulate the minister for continuing our plan to build those additional schools that are needed for the northern Gold Coast. They were absolutely essential.

Something in the order of 27½ per cent of our population is under 15 years of age. Compare that figure to the figure for the rest of Queensland which is 18.3 per cent. We have 50 per cent more people under 15 years of age than the rest of Queensland and the rest of the Gold Coast, for that matter. Members should consider this. Some 42 per cent of our population is under 25 years of age. Compare that figure to the figure for rest of the state and the rest of the Gold Coast which is 32 per cent. There are a third more people in that age group in my electorate.

What does that tell members? We see young families moving into the area. When these children come into the area they bring their parents with them. The average age on the northern Gold Coast is under 30 years of age. These children are bringing their parents. Their parents bring their cars. In fact, in terms of the Gold Coast population, on the northern Gold Coast we have the highest percentage of cars per family—that is, two or three cars. Why is that? We have to get to work from those suburbs. We have to be able to get down to the Gold Coast and up to Brisbane. We need cars.

Why do we particularly need cars? We have a little bit of a problem. We have this thing called a car parking shortfall at our railway stations. I see further down the coast that there has been a push for additional car parks at railway stations but none for the state seat of Coomera—none for the Ormeau Railway Station and none for the Coomera Railway Station. They are overflowing.

We have people parking on the streets in all manner of ways. There is no security in the overflow car park that has been roughed out of the bush at Ormeau Railway Station. It is dark at 5.30 in the afternoon when people are arriving home. Young people and young women are on their own coming home from work, whether on the Gold Coast or Brisbane. They are having to walk down into an insecure area. There are no lights and no cameras in that area. I did a quick whip around recently. There were over 100 cars parked in a sodden area of ground. All of these people have to park there because this government has not put one dollar towards the additional car park spaces we need.

Instead of driving their car to the station, why don't they catch the bus? That would be a great idea if we had a transport system that was working for people on the northern Gold Coast. It would be wonderful if people could do that. For the majority of railway services from the Ormeau and Coomera railway stations, it would be wonderful if people could catch the very first bus in the morning, go to the station, get on the train, go to Brisbane, do their normal eight-hour shift or 7½-hour shift if they are a government worker, have half an hour for lunch, go back to the railway station and catch a train back to Ormeau. The problem is that they would get off the train, walk out and the last bus would have left

half an hour ago or an hour ago depending on which service they need, so they cannot use the public transport system to get to and from work. They have to use their cars. They cannot park their cars at the railway station, so where do they have to go? They go out on to the M1.

Have we discussed the M1 over the last couple of days? A conversation may have occurred. There is a lot of money being spent south of the Pimpama region and the Coomera region. There is a lot of money being spent north. That improves the situation for people in the north and further south. The problem is that when they get to our exits coming home in the afternoon they find themselves ramping back on to the M1. What is the issue there? They have B-doubles ripping past them in the left-hand lane at 100 kilometres an hour and other smaller trucks ripping past them at 110 kilometres an hour while they are ramping on the side of the road, waiting to get off. There is a safety issue. How much is in the budget for those safety issues? There is not one dollar. This government does not have one dollar in this budget for the ramping issue. It is a safety issue and the biggest issue for the people of the northern Gold Coast. There is not one penny in this budget for those issues at exits 41, 45 and 49.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** There is not one dollar for additional transport, Minister. There is not one dollar for exits 41, 45 and 49. Are you saying there is money there?

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Yes, that is right. We funded exit 54 when we were in government. We announced it during the election campaign. Then you came along. That is right; you guys are used to that, aren't you?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr CRANDON:** Those opposite are used to reannouncing things, and they happened to reannounce the \$75 million upgrade to exit 54 that we funded. By the way, before we came along and funded that, those opposite were saying it was a \$150 million spend. Why were they saying it was such a large number? They did that because they wanted to put people off even considering the upgrade. We knew we had to do it, and we did it. We delivered it for the people of the northern Gold Coast, but we have not got one cracker for exits 41, 45 or 49.

I could not help noticing in the budget papers—on page 121, if those opposite are interested—that there is \$17.3 million to extend a three-metre wide cycleway from Birdwood Road, Holland Park, to Gaza Road, Tarragindi, with a total spend of \$45 million. Who is that going to benefit? The minister's constituency is going to benefit from that \$45 million spend. You would think that for \$17.3 million this coming year it must be a fairly long cycleway—not at all. It is not long at all. In fact, it is less than two kilometres. The total spend is \$45 million—\$17.3 million this year for less than two kilometres.

**Mr Stevens:** It is paved with gold.

**Mr CRANDON:** It must be paved with gold. That \$45 million would resolve the issues at exit 49, but we are going to spend that \$45 million on a bikeway to benefit his constituency.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, member for Coomera.


**Mr CRANDON:** Another announcement for the northern Gold Coast was \$500,000 in 2018-19 for a \$3 million total spend on a new permanent fire and rescue station at Pimpama. We are not going to look a gift horse in the mouth. We are going to take that \$3 million no worries at all, but when it comes to priorities, as I have already outlined, it was not one of the highest priorities for the electorate. In fact, if anything, it is going to create some issues in the area because that particular fire station is just off Yahwalpah Road—one of the most congested roads. Where does it lead? It leads to exit 49—one of the most congested exits anywhere on the M1. That is where the new fire station is going to be built. It is going to add to the congestion. There was no thought about that. We will take the money and maybe we will see some more work going on in that area but, for goodness sake, fix the roads first.

I refer to some comments that were made last year—just before the election was called as a matter of fact—by the Premier in answer to a question without notice from me. I asked the Premier to advise the House why the Gold Coast had 40 fewer police officers at that time—this was back in October last year—than in June the previous year—that is, in June 2016. The numbers had dropped from 886 to 846 over that period of time. The Premier waffled on a little bit in her response because she was looking for the right words. At the end of it all she said that it was a load of rubbish. Interestingly though, on 27 October—just a few days later; in fact, one day later—she announced 44 additional police for the Gold Coast. There was a drop over 12 months of 40 police, and then just one day after that question

the Premier announced an additional 44 police. That made up for the 40 that we had lost, plus another four. That was fantastic. Two days later the election was announced. Why did they announce an additional 44 police? Obviously it was going to be an embarrassment.

I have a problem with those numbers though. Guess what? According to an answer to question on notice No. 533 asked on 15 May 2018, the full-time allocation for the Gold Coast police district as at 30 April 2018—remember the figure last year was 846—was 841. We have gone backwards by five full-time police officers on the Gold Coast in that period of time. Just prior to the election, 44 new police officers were announced. We have gone backwards by five, so now we need an extra 49 just to catch up. Where are they going? What other areas are they going to? Maybe they are going to Logan City or perhaps they are going to Ipswich to shore up numbers there. I do not know whether they need them though.

In 2017, in Logan there were 561 police officers for a population of 320,000. That is one police officer for 570 people. In Ipswich there is one police officer for 568 people. Compare that to Gold Coast and we have one police officer for 701 people. We are starved for numbers and the numbers are shrinking on the Gold Coast. The reality is that on the northern Gold Coast we have one police officer for every 2,400 residents. When you look at all of the figures—the population and the different crime statistics—we actually need about 170. We do not want 170 right now; 100 would be good. Take us from 58 to 100 over the next 12 months and we will be happy.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.58 pm): The Palaszczuk government has a clear plan to advance Queensland. Providing flexible training and support for small businesses will create jobs and encourage the Queensland economy to flourish. We know Queenslanders will require 21st century skills to thrive in the changing world of work. The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$770 million in the VET Investment Plan in 2018-19 to give Queenslanders the training and skills to get jobs, stay in work and develop careers.

We are honouring our commitment to boost funding for our highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative by \$20 million because it works. Jed is a 20-year-old long-term unemployed participant I met recently in Gladstone with the member for Gladstone. Gladstone Engineering Alliance put him on as a trainee under Skilling Queenslanders for Work, supporting him to train in conservation and land management. They were so impressed that they offered Jed a job and now praise him as one of their hardest workers. To continue helping people like Jed, we are extending this initiative for two years with another \$160 million. This program also helps mature age Queenslanders, and we are expanding it to include support for our veteran community.

There is also the \$5 million Trade Skills Assessment and Gap Training Program which is providing a pathway for Queenslanders who already have years of experience but are looking to upskill. We have also announced the \$1 million Advancing Apprentices Fund to work with industry to promote the benefits of employing apprentices. At the election, we pledged to continue rebuilding TAFE as the premier provider of VET, with \$85 million for three years to upgrade campuses at Pimlico in Townsville, Toowoomba, Cairns, Mount Gravatt and in the Gold Coast and Redlands regions. We have also committed to redevelop other TAFE facilities, including a new \$1.5 million fashion hub at Mount Gravatt.


This brings me to our highly successful Back to Work program. This program has helped more than 6,000 businesses employ 13,000 Queenslanders, including more than 3,000 apprentices and trainees. The Back to Work Youth Boost has helped almost 9,000 young people secure jobs, and more than 70 per cent of the applications have been from small businesses. In addition, we will continue the \$9 million Regional Skills Investment Strategy, which ensures that Queenslanders have the skills they need to fill local employment opportunities. We are also ensuring that at least 15 per cent of labour hours on major projects are provided by apprentices and trainees.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered a range of programs to drive small business and grow jobs, and it has worked, with more than 153,000 jobs created since we were first elected. This year is the first budget that has included a small business budget paper, and I am very proud to have highlighted our government initiatives to support small business. We have committed \$1.1 million to establish consultation panels to ensure government departments can access advice from experienced small business owners and operators. We are providing \$1 million to deliver support and mentoring for Queenslanders who want to create a small business. During Small Business Week, I released a consultation paper to find out how we can better help small business benefit from government procurement. We will continue our highly successful digital grants and entrepreneur grants programs and our Business Growth Fund Program. These programs have helped owners who want to grow their businesses and create jobs for Queenslanders because that is what we are about—jobs.

Turning to my electorate of Waterford where the Palaszczuk government is investing in vital capital works, I welcome a \$1 million upgrade to the health teaching spaces at the Loganlea TAFE. I also welcome the \$135,000 for the Sticking Together program which is helping Logan jobseekers get skills to enter and stay in the workforce. There is also more than \$1 million for education facilities in Waterford, including \$500,000 to begin the project for additional classrooms at Marsden State High School.

**Ms Jones:** It's a great school.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I will take that interjection from the Minister for Tourism; it is a great school. Waterford residents will also benefit from a \$1.8 million upgrade at the Logan Hospital, and planning is well underway for our much needed new maternity ward. I know that residents will also be pleased with the \$19 million upgrade to the Loganlea train station. We will all benefit from our Cross River Rail investment which will halve their commute times from Beenleigh. Many of my constituents travel up and down the M1 daily, so I know how much the Waterford community welcomes the more than \$20 million in significant upgrades to the motorway. In conclusion, this budget underscores the Palaszczuk government's commitment to jobs, jobs and jobs for Queenslanders.

 **Mr DAMESTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.03 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill 2018. This will be my first budget speech. Without sounding like a spoilt kid at Christmas, as I opened the wrapping around the stack of papers that I found the other day, I found my optimism being deflated. Is there no Hell's Gate Dam? Is there no drive it motorsport complex or drag strip for Townsville? Where is the money that is needed to get some dredging done in North Queensland? Then it hit me. Those are the things that Hinchinbrook wants and perhaps not what the south-east corner wants.

The hard part for me was to come. I had three regional councils in Hinchinbrook that were waiting with bated breath for me to deliver to them the great news on what they were now not going to get. The mayor of Townsville, Jenny Hill, said in response to the budget, 'There's no ice-cream cake but at least there aren't any surprises.' She is right—there are no surprises, but wouldn't it be nice if there were? Wouldn't it have been brilliant to have seen a sneaky rail line into the Galilee Basin to expand our strengthening coal industry? The revenue from coal royalties is propping up this budget so it would have been nice to see that river of money flow for us all into the future.

My first phone call went to the Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce to give them the good news that they would be receiving the remaining \$4,000 of a \$20,000 grant they had received last year and to discuss some of the remaining funding for the electorate. Their president was rapt but then put the question to me: 'Do you think we've been punished for voting KAP?' I replied, 'It's about on par with what you received last year,' so they were no worse off.

As I look at this 2018 budget, in essence it is a Labor budget but in fairness it does deliver on their election promises. It makes good on the two big-ticket items for Brisbane. The budget dedicates \$733 million to progress the planning of the Cross River Rail project and \$125 million for a new performing arts venue. There are also record spends on health, education, front-line services and roads.

I have been going through the budget and there are some good little wins for Hinchinbrook. In 2018 we saw the opening of Queensland's newest public school. The North Shore State School is positioned in the south of my electorate in the northern beaches of Townsville. With the local Burdell community driven by a passionate P&C group, the new primary school project saw fruition. I thank the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, for the commitment she has made to education in Hinchinbrook. She has followed through to see that a further \$6.9 million contribution will be available for stage 2 of the North Shore State School project. This will go towards constructing a dedicated science, tech and music block and 16 more classrooms. I had the opportunity to be a part of the opening of stage 1 of the school earlier this year. I believe principal Patrick McDonnell and the residents of Burdell are still celebrating being the new custodians of this no-expense-spared primary school that they all should be proud of. This will be in total a \$46.5 million project once construction is complete.

Across the road in Deeragun, the Northern Beaches State High School will see a \$1.2 million contribution for a new building comprising six classrooms and two special use areas. There will be a further \$84,000 for an extension to their community centre within the school. This grant was sourced through the Smart School Subsidy Scheme. Principal Robin Sprott will be thrilled to see the investment in facilities in her growing school. Robin runs a tight ship at the Northern Beaches State High School. In her time there, she has seen the reputation of the school turn around into a place where kids and parents are proud to call it their school. I am pleased to see that investment in educational resources and I know how much it will benefit students in our area. We will also see \$521,000 for maintenance across 21 schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate and a further \$251,000 spent on minor works.

Although not a new project, we will see the government allocate \$1.29 million to complete the construction of bridges at Cattle Creek and Frances Creek on the Bruce Highway coming into Ingham to help with flood proofing the highway. Many locals are eagerly awaiting the completion of this long-running project just to see if the upgrade has been sufficient to fix the flooding issues. The last thing they want to hear come the wet season from Transport and Main Roads and Minister Bailey is, 'If it's flooded, forget it.'

Road closures in Hinchinbrook due to flooded roads simply cut off the lifeblood to North Queensland. On completion of this project, I will invite the minister to come up and have a good look at the project and do some quality assurance before signing off on the project. I will be keeping a close eye on the project as it draws to an end to ensure we do not see a second-rate project delivered like we are now living with at the Toobanna Bruce Highway upgrade, where we are already seeing a failing surface and bad designs that are plaguing residents and farmers.

Mr Sam Blanco and Mr Anthony Bogotto are still dealing with the fallout from this upgrade. Mr Blanco no longer has access to his property and Mr Bogotto has missed out on a turning lane where one could have easily been installed during the project if planned correctly. This turning lane is essential to protect his family who use this road daily. We have been allocated \$1.29 million to commence pavement widening on the Bruce Highway between Hechts Road and Yuruga Road with a total project cost of \$9.2 million with a further \$871,884 to widen the Bruce Highway between Deep Creek and Bluewater. With the continual maintenance necessary on a failing asset, \$2.4 million has been allocated to complete asphalt and resurfacing works at various locations on the Bruce Highway between Ingham and Innisfail. I turn 35 this year and can remember back to when I was two, so for 33 years I have seen the Bruce Highway being upgraded. I can extend the sentiment of the people of Hinchinbrook: it is still not a great road. I am left questioning who is the real winner here—the road contractors or the taxpayers?

I have not seen any specific financial commitment to fix the brumby problem along a seven-kilometre stretch of the Bruce Highway near Bluewater. There have been two deaths on that road where feral brumbies were a contributing factor. The only solution to ensure public safety that we have seen has been a drop in the speed limit from 100 kilometres per hour to 80 kilometres along seven kilometres of the national highway. This is shameful. We need to either remove the problem or fence the highway. This stretch is ridiculously slow and is not only a source of anger for locals but also a money pit for police who are using this section of road to catch speeding drivers. There is limited signage along this long 80 kilometre per hour stretch where persons can enter from side roads without realising it is an 80 kilometre per hour zone.

On the agriculture front, the government will spend \$2.3 million to help protect Queensland's banana industry from Panama disease. This is an excellent start, but we need more. We need more money solely dedicated to the aerial shooting of feral pigs. Simply trapping and shooting them on the ground is not 100 per cent effective and goes against what we are trying to achieve. Ground control of feral pigs can spread the T4 disease. Aerial shooting is the only answer to completely eradicate the problem. We cannot afford to lose the banana industry in North Queensland to this biosecurity hazard.

On the subject of biosecurity, we will see money being allocated to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council for the control of navua sedge, but we would like to see more money spent, especially in the Hinchinbrook shire. This is a noxious weed that threatens our grazing and agricultural land. Once it has taken hold of an area it is nearly impossible to eradicate. Money is needed for research and development to ensure we have an effective pesticide to combat this threat. Money is also needed to install wash-down bays for equipment and education to stop the spread of navua sedge.

We will also see \$2.6 million go towards work with rural communities and businesses to develop economic opportunities and grow food exports. This announcement has come as a surprise and has seen the ears of Mayor Ramon Jayo prick up as he is extremely keen to know how Hinchinbrook Shire Council can dip into this fund. He has been working tirelessly in coming up with a second crop solution. For our region to survive the next 20 years we need crop diversity. Any funding to help aid in this research for a sister crop to cane in Hinchinbrook would be heaven sent.


Hinchinbrook Shire Council will also be happy to receive \$2 million that will go towards a \$4.4 million project to increase capacity of the Ingham Depot Water Treatment Plant. Fundamentally, I believe this budget lacks real vision for North Queensland, with no money to be spent on major infrastructure projects in the region other than the Townsville stadium, for which I give credit. However, most of us would say that is old news. Even though projects such as Hells Gates Dam, which has just

had a \$2.4 million feasibility study completed in its favour, or a rail line to the Galilee Basin are not crowd-winning projects that attract the swaying voter, these kinds of investment would be nation building for generations to come. Wealth through ownership of our infrastructure and profit generation is key. How good would it be to have an investment that we could actually make a dollar from? Call me crazy, but my time in small business taught me to spend money on things that provide a return. If we built this thing we could always sell it off in the future. I know both sides of the House will support that!

I am also disappointed by the lack of significant spending in the Ingham, Cardwell and Lower Tully areas. Their libraries have received some good funding, and I applaud that. However, the community really needs things like dredging of One Mile Creek to boost the economy. They are not alone though. There is no longer any maintenance dredging done for all-tidal access to our boat ramps along the Hinchinbrook electorate's coastline, which stretches 205 kilometres. From the Bohle River to Tully Heads we are stuck in the mud at low tide. We need all-tidal access for our volunteer coastguard from Dungoness, Cardwell and Tully Heads. They need to be able to deploy at all times to ensure maritime safety for all.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of honourable members to a major project that needs government help. NQBE, or North Queensland Bio-Energy's sugar mill is a project that offers state-of-the-art design in biofuels and sugar milling. This could be the flagship project that will save the sugar industry. This project is proposed to be constructed smack, bang in the middle of the Hinchinbrook electorate. This year's budget papers list it as a No. 1 priority on the list of projects delivering for our region. Seemingly, \$1.2 million has been allocated to assist in the construction of this project. This inclusion has come as a surprise to locals and me because as of last month NQBE CEO Robert Carey announced that the project would have to be mothballed due to factors only a government could help out with. I will take this \$1.2 million commitment as a standing testimony from our Labor government to commit all it can to ensure this project stands up.

Biofuels are the future of the sugarcane industry. I truly believe in the importance of this project not only for its economic value to Queensland but also as a way forward to galvanise the sugar industry. This project puts the mill ownership back in the hands of the farmers and a future back in the hands of our children.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (6.16 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills before the House. From the outset I would like to congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on delivering her first budget and the fourth of this government. She has done an outstanding job. I commend her on the way in which she has not only delivered the budget but worked tirelessly in the lead-up to the budget and also for the great consultation she has undertaken with all of the ministers. I thank my cabinet and the government as well.

This is a budget that helps build the Queensland of tomorrow. As I outlined earlier to the House, my government has a clear vision for the future of our great state. Our priorities are clear: we will create jobs in a strong economy; we will give all our children a great start; we will keep Queenslanders healthy; we will keep Queenslanders safe; we will protect our Great Barrier Reef; and we will continue to be a responsive government. This budget supports the achievements of each of these Labor priorities.

Last November we went to the people of Queensland and asked them to put their faith back in Labor. I am humbled and honoured that they returned Labor for a second term. This budget provides an opportunity to deliver on our election commitments to the people of Queensland. We promised to focus on jobs and the economy. This budget will support tens of thousands of jobs including 38,000 through the \$45.8 billion infrastructure program this year.

We promised to focus on Health. This budget allocates a record \$18.3 billion to the Health portfolio including \$985 million to redevelop hospitals at Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich. We promised to focus on Education. This budget will invest \$14.1 billion in education and training, allowing us to employ an additional 3,700 teachers, build new schools, refurbish existing schools and invest in early years literacy programs. This budget also does so much more. This budget will help us navigate the challenges of the future.

Last month we reached the significant milestone in Queensland when our five millionth resident was born. Our population growth rate is increasing after the devastating impact of the three years under the LNP government. To respond to this growth, we are investing in infrastructure and services that will cater for the needs of residents now and into the future. We are tackling congestion on the M1 by funding our share of a multibillion dollar upgrade program. We are forging ahead with Cross River Rail, which will reduce travel times for commuters across South-East Queensland and help transform Brisbane without the assistance of the Turnbull federal government.



We are funding major infrastructure projects across the state, including the North Queensland stadium in Townsville, the upgrade to the Cairns Convention Centre and of course the new art gallery in Rockhampton, which I know the member for Rockhampton has been a strong advocate for. These projects will help attract more visitors to these centres in terms of supporting jobs and economic activity. We have also lifted investment in our signature program, our Advance Queensland initiative, to \$650 million. This program will help diversify our economy, reducing our reliance on traditional industries and creating the knowledge based jobs of the future.

As part of this extra funding we will continue the successful Ignite Ideas program, which helps Queenslanders turn their ideas into successful job-supporting businesses. We will also inject another \$40 million into our successful Business Development Fund, allowing more small to medium sized businesses to secure extra investment to expand and create more jobs. We are also investing in a world-class education for our children, both now and into the future. We will continue to invest over \$800 million over seven years through our Building Future Schools fund to provide new high school and primary schools across our state. Under this funding, we will build the first new inner-city high schools in Brisbane in decades, including our first vertical school on the site of the old Fortitude Valley State School. There can be no starker contrast: on this side of the House we kept that old school and we will develop a brand-new school; those opposite wanted to sell it off to the highest bidder. Our vision for—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Oh, for goodness sake.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** At least when the member for Kawana speaks I can press mute. I take great delight in doing that every single time he is on his feet.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not taking interjections. Our vision for the site in Fortitude Valley is a modern, contemporary educational facility that will give students a great start to life.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I will take that interjection. This year's budget is also firmly focused on keeping Queenslanders healthy. In addition to the \$985 million capital works program, we will provide \$17.3 billion to make sure that we support our health practitioners and grow our health and hospital system to cater for the growing needs of families across this state. In fact, we will hire an extra 3,500 new nurses and midwives over the next four years—another stark contrast to what happened under the LNP.

I would like to take a moment to highlight what this budget delivers for the community in my electorate of Inala. In the next financial year there is \$2.6 million from a total of \$3.6 million to construct a new building comprising eight separate learning areas at Richlands East State School. There are also classroom upgrades for the Forest Lake, Glenala and Carole Park state schools. In 2018-19 this budget delivers \$34 million to continue construction of additional lanes at Oxley Road and also the upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway, which will make travelling from Ipswich to Brisbane that much easier. Our state budget stands in stark contrast to the alternative put forward by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms Jones:** It's 'crazy'.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. I think the shadow Treasurer summed it up on ABC Radio and it was well put in this House the other day. Her contribution yesterday was short on policy and short on detail. The opposition needs to immediately reveal the cost of their commitments. The air conditioning would cost more than \$2 billion; the second M1 has been estimated to cost more than \$2.5 billion; and the Queensland Productivity Commission estimates that regional deregulation will cost more than \$760 million. With these three commitments alone the opposition leader has committed to more than \$5 billion in extra costs. She has already ruled out new taxes by a future LNP government, so that leaves two options to pay for her promises: either sack workers or sell assets. Those are the options they will present to the people of Queensland.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. There have been rulings by temporary speakers, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker that interjections must be made while members are in their seats. The two ministers there have continually interjected on their own leader while not in their seats.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, I suggest that if you are going to interject you need to be sitting in your rightful seat.

**A government member:** Another tanty.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. Another tantrum. In the time available I have only been able to briefly touch on a broad range of programs funded in this budget. I would love to expand further on our achievements in agriculture, tourism, renewable energy—they have seen the light on renewable energy—social justice—something that we believe in on this side—the arts and law reform, to name a few. Instead, I want to place on record again my thanks to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for delivering the state budget. I also want to thank the Minister for Innovation and the Minister for State Development, who are also on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee and attended numerous meetings as part of their busy days, for which I am grateful.

Through our responsible management we have delivered three surplus budgets in a row, and we are forecast to deliver another three. We have delivered nation-leading growth and created almost 156,400 jobs. We are delivering on our election commitments and we are providing the infrastructure and services we need for our growing state of Queensland. We have come a long way from the dark days of the LNP government, whose record of cutting, sacking and selling is still a matter of pride for the member for Nanango and the member for Kawana. I commend the budget bills to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.25 pm): Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the 2018 Appropriation Bill. My first state budget experience has been one of education—highlighting the similarities, differences and difficulties of a system that operates on winners and losers. Across Queensland there are communities that have achieved new infrastructure, increased services and grants, and there are those that have not. Regardless of who delivers a budget there is criticism. The government is to be commended in their endeavours to deliver a diverse budget in what must be the most impossible of situations. I understand there are areas for improvement.

I have listened to the speeches from members from both sides of the House which provide insights into where many of these improvements and concerns lay. One area is the cost of living. Increases in car registration and water may only add an extra \$50 per annum to the household budget, but when you are already sending your children to school without breakfast this can seem insurmountable. If we cannot increase their incomes then we cannot be increasing their costs. Moving forward, it is vital that we protect these sectors. There are electricity, waste and petrol question marks that need to be resolved once and for all. Constituents understandably are confused as to why their communities have missed out.

We speak of deficits, debt, assessment criteria, prioritisation and reprioritisation, which alter according to the ideology that determines any budget's focus. We have heard criticism of our debt levels due to borrowings for infrastructure and then anger from members that not enough has been allocated. Whichever way we look at this, demand outstrips supply regardless of who is in government. We have many realities and responsibilities to face as individuals, as communities and as a society. Escalating expectations and a growing divide between income sectors has created a perfect storm of multiple issues that no amount of reasonable taxing, saving or costings can address.

We have become an expensive culture by moving away from the sustainability of sharing. Throughout history many services were delivered within families. Whether in relation to child, aged or disability care, intergenerational households provided the platform for affordability. The electricity bill, the rent or mortgage and the car that went to the shop all delivered to multiple people, not just one or two. The sharing economy has much more depth and capacity than its trendy interpretation. Our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents lived this experience and it enabled them to sustain themselves in times of great hardship; however, our independent culture has been a job creator in itself, and I am mindful of this as well. There is much to be learned from the past in delivering for our future.

The growing need to provide more public services is not just due to the loss of intergenerational living and population increases. Statistics on increasing obesity, alcoholism, drug addiction, domestic violence and homelessness are symptoms of a broader issue, and treating symptoms without addressing the cause perpetuates an expensive and frustrating cycle. We must utilise whatever means available to address the cause. This includes holistic wraparound services. Transitional houses such as the pilot Daliya in Nambour demonstrate successful social and economic outcomes for both individuals and government, and it is of great concern that this house has been sitting empty for many months due to a lack of funding. During estimates this needs to be discussed.

The successful relocation of a number of our homeless by Noosa council last year, in conjunction with front-line organisations, is a wonderful example of transitions managed collaboratively. It has been heartening to hear positive updates on these families and individuals, with a number also securing employment. Further financial assistance is required for these services as current funding levels have not kept up with operational realities including wage increases.

For our region the provision of extra teachers, ambulance drivers, police and nurses has been welcome; however, as has been heard during many budget speeches, increases in some areas can equate to losses in others.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Ms BOLTON:** Noosa is fortunate to have excellent front-liners who are community facing and committed, building on our social fabric. I thank them for their dedication.

It is admirable that the government has sought to find balance between subsidisation and creation. There is much that Noosa has benefited from and can benefit from. The increase in Advance Queensland funding, the continuation of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs and the payroll tax rebate are all essential to my community in developing a diversified economy. Funding for innovation through ARIP not only provides greater scope for emerging industry; it also provides avenues for igniting the previous TAFE site, which hopefully will come into community ownership.

It is wonderful to see Noosa's schools feature in announcements, with Sunshine Beach High, Noosaville and rural Cooran all receiving funds for new builds and upgrades. Education is cornerstone, not only to 'get that good job' but also to deliver components to better cope with life's challenges. The inclusion of meditation and yoga into daily routines in a number of schools in Queensland has already shown benefits to mental and physical wellbeing. However, our schools face resourcing constraints for maintenance and staffing which need to be addressed.

Ongoing funding for specialist homelessness services and for the construction of nine new accommodation units in Noosa is appreciated. Given the ongoing affordable housing crisis we are in, this is just a small piece in a multifaceted and traumatic situation, where our key pillar workers, aged and youth are sleeping in cars, on couches and in the park. As a community we are not looking for handouts; we are asking for enabling. Over the next months I hope that our government can be bold in supporting pilot projects.

For our rural communities it was bitterly disappointing to see that the Six Mile Creek No. 7 bridge did not secure funding. With a 20-year history of accidents, dangerous conditions and residents being cut off for many days after even moderate rain, its prioritisation quickly gets superseded. This demonstrates that these funding pools, as many others, are insufficient to meet the roads and transport needs across Queensland, a key theme in members' frustrations.

The much awaited Beckmans Road upgrade design process has taken longer than expected; however, as a community we understand the importance of getting this right. We look forward to costings being completed shortly and good news from there.

Noosa is working hard creatively to address issues through a number of initiatives. Within Skilling Queenslanders for Work we have seen excellent results from the Our Backyard facility, which disability support provider Sunshine Butterflies is constructing. So far 50 young unemployed have obtained a certificate I in construction, with over 80 per cent obtaining successful employment at completion. More projects such as these are needed to develop skills and provide pathways to jobs as well as to resolve many of our system failures, including the provision of affordable housing.

Community partnerships have been developed for our at-risk or vulnerable youth who do not have the financial, supportive or access means to connect with their passions. It is an arena which my office has committed our small amount of resources to, and we look to positive outcomes through connecting these youngsters with sport, theatre, music or adventuring and with their community. Investing in delivering better access, be it by bus or Uber fares, music lessons or sports kits, is an investment in our future.

Targeting public transport gaps and the ongoing difficulties for our youth and elderly to access the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the University of the Sunshine Coast has our youth parliamentarian Josie Le working with me investigating innovative solutions including share-ride apps.

Tourism, as our key industry, relies on its international presence and unique national offerings. The Tourism Infrastructure Fund provides an avenue for Noosa to create jobs in rural areas through the Country Noosa experience, which most visitors are unaware of, as well as to address our chronic underemployment, which is not shown in the unemployment statistics.

The surety of our public hospital services is a key concern of our community, and I look forward to extra funding being made available to Noosa Hospital for the necessary volume of services including scopes that grow as our population ages. As with many essential services, funding needs to increase

in line with our community demographics and their requirements. This includes support for our community hospices and palliative care services, such as Katie Rose, to give options for those who do not wish to be hospitalised.

One of our greatest difficulties as an iconic tourism destination is being overloved. This leads to impacts on our infrastructure, environment and resident amenity. As population increases to the south, we are faced with even more impacts. Audits and monitoring of our waterways and land are essential to ensure that the reason so many visitors are attracted to Noosa and Queensland remains. Effective management of our Noosa River is vital. I ask this government to support Noosa council and my community in their endeavours to finally address the frustrating, longstanding issues that are well documented.

Recently the Surfrider Foundation picked up 1.5 tonnes of rubbish from our North Shore, which is unacceptable. Over Easter the perfect storm of numbers, weather conditions and poor behaviour saw damage to our dunes that will take years to recover from. Our uniqueness is our economic base and it cannot be put at risk. In response, Noosa and Cooloola councils are forming a stakeholder reference group to develop an action plan on prevention. We seek government support in this.

While we fight at budget time and throughout the year for better roads, for more services and for our communities' specific needs, we are mindful that across the state there are many electorates that have greater needs than our own. As an MP representing my community, I am also minded with looking after the broader picture, together with my fellow MPs. Of concern is the increasing pressure on students who have higher expectations placed on performance than we ever had. With our current culture promoting the importance of higher education to get those high-paying jobs, inadvertently we have been denigrating the trades and our service and customer-facing industries, including hospitality, which are now seen as temporary jobs instead of careers. Within Noosa this industry has become reliant on 457 visa holders to fill positions, while we have school leavers unemployed and underemployed, many suffering from depression as a result. If we offered pathways to these industries at an age when apprenticeship or junior wages were acceptable then we will have addressed the two sides in the supply and demand equation.

We also need to provide our greatest employers, our small to medium business sector, and community organisations with solutions to address their burgeoning issues. This includes narrowing the disparity in pay rates between the public and private sectors.

Resource management is key to any business and for government more so. One of the effective tools moving into the future to make our dollar go further is the leveraging of all resources. People are our greatest resource and are essential to our sustainability through their actions and contributions. Those who give of their time and expertise without pay to address gaps in our systems are irreplaceable. These incredible people number over one million across Queensland, providing \$14 billion worth of work annually, which, let us be realistic, no government can afford and we cannot do without. My community has nearly 400 organisations delivering everything from sports coaching to meals on wheels, bush care and emergency services. The list goes on and on. Just imagine our lives without them. I cannot. Let us move these selfless people into the realm they deserve by supporting their efforts and ensuring they have the next generation coming along behind them.

Money is also a very handy resource. As we have seen, for every action, every department, every compliance and every expectation, the cost of delivery increases. To offset this, leveraging where possible is essential. We see this done well through dollar-for-dollar partnerships with local government, percentage partnerships with the not-for-profits and grants to start-ups and growing business.


The emerging impact investment sector, including superannuation funds, is an arena that is in its infancy and can address multiple system failures including affordable housing. As was pointed out by Mark Sowerby when he was Chief Entrepreneur for Queensland, Australian investors are the only ones in the world who do not invest in their own backyard. If you cannot back your own community, region or country, then something is not right.

It has been said before and it needs to be said again: it is time for change. That change is about many aspects of our lives, including less is more. Small is the new big. Small creates less impact and less cost, whether that be housing, waste or choice of transport.

Innovation is much more than IT and there are a number of avenues that accommodate and encourage outside-the-box solutions to our greatest social concerns. Housing, employment and health are examples of where creative thought can bring about the necessary changes required to deliver not only good outcomes for people but reduced costs for government to make that budget go further.

As an Independent MP I have already asked for bipartisan agreements within this chamber to address Queenslanders' concerns. I now ask all Queenslanders to join me in entering into a commitment with their communities, with their families and with their fellow Queenslanders to look after their health, their behaviours and each other. This will ensure that our services are directed to those who do not have choice in these matters and free up much needed funds to get those roads and other needs sorted.

In finishing, during estimates it is hoped that a greater percentage of spends in all departments are geared towards prevention, maintenance and empowering people and communities to be creative in resolving their concerns and causes. We are now at a crossroads with many challenges. The answer is within our people, our communities and effective resource management, not in elongated processes, blame or political stouthing. We have exciting opportunities ahead of us to step outside the winners and losers realm and into the combined winners circle.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (7.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills. This is a budget that is delivering for Queenslanders and investing heavily in the Gold Coast. It is a budget that delivers now and delivers for the future, with record investments in Health and Education, and it invests in the services in infrastructure that our growing city needs. The Gold Coast is Australia's sixth biggest city and Queensland's second biggest city. We are a fast-growing region going from strength to strength after hosting an incredibly successful Commonwealth Games. We need to build congestion-busting infrastructure for our city and I am pleased to see that this budget is delivering on just that.

The Palaszczuk government went to the election promising that M1 upgrades would commence as soon as the games were over, and that is exactly what we are doing, with heavy works starting at Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes and the Gateway merge. I am a big believer in public transport which is why I am pleased to see that this budget allocates \$2 million of new funding for stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail and funding for Cross River Rail which will reduce travel time for Gold Coast commuters travelling to Brisbane by 15 minutes and add over 3,000 additional seats during peak times. We want to keep Queenslanders moving which is why we are investing \$680 million in infrastructure on the Gold Coast which is estimated to support around 2,300 jobs. We want to create secure jobs that come with fair pay and safe working conditions to provide families with the confidence they need to spend and invest. That is the foundation of a strong economy. That is not never-never stuff. We are not promising to do; we are doing.

We are restoring the front-line services that were savagely cut under the Newman government. I am proud to say that since 2015 we have added an extra 653 nurses and 186 doctors on the Gold Coast. I am also proud to say that almost \$1.5 billion will be invested in health care on the Gold Coast—a record investment. The Gold Coast has the busiest emergency department in the country and this growth in funding will help our hardworking doctors and nurses meet the increase in demand for services.

Not only are we keeping our Gold Coasters healthy; we are also keeping our community safe by expanding the number of police and emergency workers, giving them the best equipment and every support to combat the scourges of drugs and domestic violence. I am pleased to see that this budget allocates \$2.4 million of an \$11.5 million project to commence construction of a new police hub in Arundel. We are also funding four new domestic and family violence coordinators and building a domestic violence shelter on the northern Gold Coast. This new shelter will be a sanctuary for women and children who make the brave decision to leave violent relationships. It will provide the support those families need to rebuild their lives.

I am also pleased to say that funding of Project Booyah will continue, with a total of \$7.36 million over five years for the award-winning early intervention program that helps steer troubled young people away from a life of crime. I recently spoke with a young man involved in this program which is being delivered in my community through the Nerang PCYC. This young man has been contributing to our community by working on projects that benefit families in our area at Country Paradise Parklands and I am pleased to say that he has made the decision to go back to school. He, like many other Queenslanders participating in this program, has turned his life around. I was shocked to see that the federal Turnbull government has chosen to discontinue its contribution of funding for this program. I will be writing to the federal minister and federal member for Moncrieff about this issue because Project Booyah gives young people the opportunity, the skills and the self-esteem to make good decisions, but most importantly it gives them hope for the future.

This side of the House has a very proud history of providing for the future, delivering a quality education for all children regardless of their background and postcode. Since 2015 we have employed more than 500 extra teachers and almost 70 extra teacher aides on the Gold Coast. Our educators do a phenomenal job and I want to thank all of the staff at our wonderful schools in the electorate of Gaven for their tireless work in shaping the lives of our future generations. We know that for a child to thrive we need to deliver world-class learning environments and meet enrolment demand.

I am proud to say that we are contributing over \$80 million for maintenance and capital works projects for schools on the Gold Coast. During the election I fought hard for my community and I am pleased to say that those commitments have been honoured in this budget. Schools like Pacific Pines State Primary School, Nerang State High School and William Duncan State School are just a few schools that I lobbied for during the election and I am proud to see the Palaszczuk government is honouring the commitments that were made. I am also pleased to say that on top of these commitments Pacific Pines State High School will also receive over \$1.4 million in this budget of an \$8 million project to commence construction on a new building with six classrooms and three specialist areas.

Even before a child's first day of school, Queensland kids benefit from developing a love of reading. Having worked in the early childhood sector, I know how important it is that children receive the support they need at an early stage. That is why we are investing \$175,000 in this budget to deliver the First 5 Forever family reading initiative through preschool literacy sessions at libraries on the Gold Coast.

We believe in giving Queenslanders the skills and training they need to get into the workforce which is why we are making record education and training investment and redeveloping TAFE facilities on the Gold Coast. I am also pleased to see that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program that helps jobseekers gain the skills and training they need to enter the workforce is continuing. I have had the privilege of attending two Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation ceremonies at Country Paradise Parklands and Nerang and the benefits of this program are far reaching. Participants not only gain a qualification; they work on projects to assist families in our suburbs and create meaningful relationships with community members and potential employers.

At the heart of any Labor budget is education, and we are delivering in spades. It is for our children that we are building the economy of the future. Before 2015 renewable energy was a futuristic suggestion. We are now building the biggest solar energy plants in the world. Jets are flying on biofuels. Between July 2016 and April 2018 \$5.8 million worth of grants were awarded to 88 applicants to drive innovation, build on our natural advantages and help raise the Gold Coast's profile as an attractive investment destination. We have invested \$650 million in our Advance Queensland fund, backing our own people to turn more of their ideas into new realities.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the important role small businesses play in their communities and in creating jobs. My parents owned a small business and I myself have worked in a number of small businesses, so I am pleased to see that this budget includes an extra \$40 million for the Business Development Fund for two years and an extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate to June 2019 for apprentices and trainees.

Following the success of the Commonwealth Games, we have an opportunity to stamp our authority as a truly global city. More than 1.5 billion people from around the world watched on as the Gold Coast had its time in the spotlight and we know that this event will leave a long-lasting legacy for the tourism industry and the Gold Coast community decades into the future. To make the most of the games, the Gold Coast needs to keep reinventing itself to appeal to a younger, more discerning international travel market.

We are investing significantly in this space to make sure that we capitalise on the games in the next decade. Importantly, the Palaszczuk government will invest \$180 million to attract more direct flights, creating new attractions and promoting ecotourism opportunities in our key visitor destinations. We need to partner with tourism operators to make sure that what we are offering on the Gold Coast is new and current. The time is now for the Gold Coast and, as the assistant minister for tourism industry development, I look forward to working with the industry to deliver what the coast needs to ride the wave of success following the Commonwealth Games. Our local screen industry will also continue to flourish, with a commitment of \$50 million to help attract job-creating film and television projects to Queensland via the Production Attracting Strategy. These are exciting times to live in our state.


Although the future is bright in Queensland, we certainly acknowledge that there are still many residents and communities like some in my electorate who do it tough. That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed more than \$5.5 billion to help Queenslanders with their household budgets.

The Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$312 million to fund a range of energy rebates and concessions, of which \$212 million is specifically to assist vulnerable Queenslanders and \$100 million has been allocated to help all households through our electricity asset ownership dividend. We have been able to implement many of these initiatives because we have kept our income-generating assets in public hands. I will continue to work with my communities so that residents take advantage of these concessions and rebates to assist them with day-to-day cost-of-living pressures.

I am a strong believer in the concept that society should be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. That is why I am proud to see that this budget has allocated \$7.7 million to deliver specialist homelessness services and \$38.4 million to expand and improve social housing on the Gold Coast. This program's benefits extend far beyond housing for people in need. The Housing Construction Jobs Program is also creating a pipeline of opportunities for the construction industry, securing hundreds of quality jobs.

People in my community and on the wider Gold Coast want politicians who simply get on with the job. They do not want to waste time on congested roads, they want their children educated in good schools, they want to be looked after when they are sick and they want to be able to turn on a light without taking out another mortgage and they want to do that without destroying the planet. We are delivering on these things in a methodical, ordered and well-planned way. The Gold Coast has enormous potential and, like any growing city, there will always be more work to do. I promise my electorate that I will continue to fight for my amazing community.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Hon. Jackie Trad, for delivering a good Labor budget that delivers for the Gold Coast. She has been a fierce advocate for congestion-busting infrastructure and I look forward to working with her in the future to deliver for the Gold Coast. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (7.52 pm): In response to the handing down this week of the 2018-19 budget, I would like to commend the Queensland government and express my sincere thanks for the delivery of those important projects that fall within my electorate—the ones that I have been advocating for since the start of my term as the member for Mirani. It is promising to see that critical projects, such as the Rookwood Weir, have been given consideration in the Queensland state budget. It is also promising to see that vital funding for local governments in the Mirani electorate has also been budgeted for under the Works for Queensland program, which will see local communities boosted with local projects.

However, as promising as that is, as the member for Mirani I think so much more can be done to deliver a results focused budget for regional communities when it comes to raising the living standards of those who are disadvantaged or with limited employment prospects, the rising cost of the living, the casualisation of work and a predominant labour hire workforce, the cost of essential services, the impost of new water and waste taxes, and the burdens placed on those in the farming sector, who also grapple with the cost of living with no relief from exorbitant electricity costs and restrictions on how they can effectively manage their water and land. These are just a handful of the issues that the state budget does not address. The budget does not address how the state and the nation can face some of the biggest challenges of our time.

Although I commend the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services for his dedication and push for record spending in Health, it is somewhat insulting to the electors that the Minister for Health can attribute the need for record spending in Health on drinking, smoking and eating without looking deeper into the underlying factors that contribute to that much needed spending in health services. It would be helpful to understand the myriad other issues that contribute to the health of the population, particularly that of people in regional areas, who experience many disadvantages.

High unemployment levels, few job prospects, the casualisation of the workforce and a lack of government assistance to bring major projects to fruition are heavily impacting on the health of people in regional areas, particularly in my electorate of Mirani. In one town in my electorate alone, in December 2017 the unemployment rate was 20.9 per cent. That is undeniably affecting the health of the people in that area. Recently, I have been in talks with the local meatworks company and I have donated my old vehicle to provide transport to several jobseekers who were finding it difficult just to get themselves to and from work. There is not the luxury of public transport—trains and buses to catch—in some of the regions of Central Queensland.

In relation to Skilling Queenslanders for Work, I am afraid to say that some of the regions in my electorate missed the boat in offerings and incentives. That gap needs to be bridged. To be out of work with no possible way to make a two-hour trip to get to and from work means that many people experience unemployment and effects on their health, such as mental illness, substance abuse and poor diet. If people do not work, they do not eat correctly.

I note that the budget included many millions for the Back to Work program in South-East Queensland, but there was no allocation for this program for Central and North Queensland. The smaller communities in Central and North Queensland need as many people as possible to hold consistent and long-term, stable employment to at the very least keep money circulating through all the small local businesses that coexist to create a vibrant and healthy community. Indeed, a great deal of opportunity presents for those who live in these small communities to participate in building the schools and health facilities that are needed to accommodate a growing and aging population. There is much potential for development within the regions and so much more that can be delivered to generate local domestic projects and activities, including training opportunities for all no matter where they reside.

I have heard the Premier speak of providing opportunities for young people seeking entry into the workforce through apprenticeships and traineeships. These young people should receive preference when looking for work in regional areas and not backpackers from overseas. More needs to be done to ensure that local contractors take on major projects instead of workers being sourced from subsidiary overseas companies, or those with vested interests.

My predecessor promised Sarina Hospital \$16 million in funding. For my electorate to be overpromised and underdelivered adds further to people's socio-economic disadvantage. The mounting pressure on our public health system makes this funding a life-or-death matter. Breadcrumbs over four years is just not enough. Health insurance premiums continue to increase at a rate so far above the rate of inflation that my constituents are simply opting out of the private health system, placing added pressure on the public system. A lack of bulk-billing and cuts to after-hours healthcare services in the Mirani electorate means that my constituents simply cannot afford to visit a doctor. If they visit a doctor, they are told that their condition falls outside the realm of the public health system and that they should look into getting private health insurance. That is a hard fate for a person who has been out of work owing to a life-threatening disease. It is a vicious cycle.

Socio-economic disadvantage also influences educational opportunity at every stage of the learning and development of children in my electorate. It is known that there is a higher level of socio-economic disadvantage in regional or rural electorates than in city electorates. Electorates such as Mirani continue to be overlooked. More spending to facilitate improved services for people in the regions is a must. I am thankful for the \$91,000 in the budget for the First 5 Forever program, which helps families with children up to the age of five with early learning.

I wish the government had consulted me or the educators in my electorate as to what is really needed in this budget by way of support for people in my community who are socially disadvantaged for many reasons. Recently, during informal talks with principals in my area, I was informed that there is a concerning trend among prep-aged students. Approximately 50 per cent of those children are presenting with difficulties in reading, writing and basic social skills. In an electorate that spans 63,000-plus square kilometres with dozens of schools, how far can just \$91,000 in funding for the First 5 Forever program really go?

We need to invest in early education programs that identify the needs of children and increase the number of specialist educators to take pressure off teachers who are trying to deal with those issues in the classrooms. That is a growing concern. Ultimately, substandard education delivered from early childhood leads to future employment issues. I have spoken with local bus contractors who tell me that many prep-aged students are being dropped to empty homes as their parents have to work around the clock just to survive and pay their power bills, often without job security. Surely more money can be budgeted for an investment in the specialised education that children need to excel and programs so that their patients can afford after-school care and other state school programs.

Further on the topic of education, although I scrolled through the service delivery documents I did not come across any mention of the Sarina State High School as one of the 17 schools that will receive the \$10 million that the Palaszczuk Labor government promised if re-elected. That \$10 million promise was made as part of the Renewing Our Schools initiative to spend \$235 million across 17 schools that are more than 30 years old. As I scrolled through the budget papers, Sarina State High School was not mentioned as one of those 17 schools. A *Daily Mercury* article, written just after the



announcement of those promises and pledges, refers to a study conducted on regional schools. It states—

... regional school students were less likely to graduate high school than Brisbane children and called on the Labor Party and the LNP to change that and give our kids the best chance at success.

The problem facing Sarina State High School has not been the age of the buildings necessarily but the number of classrooms.

Hopefully that is an oversight. Since 2013, enrolments at Sarina State High School have increased by almost 30 per cent. Those wishing to study specialised subjects, such as digital media studies, are forced to travel to Mackay because such subjects are not taught at the school. It is hoped that the promised \$10 million is delivered to Sarina State High School in a timely manner and not in four years time. How is it justifiable to make such commitments to the public at election time and then seemingly withdraw them when the budget is presented for another couple of years?

My seat of Mirani surrounds the major regional population centres of Mackay and Rockhampton. Much of its transport network links with the economic lifeblood of the Sunshine State—that is, the Bowen Basin. While I applaud the actions taken to have the Marian intersection fixed, it needs to happen in the next 12 months under the promise to ‘fix roads sooner’. To be honest, having to wait another two years to fix the Marian intersection would be disappointing, given that the route handles virtually all the giant over-dimension loads destined for coal mines in the Bowen Basin and especially given talk about the next big mining boom. That extraordinary task will not cease until the Walkerston bypass is commissioned, but how many years will it be before that happens? Will it be four years? Who knows!

The nearby community of Walkerston continues to see 100 or more B-double trailers and other oversized trucks thunder through town 24/7, moving bulk diesel to mines, yet both major parties have cited excuse after excuse as to why construction cannot begin on the Walkerston bypass. It should not matter what party is in power; what matters is the safety of road users. Anyone passing through Walkerston will know that on the main arterial road is a school that is directly in the path of those trucks. We have already had one near miss. The bypass is imperative for the safety of the community. If sensible logic were applied, the Walkerston bypass and the Mackay Ring Road, which share some common infrastructure, would be commissioned together. I suggest that that happens sooner rather than later.

I am thankful, as I suspect local residents are, for the extra allocation of funding to the Sarina Range Crossing, which appears to be on a reconstruction go-slow. Although it is the backup to the accident-prone Peak Downs Highway, the Sarina Range Crossing was completely destroyed during Cyclone Debbie and for over a year the road closure has affected many families living in the Sarina hinterland. Much can be said about the roads in my electorate that need attention sooner rather than later. People who travel to and from Mackay over the Koumala Range constantly face danger, either from traffic coming from the opposite direction or because of the road condition itself. When a truck crashed on the Eton Range closing the road for 24 hours, people from the Mackay region travelling west to the mines had to use the lengthy and hazardous dirt detour over the Koumala Range. The first man on the scene should be given a carton of beer or a medal for heroism, because he pulled the driver from the burning truck. Again, much can be said about the quality of works and the safety of roads in my electorate.


If Queensland expects to get ahead economically, the south-east cannot do it on its own, because much of our export wealth is generated by the communities in the regions. We forget the men and women who risk their lives travelling on second-rate roads to contribute to the state's wealth. We forget those in the gaps who find it hard to find stable employment and work. Those people miss out on their share of the state's wealth. I believe that we need to ensure that the most important and often only available transport linkages, such as those through my regional seat of Mirani, are up to the task so that we can all prosper. There is no denying that across the greater region we have many roads and rail projects in the pipeline, but progress seems to be held up by the do-we-or-don't-we approach. The elephant in the room is the Adani Carmichael coal project. The Deloitte Access Economics business outlook for 2018 states that we have \$28 billion worth of projects either set to go ahead or under construction, but a huge proportion of those projects are hanging on whether Australia's largest coal mine goes ahead.

If we are to look to Queensland's future, government leaders should be getting serious about water infrastructure. Whilst I commend the funding of the Rookwood Weir, we need to start looking at water resources and forward-thinking projects, which should be listed as critical infrastructure, for the benefit of the people not just of Mirani but also of the entire state and nation. Water is the lifeblood of

agriculture. I remind members that half of our state is still drought declared. If we do not have a robust and healthy agricultural industry, if we cannot produce food or we lose the ability to generate export income, we will lose ourselves as a state and a nation.

In terms of the budget, much is written and spoken about spending on the Great Barrier Reef. Many of the bills we pass refer to climate change and environmental impacts on the state. If we are as serious as we suggest about climate change and drought, there is so much that we can do. While water legislation makes arrangements for multinational corporations to be exempted from the National Water Initiative, which was put in place to address population growth and climate change, we place many restrictions on the people of the land in terms of how they can access and use their water. Just recently, the Productivity Commission released a statement—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.07 pm): I rise in support of the appropriation bills. The Palaszczuk government gives our businesses, local governments and entrepreneurs the environment and resources to establish and thrive in Queensland. Once again, the Treasurer and Deputy Premier has demonstrated that it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has a positive plan for our state. We have the biofutures 10-year road map, the agricultural 10-year road map, a 10-year plan for health and a Mackay-Whitsunday transport plan, just to name some.

The Palaszczuk government's support of local government has seen the Mackay Regional Council complete sewage and water treatment upgrades, develop parks, undertake local community hall upgrades, install a whale-viewing platform and continue to develop the Mackay region as a tourist destination, keeping locals in employment. Our innovators, researchers and developers are supported through grants. I refer to Split Spaces, Make a Space and the QUT racecourse laboratory, which is developing biofuture products, and other brand-new businesses that are being developed. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, my region is not just focusing on now; we are preparing for the future.

The Mackay electorate and surrounding regions have begun to thrive under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Vital infrastructure is being built such as roads, bridges, hospital upgrades and school upgrades and we are funding more police, nurses and teachers.

We want to create jobs in a strong economy. We know the world is changing at a rapid rate. Our programs like Advance Queensland are attracting new and exciting businesses and industries to Queensland, and in particular to my region of Mackay. Mecurius, a US based company, is one of these businesses. They are developing biodiesel, aviation fuel and marine fuel at the QUT laboratory. This is what my community wants and needs to future proof our economy from the fluctuations of the rise and fall of commodity and sugar prices.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about training and apprenticeships. The unemployed need skills to gain work. I am pleased that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is continuing. In my community the long-term unemployed got their chance at a qualification through this very successful program. Skills gained include certificates in construction, administration, aged care, heavy vehicle operation, rail and hospitality. Participants gained their qualifications and most gained ongoing employment. I have had many invitations to graduation ceremonies cancelled because graduates could not get time off work with their new employers to attend the ceremony.

Participants I have met come from varied backgrounds. One thing that has stuck with me is the number of parents with young children completing the program. This program changes the lives of participants and it changes the lives of children who get to see their parents engaged in work. Young Ian McNaulty gained a carpentry apprenticeship from his Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in construction. This has made a huge difference to him and his young family's life. The Palaszczuk government's incentives for employers to take on apprentices are being taken up in my part of the state. During the dark days of the LNP government the number of apprenticeships being advertised began to slump.

To create jobs in a strong economy Minister Fentiman and the Premier while in the Mackay region unveiled a \$1 million assistance program for employers to encourage them to engage apprentices. This is to make up for some of the adverse effects on training after Scott Morrison stripped \$60 million from the training sector in the federal budget.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has viewed and approved my speech for incorporation and an electronic copy of my speech has been made available to Hansard.

Leave granted.

This year I attended induction of apprentices, 5 at Ergon, 42 at BMA and in yesterday's Daily Mercury there is an article featuring Hastings Deering needing a further 44 apprentices. These opportunities are being taken up by school leavers and mature aged workers reskilling.

Our apprenticeship incentives, added with youth Boost ,Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for work programs that has resulted in an unemployment rate in my region in now sitting at 3.8%. The Palaszczuk governments programs are working.

We want to give all our children a great start.

We will increase the number of babies born healthier.

Increase childhood immunisation rates and improve wellbeing prior to school.

We all know education is the passport to the future that's why we are funding preschool literacy lessons, there is \$70, 000 for councils in the Mackay region to provide the First 5 forever program in our local libraries. The foundations of literacy set children on a path of lifelong learning.

As a former teacher I know education is our passport to the future, that's why we are investing in quality facilities to enhance student's learning. \$1,236,000 has been allocated for maintenance and minor works across Mackay schools.

Slade Point SS will receive \$200,000 for fence replacement, I would like to congratulate P&C President Mikee McGrath for his tireless effort over 7 years to realise his passion for his project. He tells me the fence was old when he went to the school, time for new modern infrastructure.

\$7.4million towards the Northern Beaches SHS performing arts facility will give the talented students and opportunity to hone their skills in a modern purpose built state of the art facility.

Well maintained learning spaces is what our students deserve to reach their full potential.

Keep Queenslanders healthy.

We will strive to increase the number of Queenslanders with a healthy body weight and reduce suicides.

Good Health is real wealth for our community. When you use our local hospital, it is crucial you get quality care.

That's why I am thrilled to see Mackay HHS has a record budget of \$441.7 million, an increase of \$26.6 million from last year's budget. The budget increase will take pressure off our hard-working doctors, nurses and health professionals in the emergency department. They have been stretched since the last bulk bill clinic ceased in Mackay. The LNP Federal government have stood by without addressing this desperate situation. Families doing it tough financially are relying on the hospital's emergency department for general medical treatment instead of attending a GP surgery. Mr Turnbull this is not good enough for my community.

Funding of \$5.5 million of a \$16.5 million rebuild of the Sarina hospital will enhance the health services to the south of Mackay it will also take pressure of the Mackay hospital. It is always better for a patient's recovery if they are closer to home with family and friends.

Importantly there is an additional \$2.1 million to support community mental health services.

Unfortunately, the Mackay region has gained exposure in the media recently as a centre with a high percentage of overweight people.

We need to all look at our lifestyles, diet and exercise.

When I was going up in Mackay I was lucky to have the opportunity to play a range of sports. I was not the best player on the field but I got the physical and social benefits from participation.

It is so important to have quality facilities to encourage participation in all sport. The Mackay Netball Association will receive \$500,000 to extend and upgrade existing amenities including change rooms, first aid room. Amenities for people with disabilities. Also parent and rooms to promote women in sport. This will be a win win for the sport and the health of the wider community.

Ethan and Flynn two 12 year old's successfully lobbied during last year's state election campaign for a skate park in the Mackay Northern Beaches neighbourhood. The dedicated work of these two young men has paid off with \$1 million for a skate facility in the Camilleri Street Park, the funds will also go towards a family recreational hub with shade and barbecues. A fantastic community facility with health benefit of exercise.

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is an important issue for the Mackay Region regardless of the industry a person works in.

Reducing Queensland's contribution to climate change and improve water quality is something we can all work towards.

Mackay Whitsundays Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership supporting the Reef 2050 Plan will receive \$260,000 out of \$1.3 million.

Farmers need assistance to implement best management practice, this will improve cropping as well as improve water quality on the Great Barrier Reef. They will receive \$6.3 million out of \$31.3 million.

The Palaszczuk government is contributing over \$12 million towards the recovery of our community outdoor spaces, this over and above the joint state federal disaster recovery funding. The government want to see my community back on its feet and ready for the next weather event stronger and better than before.

Many of us were shocked to see the Blue Water Trail and the fishing platform on the old hospital bridge smashed by cyclone Debbie.

Their reconstruction plus the refurbishment of Queens Park will restore our beautiful outdoor spaces and be an added attraction for tourism.

One year on, the destruction of Cyclone Debbie is still being felt across our community. Residents at Lambert's Beach, Midge Point and St Helen's Beach saw metres of their foreshores eroded away. This funding for beach restoration is in addition to the already allocation cyclone recovery grants.

Our local beaches are for everyone. That's it is important to restore and replenish our beaches, at the same time add resilience measures so they can withstand the next weather disaster.

We can't stop natural disasters but we can prepare our beaches and infrastructure for its onslaught.

I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasury Jacki Trad on a budget for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.11 pm): I rise to speak on this year's budget bills. Everywhere in Queensland, from my electorate of Maiwar to the Far North, in country towns and remote communities, people know that politics and politicians are failing them. Queenslanders are under pressure from low wages, high rents and mortgages, high power bills and underfunded public services. After a century of the broken two-party system, decades of unfettered crony capitalism, rampant inequality and now facing the impending catastrophe of dangerous climate change, people have had enough. They see the system as broken.

The Greens are not content with incremental change, and nor should any of us be. I was elected on a genuinely transformational platform that would create a future that works for all of us. To give everyone a better life we need to tax big corporations properly, which means taking on the power of the corporate donor class. The government has made some small but commendable steps forward with the new luxury taxes and the waste levy, but they simply do not raise the revenue we need to support Queenslanders in the ways they need, to live the life they deserve.

As a first step, the Greens want to make sure property developers and mining companies pay their fair share. Right now, developers in Queensland get \$2.3 billion of free money every year as land gets rezoned and the value of that land goes up. Coal and gas companies are paying incredibly low royalty rates by international standards meaning we are still missing out on the benefits of the mining boom. As we transition away from coal, we need to collect these mining profits to fund a cleaner future.

A Greens budget would raise an extra \$30 billion over five years with a developer tax and fairer coal and gas royalties. With that money, we could build 200,000 beautiful, well-designed social homes to create universal housing. Our plan would end homelessness within three years and abolish the social housing waiting list.

Before public health and education, people thought universal health care and education were impossible dreams. Real change starts by rejecting old ideas and the old parties' assumptions. With our plans to make big corporations pay their fair share, we could cut power bills by \$600 per year and run the whole state on 100 per cent clean energy by 2030. We could make sure that clean energy stays in public ownership so that energy transition creates the kind of good, steady jobs that sustain communities in the long term. We cannot let the transition to clean energy become privatisation by stealth, but that is exactly what is happening at the moment.

We could create \$1 public transport fares across the state and free travel for kids. As well as building Cross River Rail, we could extend our public transport network even further so that people in regional cities enjoy access to modern, efficient transport that saves them money and cleans up our cities.

We could create a public infrastructure bank that could fund the schools, hospitals and green space that Queenslanders need and deserve. All of these things are possible, but right now the riches of the mining boom and the development boom flow straight into the pockets of big corporations. Until Labor and the LNP stand up to the corporate donor class, truly transforming the lives of Queenslanders will remain a pipe dream.

The kind of wholesale, transformative change the Greens and I envisage are rooted in community and built on lifelong educational opportunities. That brings me back to what this budget means for Maiwar, and in particular the funding committed for local schools. I would like to start by simply acknowledging what outstanding schools we have in Maiwar, both private and public. Burgeoning enrolment numbers reflect just how many families want their children to enjoy the education offered in these schools, but they are also a symptom of the rampant overdevelopment being experienced in many parts of the electorate.

Planning for this level of development, and the provision of public infrastructure to cope with the population growth, has simply been inadequate. Whether because of the false assumption that families would not want to live in units or simply as a consequence of demographic shift, schools in Maiwar, and particularly state schools, are not keeping pace with demand.

Indooroopilly State High School, the only catchment based state high school in the electorate, is now pushing 2,000 students—having effectively doubled in size over the last decade. A number of the primary schools are also bursting at the seams, such as Ironside and Indooroopilly state schools. Student numbers are now at the point that hundreds of students are unable to get a spot in outside school hours care.

It is great to see more than \$7½ million allocated for work at Indooroopilly State School and more than \$15 million for Indooroopilly State High School. These schools are desperately in need of these new and refurbished facilities. I know the school principals, Keith Warwick and Lois O'Reilly, and all their students are suitably excited about the difference these facilities will make to their educational experience.

The government has almost followed through with its commitments to Maiwar primary schools, but I have some concern that they are being short-changed. Labor's candidate for Maiwar made commitments to fund new or improved infrastructure at Bardon, Milton and Toowong state schools. These commitments were still available online until fairly recently but the website has now been taken down, so I will table three printouts of media pages from Ali King's website, for the information of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents regarding budget funding for schools [\[914\]](#).

In relation to each of these commitments, the budget appears to deliver almost 20 per cent less than promised. Now, I would be happy to be corrected if there is in fact some more schools funding squirreled away in a dark corner of the budget, but it looks for all money like Labor is underdelivering for Maiwar's primary school students, in terms of both the amount promised for these projects and the time frames for delivery.

I would suggest that meeting these commitments would have been a bare minimum for our local schools, given the issues I mentioned a moment ago. It is not entirely clear how the expanded Building Future Schools program might be applied to address the needs of these and all of Maiwar's state schools, but I look forward to finding out more through the estimates process. Underfunding and schools' struggles to keep up with population and development pressures are really just emblematic of a much broader issue, which I have raised in this House more than once.

Development in Queensland is fundamentally skewed in favour of developers' profits, and the development boom is continuing at the expense of Queensland communities. Developers simply are not paying their fair share. We have not seen a single bit of green space added to Maiwar in recent years, but this has not escaped the attention of Maiwar locals in amongst the overwhelming pace of development. Infill development is to some extent inevitable, but as families like mine continue to move into those townhouses and units, public space becomes our backyard. Green space is constantly undervalued in planning and development but invaluable to our communities. Yet, it keeps disappearing while opportunities to regain green space slip past.

The community has been crying out for years for governments to turn the old ABC site at Toowong into what would be amazing riverfront green space. Instead of putting the community first, it has been sold off to developers who have not yet found a way to make a profit off it. It still sits wasted, while the surrounding suburbs continue to crowd out.

Traffic is an ongoing concern in Maiwar, like in so many other urban electorates. Transport planning 101 tells us that spending on roads can only ever be a temporary fix and that, as population grows, people need incentives to leave their cars behind to use active and public transport. Instead, we continue to see public transport usage declining.

Cross River Rail is precisely the kind of investment we need to transform and modernise our public transport system and get people back on buses and trains. I absolutely support the government's ongoing commitment to this project, but we cannot pretend this is a panacea to all our public transport woes, particularly in the western suburbs. It is time to take meaningful steps towards a western busway. I have little doubt that the members for Mount Ommaney and Moggill and their voters would agree that this warrants government attention and investment immediately.

I have no doubt that the residents of South Brisbane would be as excited as Maiwar residents are at the prospect of the much needed active transport bridges between Toowong and West End and West End and St Lucia as ways to keep healthy and reduce inner-city congestion. Better schools, hospitals, greenspace, public and active transport facilities are all achievable, but only if government chooses to make them an absolute priority. It is all about choices.

I think I have heard virtually every member in this House, from both sides, talk about the needs of their local schools in their contribution to this debate. If we agree that more money is needed to improve this kind of basic public infrastructure and to better support communities across the state, why is it so hard to accept that this must be funded by redistributing burgeoning corporate profits? Until Labor and the LNP make big corporations pay their fair share, we will continue to miss opportunities to invest in positive, forward-thinking and visionary infrastructure. There is more than enough to go around, but the fear of taking on the corporate class continues to hold governments back.

In the time I have remaining I would like to look at a handful of other issues and how they are dealt with in the budget. I could go on all night, and I am sure members would like to hear that! Queensland is in a housing crisis: one in five people are in rental or mortgage stress; 29,000 people are on the social housing waiting list—some of them have been on there for 10 years; and 20,000 people are homeless. After years of profit driven development, the private market has failed to deliver affordable, well-designed, livable homes. Instead, it has delivered enormous profits for a wealthy few and locked many people out of the housing market completely.

Every single housing and homelessness advocacy organisation says that the solution to our crisis is to build more social housing homes. We would never accept the state government turning children away from schools or patients away from hospitals just because we had not invested enough in public education or health care. Yet that is exactly what is happening in housing. Labor's plan for social housing appears to be more of the same—business as usual. We cannot accept that as a society, as a parliament. The Greens believe that housing is a fundamental right. We believe that everyone deserves a home. It is easy to dismiss this type of idea as 'radical', but I completely disagree. I think it speaks to the kind of society those critics are willing to accept. I do not want to accept a society where thousands of people sleep rough while expensive apartments sit empty night after night.

I turn now to Labor's plan to build new prison cells. If we are serious about real community safety, we cannot rely on building new prisons or expanding existing prisons. Labor has proudly boasted about spending a total of \$241 million to expand Capricornia Correctional Centre to add 348 new cells. Overcrowding is a serious issue, especially in women's prisons, but the solution to over-imprisonment is to reduce the number of people behind bars, not to build new cells. Providing adequate economic security, good health care, education and social services for disadvantaged groups at risk of criminalisation is more effective than locking people up.

As well as those basic necessities, as the former chief of Queensland Corrective Services Keith Hamburger has said, we should be looking at legalising and regulating cannabis, since 27 per cent of all offences in Queensland are illicit drug offences. This budget put \$169 million into more police officers but not one extra dollar into legal assistance for marginalised and criminalised people. I call on Labor to invest more in our communities instead of building new prisons. Labor is spending \$13 million in part to add 12 beds at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville. The Greens applaud the government finally acting to get 17-year-olds out of adult prisons, but it is unacceptable that our youth prisons are so overcrowded that extra beds were required.

Kids do not belong in prison. One way to help ease the over-imprisonment crisis is to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years old. Raising the age would help fix our shocking, obscene over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids in detention. Of all the 10- to 17-year-olds behind bars in Queensland in 2013-14, 65 per cent were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Linked to the over-criminalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people is their serious over-representation in the child protection system. I urge the government to do more and find more funding to address that grave injustice and stop a second stolen generation.

Climate change was a disappointing and extraordinary omission from the Treasurer's budget speech on Tuesday. No-one will dispute the need to fund reef water quality improvement initiatives. I support the government's commitment to this, but the budget proposes no new spending to lessen our climate impact, only measures to 'manage the impacts of climate change'. This is a surprisingly Newmannesque approach to climate change policy. Water quality improvements will not save the reef if we do not urgently and drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is no doubt that this is a global problem and that brings us directly, albeit briefly, to that elephant in the room again—Adani.

The greatest contribution Queensland can make to protect the global climate is to keep our coal in the ground. Instead, our government still supports this coal billionaire. Adani has been exempt from paying for unlimited groundwater extraction, whereas farmers continue to pay for this precious resource. We are still waiting for the government to abandon whatever secretive deal exists for Adani to delay payment of royalties. In fact, most Queenslanders are simply waiting for the government to draw a line under this project altogether so Queensland politics can move forward without this albatross around its neck.

In closing, despite my many concerns, I support this budget. I commend the government's willingness to invest big in infrastructure and find new revenue from luxury taxes—but I urge the government to go further. I urge the government to cut off corporate donors and reset the balance between the haves and the have-nots. I urge the government to take the bold steps necessary to support a fairer, better, more sustainable future for all of us.



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (8.26 pm): State budgets are about making choices—hard decisions about where public funds are best directed and invested. Budgets are an expression of what a government takes seriously and what it does not. Ultimately, budgets are about values. In the budget handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday—and I congratulate the Treasurer—the Palaszczuk government has once again given a clear marker of our priorities for the state.

We are proud to say this is a Labor budget. It is a budget that delivers on our commitment to plan for Queensland's future and for the growth and development of this state. It is not the scorched earth approach of those opposite, with their agenda in government of cut, sack and sell. At the last two elections the people of Queensland gave their verdict on who they want to lead this state. That is because a Palaszczuk government offers a positive approach of investing sensibly and wisely in the future of our state and backing Queenslanders all the way regardless of where they live or the circumstances in which they find themselves.

In my portfolio this means investing in education, investing in the future of our children and grandchildren through both schools and early childhood education and care, giving our kids a great start in life and supporting our tireless teachers and educators every step of the way. It means investing to ensure that we have safe, fair and productive workplaces so that people can go to work, be treated well and return home safely at the end of the day.

I am delighted therefore to confirm that in this year's budget the Palaszczuk government has invested an overall record—once again—of \$14.1 billion across the early childhood, schooling and further education. We are making this investment because we know and recognise the importance of education. We know and recognise the value of fairness and safety at work. That is what I mean when I say budgets are an expression of our values, about making choices and setting priorities for the future of this state.

I have been listening intently to those opposite. It is really interesting that we have this so-called economic plan by the Leader of the Opposition. It is amazing what those opposite are going to do. They are going to build every road in Queensland. They are going to have the Bruce Highway, the Centenary Highway, the second M1, the Mount Gravatt road. They are going to build and duplicate every single road there is in Queensland known to mankind. They are going to reduce electricity costs, in spite of the fact that they rose 43 per cent under them—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Members, thank you. We are coming to the end.

**Ms GRACE:** It is interesting that they are going to bring retailers into the country area with their CSOs. I do not know whether they thought that through. Even today, Josh Frydenberg, the federal minister, issued a blunt warning to energy retailers after a report showed that public trust in energy retailers had hit a record low and that unless they sorted out issues, like price and reliability, they would see more intervention from the government. What do the LNP want to do now? Sic the retailers on to the good folk in regional Queensland who are looked after very well with their CSOs from what we have here.

But wait, there's more. They are going to build every hospital. And there's more. They are going to build every school. Every single member who got up in this place talked about what they need in schools. I have added it all up but I have lost count. It is just billions and billions and billions and billions

and billions of dollars. Not only that, they are also going to air-condition them all, but they forgot to ask the education minister in the Newman government, because on 10 December 2014 it was reported—

The state government cannot afford to fit out every Queensland school with air-conditioning due to an estimated \$2 billion cost, says Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek.

That is what they said then. He said that there were other ways to keep Queenslanders cool, but all of a sudden the LNP are going to do it all with not one dollar allocated. They came in here and said that they were going to do every classroom but within five minutes they realised, 'Oops, that was a mistake. Sorry, we didn't mean to say that. It's actually every state classroom, not every classroom that is in the *Hansard*. It is every state classroom.' It was, 'Oops, we made a bit of a mistake.' What they do not know is that we have a cool school zone. We are working with communities. We will implement our advancing clean energy schools with solar panels which will save electricity and help them to conserve energy. We will do what we can to work with those communities to assist them in advancing air conditioning. This is already on track and we are looking at this as well.

Not only that, there's more. They are going to build every dam in Queensland at the same time. But wait, there's more. They are going to duplicate every rail line there is in Queensland at the same time. But wait, there's more. They are going to stop every drug dealer in Queensland. They are going to put an end to all of that. They are going to do all of that.

There is one big piece missing here. There was not one dollar allocated. They are going to do a magic pudding without any new taxes. They are going to backflip on renewable energy and they are going to get the AAA credit rating with it as well. This is amazing. Do we know how they are going to do it? They are going to partner with the federal government, partner with the councils, partner with the local government, partner with Seqwater and SunWater, and partner with the QCAA as well. They are going to deliver all of this in partnership. It is no wonder the Leader of the Opposition spoke about Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest in her speech, because that is where she thinks she is. I do not know who she thinks the Sheriff of Nottingham is, but she clearly thinks she is Robin Hood.

We have heard a lot about the taxes—the taxes that Labor took to the government, I might add. What are those taxes? There is a tax on luxury cars, so I do not think that would affect the ordinary person. There is a land tax for the top one per cent of landowners. There is an increase in overseas duty for units for overseas buyers, not Queensland buyers. The LNP do not like the point-of-consumption tax, whereby Unibet and all the corporate gamblers which do not pay any tax at all or contribute one dollar to the racing industry are making mega profits from it. The LNP do not even want them to pay their fair share so that the industry can expand.

What I loved even more was the continual attack on ATAR. I think there is a little part of ATAR that the LNP do not understand. For once, I would love the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow education minister to stand up for Queensland and Queensland students. They are going to borrow from New South Wales, but they do not realise that, even though English is counted as a subject for ATAR in New South Wales, the students do not have to pass it. There is no minimum pass. The LNP are going to take us backwards. We will have an ATAR where students have to pass English in order to get one. The LNP are going to go the New South Wales route where students do not have to pass English, where there is no minimum pass in order to get an ATAR. That is a little piece of information that somehow escapes those on the opposite side.

When it comes to independent public schools, this is all part of their great broad education plan. What I want to say about independent public schools is that, when the LNP left government, there were 130 and there are now 250. They grew under Labor. My view is quite clear. If they are that good and there is a great opportunity that we can share with other schools, then that is an opportunity lost if we do not do it for all the other schools. That is what we want to find out. If LNP members talk about how good they are and what they are delivering, then let us do it for the other schools as well. Let us share it. Let us look at the future of IPSs so that we can get those benefits and share them with all the other schools. That is clearly what the independent assessment is doing. That is what we will do in an open and transparent way. That is what we will deliver for the students of Queensland. I could go on—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Members!

**Ms GRACE:**—but I want to turn now to the details of the budget of the education portfolio and its various components as well as an overview of the great initiatives in my local electorate of McConnell that will flow from this budget. I cannot escape the simplistic plan of the LNP. There was not one dollar allocated to anything that they spoke about. They have a magic pudding that is going to develop everything here in Queensland. It is a tale of Robin Hood and it is a tale of Sherwood Forest.



Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my speech. I have sought leave from the Deputy Speaker and I have provided an electronic copy—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members, despite me trying to call order on several occasions, it was ignored. If that behaviour continues, I will warn everyone under the standing orders.

**Ms GRACE:** They are a bit of a joke over there. They just simply cannot take the truth.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnell, it did not need a comment.

**Ms GRACE:** I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have delivered an electronic copy. I have had the approval of the Deputy Speaker.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

*In division—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Thank you. Thank you, members. Members, I called the House to order three times. It is a division. Standing orders still apply.

**AYES, 51:**

**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.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**KAP, 1—**Dametto.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 38—**Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

I turn now to the details of the education portfolio budget and its various components, as well as an overview of the great initiatives in my local electorate of McConnel that will flow from this budget.

Education—schools

Mr Speaker, I am honoured to have taken on the role of Minister for Education, and I am extremely proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Government delivering more than \$12.8 billion in schools and early childhood education and care in 2018-19.

This State Budget delivers on the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to provide a quality education for all students throughout Queensland.

Not only will we have more teachers in our classrooms, they will be better trained and better prepared for their vitally important role.

This Budget also includes a record investment in school infrastructure of more than \$1 billion, which will see new schools and classrooms built where they are needed most.

Our teachers are critical when it comes to giving Queensland children a great start.

So, while the leader of the opposition thinks that we have an 'inefficient public service', the Palaszczuk Government is employing more than 1,000 extra teachers as part of our four-year commitment to employ more than 3,700 teachers—because we value our teachers and the vital work they do on the education frontline.

We are also investing \$107 million over three years in the Teaching Queensland's Future program to prepare and develop beginning teachers.

We're committing \$31 million over four years to create four Centres of Learning and Wellbeing to support staff in rural and remote Queensland, with the first two centres to open in Mount Isa and Roma next term.

We're also investing \$14.4 million to employ an additional 15 music teachers per year for the next four years.

The Budget will invest \$923 million in state school infrastructure and a further \$98.4 million in capital grant assistance for non-state schools.

There is an additional \$250 million boost to make our secondary schools '2020 Ready'.

In this budget we will also begin boosting the Building Future Schools Fund by \$308 million over six years from 2018-19, taking it to a total of \$808 million.

The Fund will deliver two new secondary colleges in the north and south of Brisbane's inner city—including a new high school in Fortitude Valley, in my electorate of McConnel.

Boosting the fund will allow six new schools to be built in key growth areas outside the inner city, including a new primary and secondary school at Ripley Valley, secondary schools at Coomera, Yarrabilba and Mango Hill, as well as building a new special school at Caboolture.

We've also committed \$210 million for school maintenance works in 2018-19 and an additional \$97 million for the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program to install solar and energy efficiency measures in state schools.

Together, these investments in teachers and infrastructure across our state highlight the Palaszczuk Government's conviction and delivers on our promise to provide Queensland students with the best educational opportunities for the future—a stark contrast to the regressive LNP 'back-to-basics' approach to education that the opposition leader has been calling for.

#### Early Childhood Education

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is committed to giving all Queensland children a great start in life, no matter where they live or the circumstances they find themselves in.

We know that this requires work across a number of portfolio areas, including the absolutely vital area of early childhood education and care.

The early years before school time are a critical time in a child's development, so it's important we invest in quality programs that give them that great start.

I am delighted that this budget supports greater access to early childhood education and care, particularly for more vulnerable members of our community who would otherwise be in danger of missing out on these opportunities.

For example, the budget includes \$24.3 million in 2018-19 to support the operation of Early Years Places in more than 50 locations across the state.

These one-stop-shops provide vital services—including education, parenting and family support, child and maternal health services—for more than 14,000 Queensland children and 10,000 families.

Our Government has delivered on its commitment to establish seven new Early Years Places in Barcaldine, Blackall, Gordonvale, Inala, Lockhart River, Tara and in the Redlands.

We are also continuing to deliver greater access to kindergarten in up to 38 remote communities through the Remote Kindergarten Pilot Program in State Schools, with almost 100 children taking part in 2018.

This complements the \$1.9 million per annum eKindy program, which provided access to kindergarten through distance education for almost 200 Queensland children this year.

And Mr Speaker, I am delighted to announce that under this budget, my Department is commencing a 12-month pilot to offer a tailored kindergarten program to kindergarten-age patients of the Lady Cilento Hospital and the Mater Children's Private Brisbane Hospital.

This is a great initiative to support kids and their families who find themselves in very trying circumstances.

The pilot will be delivered by teachers from the Brisbane School of Distance Education in conjunction with the Lady Cilento Hospital School.

The program will initially involve an early childhood teacher providing one-on-one educational activities with children on the ward.

The initiative will be an investment of \$140,000 for the 12-month period.

I am also pleased to advise that families with children under one year old, will continue to receive 12 months free playgroup membership through continued delivery of the \$1.58 million Play Stars initiative—which is delivered in partnership with Playgroup Queensland.

Around 5,700 families have benefited from the Play Stars program since it began in July 2016, and more than 120 new playgroups have been created right across Queensland.

And there is \$4.5 million to continue refurbishment and enhancement of existing early childhood education and care facilities.

However, while the Palaszczuk Government continues to support early childhood and care in this state, we need the Turnbull Government to step up and fulfil its responsibilities for the early childhood sector.

As I have outlined to the House on a number of previous occasions, the Federal Government has failed again to provide any long-term funding certainty for the sector, with no funding under the National Partnership Agreement for Universal Access to Early Childhood Education beyond 2019.

We have now had five short-term extensions to the original 2009 national partnership agreement.

And in their recent budget, the federal Government completely walked away—with no forewarning—from their commitments to fund the regulation of the sector under the National Partnership Agreement for the National Quality Agenda.

This is no way to run a sector that is so critical to our future.

Queensland families, Queensland children, and those who work so tirelessly in the early childhood sector deserve better than this from the Commonwealth Government.

#### Industrial Relations

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government implemented a fair and balanced industrial relations agenda in its first term in office, delivering in full on our 2015 election commitments to restore fairness and reverse the harsh cuts of the Newman Government era.

In this budget, our Government is continuing a positive agenda in support of safe, fair and productive workplaces in Queensland.

Key priorities for the Government and the Office of Industrial Relations in this year's Budget include:

- Implementation of the Queensland's landmark new labour hire licensing laws to protect vulnerable workers from exploitation and lift the standard and reputation of the labour hire industry. With just days two days left for labour hire providers to apply for their licence, the Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit has received almost 2000 licence applications.
- Investigating options for a portable long service leave scheme for social and community services workers in Queensland.
- Continuing to negotiate in good faith with public sector workers and their unions in the next round of bargaining and finalising agreements that provide fair and responsible wage outcomes.
- Continued oversight and regulation of Workplace Health and Safety in Queensland, including ongoing implementation of the recommendations from the Best Practice Review of WHS.
- Implementing recommendations from the 5-yearly review of the Workers' Compensation Scheme to ensure the scheme remains the best in the country and responds to the changing nature of the labour market.

#### Local electorate

Mr Speaker, in Brisbane's inner city and in my electorate of McConnel, this year's Budget supports game-changing developments that will generate jobs and support economic growth.

Queens Wharf, the proposed Eagle Street Pier, Howard Smith Wharves and Brisbane Live projects are heralding in a new era for our local area. Our Government will work with the private sector to see these projects to success.

The Palaszczuk Government is also delivering the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. During the five-year construction period, Cross River Rail will support an average of 1,500 jobs each year, and up to 3,000 jobs in the most intensive year of construction.

I'm proud to be delivering the first inner city state high school to be built in 50 years in my electorate of McConnel. The 2018-19 Budget commits \$81 million to deliver this exciting new flagship high school in Fortitude Valley.

Other local school investments include:

- \$10 million for a new building for the Queensland Ballet Academy
- \$3 million for additional classrooms at Kelvin Grove State College, as well as \$6 million for an indoor sports facility
- \$120,000 for a new outdoor learning centre at the Queensland Academy of Creative Industries
- \$466,000 for school maintenance and minor works.

#### Conclusion

Mr Speaker, this is a budget in the best traditions of progressive Labor Governments.

This budget reflects our long-standing and dearly held values about the importance of education to give every child a great start and about fairness and safety in the workplace.

I commend it to the House.



**Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (8.43 pm): It is great to see so many people have come back to listen to my wonderful speech on behalf of the Queensland government on this year's budget. Thank you all for coming back. I know I interrupted some of your drinks, but it is great to have you all here tonight to listen to my speech. Thank you very much. I thank you, Mark McArdle. This is a budget for all Queenslanders. It is great to see the whole chamber is here to listen to this because it is worth listening to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): One moment. Members, many of you are leaving the chamber. I ask that you leave the chamber in silence.

**Mr BUTCHER:** This is a budget for the future: delivering the infrastructure, skills and services that will help us to manage growth and ensure that we can all share in future prosperity. I am glad to say that next week I will be heading off as the Assistant Minister for Treasury with the Treasurer and Deputy Premier of Queensland to talk to those people in regional Queensland and Far North Queensland about this budget and also to explain to them how great this is and the opportunities for those people in that part of Queensland.

Our focus is on jobs infrastructure and growing a strong economy in Queensland. Unlike what happened under those opposite, this does not have to come at the cost of the health of our communities or the education of our kids, or our environment. It is quite the opposite. Our government understands that our \$11.6 billion Capital Works Program this coming year will support 38,000 jobs in Queensland. Over 65 per cent of the infrastructure spend in this year's state budget is being delivered in regional Queensland, outside of the south-east, with \$1 billion in infrastructure investment occurring in my electorate and around Central Queensland. That includes building and adding to our hospitals and our schools.

In my electorate of Gladstone \$26.8 million has been allocated in this budget from the total \$42 million for continued construction of the new accident and emergency department at the Gladstone Hospital. The community of Gladstone has been desperate for this infrastructure after previous governments did not support the former Independent member for Gladstone, who held the seat for 21 years. I am glad to say that this government, this Treasurer and this Premier of Queensland are certainly delivering in spades for Gladstone. As I said, we have not seen anything like it for two decades.

In my electorate of Gladstone \$1.7 million has been allocated in this budget, from the total \$4.7 million, to complete the step-up step-down, 10-bed adult mental health facility. This is a much needed support service for those struggling with mental health issues in my community and will help those people get back into everyday living in Gladstone. These are things that are happening now. Right across my electorate honourable members can see infrastructure projects funded by the state government that are supporting jobs. In the past year six brand-new buildings have been constructed in schools across my electorate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous education minister and the new education minister for that support of those infrastructure builds in my schools right across Gladstone. We have invested across the length and breadth of this electorate. The former member for Callide was vehemently opposed to the Calliope State High School and even had a big 'for sale' sign on that land. Not only did we save the land at the last election but we are also now building a brand-new high school on that block at a cost of \$60 million. This year's budget will see \$1.1 million out of the \$4.2 billion to build additional classrooms, I am pleased to say, at one of the biggest high schools in Gladstone, Toolooa State High School, to give this school the space they need to cater for growth. Not only is this government investing in infrastructure in areas of most need, it is looking to the future.

I have said it before: Gladstone is open for business. With this government's investment in Advance Queensland to the tune of \$650 million, including the \$40 million boost to the Industry Attraction Fund, Gladstone has never been more attractive. Gladstone will benefit from this government's commitment to backing our own people to turn new ideas into reality and this government's commitment to attracting more companies to relocate or establish new projects in Queensland, especially in my electorate of Gladstone. We have seen it in my electorate already with the construction and commencement of Southern Oil's advanced biofuels pilot plant on track to be Australia's first commercial scale advanced biofuels production facility.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to attracting and supporting the industries of the future and this is the reason that Southern Oil brought this job-generating project to Queensland, from New South Wales, to my electorate of Gladstone. We have seen it again with the announcement recently that global energy giant Acciona Energy have signed a 30-year lease to build and operate one of the largest solar farms in the Southern Hemisphere in the Gladstone electorate. The half a billion dollar, 900,000-panel farm will be 2½ times larger than any solar farm currently in Australia and generate enough electricity to power 122,000 households. Construction will commence mid next year, bringing with it 240 local jobs, with electricity generation commencing in 2020.

These projects do not just happen; it takes a government with vision and an ability to deliver, to follow through and to invest in attracting and supporting these brand-new industries into Queensland. This is not pie in the sky stuff; this is happening now. Thanks to this commitment, Gladstone really is set to be the energy hub of Queensland. This budget also allocates \$750,000 to support the investigation into producing and supplying hydrogen at a competitive price to alternative energy sources. I have had some very encouraging meetings in my area with potential investors looking to establish pilot projects to develop this brand-new technology.

The potential is massive, and if Gladstone could be part of the hydrogen energy revolution it would be fantastic for the future of the city, the people of Queensland and Australia. We have companies that have already identified Gladstone as a potential location, and this funding will get them over the line to invest here. In 2015 we promised as a government that we would work with people, not fight with them. In 2017 we promised to get on with it, and this 2018-19 budget is doing just that.

Some of the other highlights for the Gladstone region include: \$35.6 million out of \$220.3 million to upgrade and maintain the RG Tanna Coal Terminal at the port of Gladstone; a further \$9.6 million out of a total of \$36 million for safety works on the Bruce Highway; a record investment in the operational budget for the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service of \$610 million; and \$1 million out of a total of \$11.7 million to develop the next stage of the Clinton Industrial Estate. There is much, much more but I will not go on any further about how much is being delivered to Gladstone.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering on infrastructure, it is delivering on skills and it is delivering on services, because we believe that no-one in this state should be left behind. No matter where people live in this great state, they deserve access to a quality education, they deserve access to quality health care and they deserve access to a secure job. This government and this budget from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer is certainly delivering on that promise.



**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (8.52 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to make a contribution to this cognate debate, including the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2018. I want to make a couple of brief observations about the progress of the Queensland economy and the state's finances since the beginning of 2015. As I have said before, business investment is up, debt is lower, employment growth is higher and economic growth is higher than it was prior to that time. This budget continues the tradition of a focus on regional Queensland, with more than half of the infrastructure spend slated for areas outside of the greater Brisbane area. Queenslanders have reason to be optimistic about the future, with the state on a sustainable financial footing.

As we close on the 2017-18 financial year, the budget figures now provide a clear picture of the fiscal performance over the previous three years. The 2017-18 actual result locks in three successive surpluses since 2015-16: \$668 million, \$2.82 billion and \$1.51 billion respectively. These surpluses were achieved by this government whilst undertaking significant debt reduction under the Debt Action Plan. The aim of that plan was to pay down \$12 billion of general government sector debt over a decade. This aim was well and truly met and the debt reduction task has continued.

General government debt for 2017-18 is \$17 billion lower than forecast in the 2014-15 budget and non-financial public sector debt, or total debt, is over \$12 billion lower than projected. At the 2014-15 budget, general government sector debt was projected to be \$48.4 billion by 2017-18. The outcome of general government sector debt in 2017-18 was \$31.4 billion. This equates to a reduction of general government interest costs of over \$700 million per year.

For those who choose to use the non-financial public sector borrowings measure, as I mentioned there has also been debt reduction on this metric. At the 2014-15 budget, non-financial public sector borrowings were projected to be \$82.1 billion in 2017-18. Non-financial public sector debt is \$69.5 billion in 2017-18—\$12.6 billion lower than the 2014-15 forecast. On every debt measure debt will continue to be lower than it was prior to the beginning of 2015. This is one of the key reasons Moody's removed the negative watch that had been applied to our credit rating in 2012. I have every faith that the prudent fiscal management that has been in place since 2015 will continue. On that note, I congratulate the Deputy Premier on handing down her first budget. The first budget is always a memorable one.

In terms of the economy, I have always said that Queensland does well when our population growth rate exceeds the national average, and to that end it is very pleasing to see that the rate of population growth is doing just that. This was exactly the goal when I went down to Sydney and Melbourne to launch the Move Up in the World campaign. It seems that everyone is cottoning on that Queensland is the best part of Australia. We have more job opportunities, better weather, lower taxes and, I still believe, better Rugby League players. According to Treasury projections, the most recently introduced fiscal principle that growth in FTEs should not exceed the rate of population growth on average over the forward estimates has been achieved. This is pleasing, because it is in line, I think, with community expectations.

Employment growth has improved from 0.7 per cent in 2015-16 to come in at higher than forecast for 2016-17 to more than double at 1.8 per cent. The estimated actual employment growth for 2017-18 is more than 2½ times the forecast in last year's budget and is projected to continue strongly across the forward estimates. That is good news for Queensland jobseekers and a testament to the good work done under programs like Back to Work, including the Youth Boost, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, the Industry Attraction Fund and Works for Queensland. These are all job-creating or retaining programs that were introduced or re-enlivened last term. It is why we have seen the creation of more than net 156,000 new jobs since January 2015.

The overall business environment in Queensland has improved markedly since 2015. As we know, the private sector has an enormous role to play in driving our state's economy. Confidence is king, and improved investment only comes with the right international and domestic conditions. Last year's budget forecast business investment to begin climbing out of negative territory this financial year, but the estimated actual for 2017-18 has rocketed to 10¼ per cent. It is a great outcome for Queensland.

I want to now turn my attention to my region of Far North Queensland and my electorate of Mulgrave. The strong support and certainty provided by the Queensland government's tourism funding guarantee and hard work to create more direct flights through the Cairns International Airport is reaping dividends for the Tropical North as global tourism continues to grow. Cairns and Tropical North Queensland are on the doorstep of the largest growing middle class the world has ever known in Asia. It is a fact that the global tourism market is growing and it will continue to do so. Our challenge is how we capture our share of that growth—and more—and how to ensure that visitors stay longer and spend more. Going forward, we need to provide Cairns with the next generation of infrastructure to allow it to move to the next level as a global tourist destination.

This budget provides funding for existing commitments—either those made in previous budgets or as election commitments—as well as funding for new initiatives. It was pleasing to recently join the tourism minister, the member for Cairns and the member for Barron River to announce funding to develop the vision for the 76-kilometre Wangetti Trail, a big leap forward in terms of our ecotourism potential. The convention centre is already a jewel in Cairns' destination offering. It won World's Best Congress Centre in both 2004 and 2014. The next tranche of funding for the \$176 million expansion of the Cairns Convention Centre, announced in last year's budget, is also provided for in this budget. That is a wonderful outcome for Cairns. This will be a game-changing expansion, and we are all looking forward to that starting. This expansion will bring an additional 25 large conventions and events per year to Cairns and around 20,000 additional visitors per year to experience the wonders of Tropical North Queensland. The government's investment in the Cairns Convention Centre builds on aviation attraction funding and the \$120 million Cairns Shipping Development Project, which will bring a big economic boost through bigger cruise ships, more often.

When I announced in December last year that the government would pursue Cairns as the home of Queensland's first global tourism hub, GTH, it was probably one the most significant announcements in the Far North in many years. When you add the future global tourism hub to the three initiatives I have just mentioned, which in themselves are a catalyst for further private sector investment and confidence in our local economy, that is when the planets really begin to align for the Tropical North. There seems to have been some confusion by some who thought that there would be funding for the GTH in this budget. Those people have completely missed the point. This is about facilitating private sector investment from consortia that will feature some of the biggest names in entertainment and gaming on the planet.

Community consultation on the GTH is well underway and, as parochial Far North Queenslanders, we have an opportunity to show the world who we are, just how unique the place we live is, and to ensure that the final product delivers the best possible return for locals in years to come. A world-standard global tourism hub in Cairns is about much more than gaming and high-end entertainment, food and fashion; it is the mechanism to deliver world-class catalytic tourism infrastructure that will secure the economic future of our city and our region.

Since I was elected in 2009, roads on the southern approach to Cairns in my electorate have improved dramatically. This has continued, with this year's budget providing \$15.2 million for Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 3 to duplicate, from two to four lanes, the Bruce Highway from Edmonton to south of Wrights Creek. This project has a total cost of \$481 million and is being delivered in partnership with the Australian government. If we add up the Bruce Highway investment—including the four-laning from Edmonton to Gordonvale coming next year—by project's completion we will have seen more than \$680 million spent to support roads in the growing southern corridor of Cairns.

The 2018-19 budget delivers \$500,000 to refurbish M Block Library at Woree State High School. Across the electorate the budget provides over \$1.1 million in 2018-19 for maintenance and minor works across 12 schools in the Mulgrave electorate. The budget continues funding of the \$4.5 million construction of an indoor sports facility at Gordonvale State High School.

It was a pleasure to recently announce a grant of \$480,000 under the Female Facilities Program to construct a new amenities block, including unisex change rooms, toilet facilities and baby change facilities, to support touch football and Rugby League at Alley Park in Gordonvale, home of the mighty Southern Suburbs Cockatoos.

The 2018-19 budget continues to focus on improving life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. I spoke earlier about the success of some of the job-creating programs implemented last term and continuing. It is wonderful to see. As at 4 May 2018, the Back to Work program had supported 1,341 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers into employment and Skilling Queenslanders for Work had assisted 5,103 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders since 2015. This includes employment of 76 local trainees across 14 Indigenous councils—a real achievement. We will also be continuing the Youth Employment Program, launched in May 2015. It supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander year 12 graduates and other skilled candidates with career advice and resume and job interview support. As at 30 April 2018, 862 job placements were achieved through YEP, exceeding the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' overall jobs target of 610 for 2017-18. Getting a good education is the foundation for securing good jobs in later life, and we know that early engagement with the education system leads to improved outcomes.

Members of this House will have heard how the Australian government has walked away from the longstanding funding agreement for remote Indigenous housing that had been in place for five decades. I was extremely pleased to see the efforts in this budget to ensure it delivers \$239 million to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. The need for improved housing in discrete Indigenous communities is more than a roof over people's heads. Suitable housing will reduce the issue of overcrowding, which we know has detrimental impacts on social and educational outcomes for children.

Members will be aware that I am very proud to have the community of Yarrabah in my electorate of Mulgrave—the largest mainland Aboriginal community in Australia. I am very pleased to say that there are some great outcomes in this budget and over the forward estimates for Yarrabah, including: \$321,081 over two years to install solar panels throughout Yarrabah on housing and council facilities; \$473,886 to upgrade two sewerage pumps; improved community safety through funding of \$414,780 to install CCTV security cameras throughout Yarrabah; and \$390,610 to develop stage 1 of a waste transfer station. Collectively, that is over \$1.2 million to be spent in Yarrabah next year alone. I thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for those allocations. It is an excellent outcome for our community.

As the Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly—the view is different from down here—I also wish to make a few specific remarks about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2018. Members would be well aware that over the course of the last financial year the number of seats has increased from 89 to 93 and boundary changes have meant many MPs now represent quite different electorates after the redistribution. The budget provides the necessary funds to resource all 93 members through electorate accommodation.

Now more than ever, MPs need appropriate ICT resources to support the data communication and business system needs of members and electorate staff, working both within and without the electorate office environment. The appropriation for parliament provides funds to finalise a new ICT strategy and work program to achieve this.

The budget also provides funds for the series of events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first parliamentary sitting in Queensland Parliament House. I strongly urge all members to get involved with the PH150 celebrations, which will take place in August this year. I especially commend the public open day to take place here at Parliament House on Saturday, 11 August.

I am proud of the turnaround in the Queensland economy over the past few years and the improved fiscal position of the state. I see that this will continue over the coming years. I am proud to have played some part in handing down some budgets, improving Queensland's credit rating and overseeing the creation of jobs with all of the programs that have been in place since 2015. I look forward to seeing those economic improvements continue statewide but particularly in my region of Far North Queensland, which has the essential building blocks for growth and investment for the next decade. I commend the bills to the House.



**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.04 pm), in reply: It gives me great pleasure to speak after the member for Mulgrave and Speaker of the parliament and to acknowledge the significant contribution he has made to the turnaround in the Queensland economy, to our economic conditions, to the growth in employment as well as to the reduced debt that we have today—reduced from the debt we inherited from those opposite.

I start by acknowledging the contributions of all members in this House. I first touch on the contributions of my colleagues on this side of the chamber. I acknowledge and reflect on the fact that they have made very thoughtful, relevant contributions to the debate on the bills before the parliament. They have touched on the importance of this budget to the lives of their constituents and the lives of Queenslanders generally right throughout the state. They have reflected on the fact that this is a budget that delivers on every single one of our election commitments. It is a budget that details a plan for the future prosperity and growth of our state. It is a budget that directs our efforts and attention to our key priorities of growing jobs in a strong economy and ensuring we give our children a great start. It is a budget that keeps Queenslanders healthy and keeps communities safe. It is a budget that protects the Great Barrier Reef. It is a budget that ensures that we always remain a responsive government.

I now turn my attention to the contributions of some members opposite and make some responses in relation to key points that were made in those speeches. Firstly, many of those opposite reflected on the fact that Labor has been in power for 25 of the past 30 years. At least that is one figure those opposite could get right. I think it is important to remind those opposite that Labor has been in power for all of those years because Labor governments have been responsive governments. Labor governments have been focused on the needs of Queenslanders, not focused on the needs of themselves. Labor has been successful in government because we have wanted Queensland to be successful. We have been successful because, unlike those opposite, we do not whinge; we deliver.

I reflect on some churlish observations made by those opposite, particularly in relation to the length of my budget speech. It seems as though those opposite think that the length of a speech directly correlates to the quality of its content. That reminds me somewhat of some people and the size of the cars they drive. It also reminds me of something the former deputy premier and former treasurer used to say to those in the House as a point of counsel and advice—that is, the longer you are on your feet, the closer you are to doom. The member for Nanango proved that on Thursday when she made the longest resignation speech in political history.

I was particularly amused to hear the former treasurer and member for Clayfield remark upon the length of my speech, because I was reminded of the speech that he gave for the 2014-15 budget—his last budget speech in fact—where he articulated the strongest choices available to Queenslanders, the Strong Choices that we had to make as Queenslanders. That speech in fact was some 27 minutes. It is quite clear that Queenslanders did make the smartest choice, and the smartest choice was electing the Palaszczuk Labor government. Sometimes in this place it is what you do not say that matters rather than what you do say.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection and I will get to that. It is what you do not say. If the member for Everton wants to talk about own goals, we can remind him of a few own goals this week. The member for Nanango talked a long, long time but said a lot of nothing. The Leader of the Opposition did a lot of analysis and made a lot of criticism of the additional revenue measures that we took to the people of Queensland in November. At what stage did she say that she would repeal those additional revenue measures? At what stage did she say that? At no stage. Sometimes it is important to note what is not said more than what is said. I take it that the member for Nanango, despite all of her whingeing and whining, will not be repealing the additional revenue measures that we have introduced in this budget. That is No. 1.

One of the things that the member for Nanango has not detailed since the last election—and we will get to all of the commitments she made in her budget speech this week—and one of the things that she has not explained to the people of Queensland is how she is going to meet some of her key election commitments to the people of Queensland and whether or not they are still relevant like ensuring a fiscal balance by 2021-22. By our reckoning, the only way that the member for Nanango can achieve that—if she does not sell assets; if she does not significantly cut—is by sacking 27,000 workers from the Queensland public sector. Some 27,000 public sector workers—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** She was very, very proud; I take that interjection from the Minister for Education. She was proud—very, very, very proud. What did the member for Nanango say in relation to meeting that fiscal principle? She said nothing. She said absolutely nothing about a cash splash. Like other Tory leaders in this nation and in this state, she runs true to form. They do not say what they are going to do before the election and when they get elected they sack 14,000—

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the member for Everton, because it is a bit hard for him to keep up. We know that. We know that it is a bit crazy from his perspective to have an idea about what you are going to do about all the things you are going to whinge about. The member for Everton has forgotten that, during the election campaign, we made it abundantly clear that we had in process an analysis and a review of what was happening with all the interstate dumping that those opposite were responsible for. They were responsible for that by taking off the waste levy and we said that we would consider the report and consider the recommendations, and that is exactly what we have done.

Let us be very clear about those opposite: if they want to talk about debt and have the conversation about debt or the absence of a conversation about debt, let us look at their economic plan. How much is debt referred to? Not at all. They think it is crazy to have a position on debt levels or to have an idea of what a sustainable debt level is. They think it is so crazy. They think it is just absolutely illogical to have an idea of what you are going to do to fix a problem that you identify, but those opposite are very good at whingeing but not very good at working.

We make no apologies for borrowing for infrastructure—absolutely no apologies for that—and let us be very clear that we have been open and honest with the people of Queensland every step of the way. The Leader of the Opposition has come into this place and pledged more than \$5 billion worth of commitments and not one single comment about how she is going to pay for them. Let us be very clear about what we are saying when it comes to debt because the facts speak for themselves.

When we came into government the projected debt in this current financial year of 2017-18 by those opposite—the last budget they did, the 27-minute budget speech delivered by the member for Clayfield—was \$82 billion gross nominal debt this financial year. We have managed our borrowings in a very sustainable way. In fact, we have reduced the level of debt to GSP from 14 per cent, which we inherited, to 10 per cent and our economy is bigger.

Our repayments—the cost on our borrowings—has been reduced from almost five per cent, which we inherited from those opposite, to three per cent. Our budget is reasonable, it is cautious in its forecasts and it is a plan to make sure that our debt remains stable, is sustainable and is fundamentally driven towards growing our economy and making sure that Queenslanders have the infrastructure that they need in a growing population.

Let me touch on the fact that the member for Nanango again likes to bash up the Public Service—the same Public Service when she was in the Newman government and sat around the CBRC table and made the decision with Campbell Newman to sack 14,000 public servants. As we heard from her speech, she was proud—she was very proud—of her record in that respect. I think it is absolutely disgraceful to be proud of the fact that you put so many Queensland families on the breadline and out of work. That is a disgrace and that is something you will never ever live down.

There are a few key points to consider when talking about the Public Service, and that is that nine out of 10 public servants whom we have brought on have been front-line workers. We have had to repair the damage left by those opposite. We have had to employ an additional 4,800 nurses, 1,600 doctors, 3,600 teachers and more than 1,000 teacher aides, and we make no apology for that because Queenslanders and Queensland kids deserve quality front-line staff.

The number of members opposite who have been complaining about public servant growth in their contributions has been quite staggering. The members for Everton and Moggill need to be clear to their electorates whether or not they support the additional 1,300 nurses employed in Brisbane since 2015. The members for Mermaid Beach and Currumbin need to be clear with their electorates about whether or not they completely reject the 507 extra teachers who are now on the Gold Coast because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The member for Scenic Rim absolutely needs to be clear to his electorate about whether or not he supports 65 extra doctors and 295 extra nurses in the Logan and Scenic Rim region. If he does not want them, he should go out and tell his electorate, 'I am fighting for fewer doctors and fewer nurses. Elect me!', but he has not.

In relation to infrastructure spending, let me get a few facts on the record. There is \$45.8 billion. We are delivering the biggest infrastructure spend in this state since the 2011 flood recovery effort. We have increased our infrastructure spend by \$3 billion on last year. That will directly support 38,000 jobs in the coming year. There is almost \$1 billion in capital purchases in Health. There is an almost \$5 billion investment in roads and transport. The Energy and Water portfolios receive \$2.87 billion and \$277 million respectively. In Education, we will see an investment of more than \$670 million, which is an investment in our future and an investment in our kids.

Importantly, as I have remarked, 65 per cent of our infrastructure spend will be spent outside the greater Brisbane region, including more than \$200 million over three years to extend the Works for Queensland program, which the members opposite want to cut. That was their election commitment. They wanted to cut it. There is \$176 million over four years for Rookwood Weir. There is more than \$250 million for the North Queensland stadium in partnership with the federal government, which we had to drag it kicking and screaming to. There is more than \$167 million for the Cairns Convention Centre.

I will contrast what we are doing in the infrastructure space with what those opposite did. In every one of its budgets, the LNP cut the infrastructure spend. It did worse than that: it cut the pipeline of projects that were ready to go. In contrast, we have increased our infrastructure budget each and every year. We have increased the effectiveness and efficiency of our infrastructure spend through having a State Infrastructure Plan and having a regional plan throughout the state, including in our rapidly growing South-East Queensland region.

This budget will implement a waste levy that will stop the cross-border dumping by New South Wales and prepare Queensland for a changing international climate in the international transport of recyclable materials. The design of the levy has ensured that there will be no direct pass on of costs to households from its introduction. The government will provide an annual advance to offset levy charges—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Order!

**Ms TRAD:** There are a couple of things that set them off: jobs, science, waste levy, the Great Barrier Reef, the environment. It sets them off.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Lies. You're an expert in all of them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, that behaviour is becoming inappropriate. This is your warning. The next time I will put you on standing orders.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I do not need your support.

**Ms GRACE:** I rise to a point of order. I think that was unparliamentary language from the member for Buderim. Mr Deputy Speaker, I thought you were going to refer to that. I think the member used the word 'lies' in the yelling out. It is unparliamentary and I think he should withdraw.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before we continue, I know that this is quite lively. I am happy to allow some discussion but we need to keep the decorum of this House.

**Ms TRAD:** The government will provide an annual advance to offset the levy charges for those local governments that dispose of household waste in the levy zone. In 2018-19, \$32 million has been provided for this purpose and that will avoid direct costs to households from the introduction of the waste levy.

**Mr Crisafulli:** That is a third of the levy.

**Ms TRAD:** Those opposite who interject have quite cleverly, they think, taken that \$32 million, which is for three months of one year, and they have calculated it to, they think, represent the total hypothecation and have come up with a different percentage, which they farmed out to the media.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Environment. It is simple maths. Those opposite constantly remind us and remind the people of Queensland, quite frankly, why they are unfit to govern. Let me make it absolutely clear that 70 per cent of the waste levy will be hypothecated back to councils for the waste industry environment program. Thirty per cent will go into schools and hospitals. I think that is a good thing.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Broadwater should hang his head in shame for being part of a government that removed the waste levy and oversaw a procession of dump trucks into Queensland dumping their rubbish in our state. I am particularly proud of the \$100 million that we will allocate to the resource recovery industry development program.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Broadwater, I have given you several warnings. You are now warned under standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** Let me be clear. There is \$100 million to set up a new industry to deal with what is a social and environmental problem to create jobs and to make sure that we are part of a modern society. I think that is a very good investment.

Let me say that Queensland's point-of-consumption betting tax of 15 per cent compares with the rate applied to South Australia of 15 per cent and the rates announced for Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Queensland has a strong focus on harmonising its policy with that of other Australian jurisdictions. Smaller betting operators will benefit from a tax-free threshold of \$300,000. That will see many smaller operators paying no point-of-consumption wagering tax while being protected from unfair competition from out-of-state operators.

I also refer members to page 151 of Budget Paper No. 4 where the point-of-consumption betting tax is detailed. As noted there, some allocations from the proceeds of the revenue from this measure are subject to commercial-in-confidence negotiations, including compensation to Racing Queensland. Further, stakeholder consultation will occur to identify appropriate support for the industry and responsible gambling and community programs that may be funded from the revenues.

It is worth looking at the racing and gambling related measures in this budget. There is support for country racing. This program delivers on our election commitment and delivers an additional \$55.4 million over four years to support country racing clubs, including funding for infrastructure. This funding brings support for country racing to \$70.4 million over four years. The gambling helpline service receives \$21.2 million over four years to provide counselling and support services for people who are adversely affected by problem gambling.

The Leader of the Opposition, in her long, long speech, failed to mention once Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. That is a sorry admission when bipartisanship should be the focus of this portfolio. I would like to acknowledge that the member for Moggill in his contribution took the opportunity to pledge bipartisan support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reconciliation. However, he also took the opportunity to accuse the Palaszczuk Labor government of being unable to negotiate with the Turnbull federal coalition on the issue of remote Indigenous housing. Let me be very clear about this. Under Malcolm Turnbull, the Commonwealth government has done what Tony Abbott and John Howard, as heartless as they were, could not bring themselves to do and that is walk away from funding housing in remote Indigenous areas.

I turn now to the comments made by the member for Everton and the member for Burnett about the homestay student fees. Clearly, they had not spoken to a regional family about this issue, particularly a regional family who hosts exchange students. Before this measure, regional host families received less money than city families, despite these regional families in many cases having the same or higher costs than city families. Thanks to our budget measures, they will receive the same payment to support their great work. One hundred per cent of the fees raised by this measure will be handed to regional families. These families are at the front line of introducing young people to Queensland in a growing area of economic activity. I do not know why the opposition has taken a second to speak against this measure.

I will touch on the contribution by the member for Toowoomba South. His contribution was an application for the all-but-vacant role of shadow Treasurer. The member noted the increase in Commonwealth payments this year, but he failed to note the first fall in Commonwealth payments to Queensland since 2012, which will occur in 2018-19. These are significant pressures to the government's revenues owing to falling GST payments and the Commonwealth not paying its fair share of infrastructure and housing costs.

The Leader of the Opposition should join with the Palaszczuk Labor government in demanding Queensland's fair share, but we know how many times the member for Nanango talked about fair share or GST in her speech; it was exactly zero. The member for Toowoomba South raised the issue of the coal forecasts in the budget. The coal prices have been volatile, but Queensland Treasury has been prudent and cautious with its forecasts. I note that the NAB forecast that he cited should indicate some dissenting views, but I also point to the fact that Consensus Economics, which surveys 40 leading industry forecasters and takes an average of those experts, is one forecasting tool that informs Treasury's forecast. Indeed, in their budgetary commentary, CBA noted that Treasury's forecast is close to the Consensus Economics forecast and that they are both broadly in line with CBA's own forecasts. In its commentary, the RBC said that the forecasts are in line with market consensus. The budget also

outlines the risks, both upside and downside, of those forecasts. These uncertainties reinforce the government's policies of investment for the future and the diversification of the Queensland economy, particularly through policies such as the \$650 million Advance Queensland program.

Before moving to my conclusion, I want to take a couple of minutes to reflect upon the investment that this budget makes in my community of South Brisbane. My community is experiencing significant and unprecedented population growth, which brings with it many challenges and many pressures. I am particularly proud of the fact that it is a state Labor government that is meeting the incredible pressure that communities are feeling because of overcrowded schools and overcrowded public transport. We are ensuring that we have the type of amenity and facility that Queenslanders should expect, wherever they live.

I reflect upon the fact that the West End State School will be getting a contribution for a much needed expansion. More than 1,000 students now call West End their local state school. That number is projected to grow. Brisbane State High School will benefit from an additional allocation for new classrooms, because of the significant growth it is experiencing. For the first time in more than 50 years, we are delivering a new high school in the inner south. I am extremely proud of that. Master planning will be going on at Dutton Park State School, East Brisbane State School and Buranda State School to cater for the incredible growth experienced in those communities. New solar panels for local schools will help them reduce their energy costs.

I mention the incredible contribution to the Queensland arts made by facilities that I am very lucky and proud to have located in my electorate. There is the new theatre at QPAC, the Thomas Dixon Centre for dance and the conclusion of the refurbishment of the Billy Brown Studio, which is home to the incredibly talented Queensland Theatre Company. I acknowledge all of the work happening to make the Buranda train station accessible to people with a disability, as well as at the South Bank station. Of course, I mention the significant delivery of Cross River Rail, which will change public transport and transform our city for many years to come.

In Queensland we have presided over an economy that is more tax competitive than the one we inherited from those opposite. The economy is driven by a budget that has been delivered by a government that has less debt than what we inherited from those opposite. The economy has a higher rate of employment. There are more than 155,000 additional jobs in the economy, because of the policies of the Palaszczuk Labor government and we have an unemployment rate that is lower than the one that we inherited from those opposite. No-one should ever forget that under their watch unemployment in this state peaked at 7.1 per cent, which was the highest unemployment rate in more than 11 years. That is the legacy that they are incredibly proud of.

I am extremely proud to have delivered my first budget. I reflect on the member for Mulgrave's comment that it is a special event. I thank him for his contribution. I am incredibly proud of the contribution of each and every minister to the development and creation of the budget. Everyone played their role. I thank the CBRC members, the Premier, Minister Dick and Minister Jones. I also thank each and every backbencher in the Labor caucus who advocated so fiercely and strongly for projects, services and ideas for their local communities. They know that their voices, their representations and their advocacy are absolutely valued and respected by this government. I thank them very much.

As I said, I am incredibly proud of the budget that we have delivered today. This budget will absolutely deliver each and every one of our election commitments. It will set up our state for incredible growth and diversification into the future. It is a budget that absolutely ensures that, as a fair Labor government, each and every one of our priorities is delivered through all of its different avenues and measures. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing 177(2), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill stand referred to the portfolio committees.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### BETTING TAX BILL

#### Allocation of Time Limit Order



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.36 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

- (1) That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow all remaining stages of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill and the Betting Tax Bill to be completed by 12 am on this day's sitting including:
  - a. For the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill:
    - i. Question on the second reading to be completed by 11.39 pm
    - ii. Consideration in detail to be completed by 11.49 pm
    - iii. Question on the third reading to be put by 11.51 pm
    - iv. Question on the long title to be put by 11.53 pm
  - b. For the Betting Tax Bill:
    - i. Question on the second reading to be put by 11.54 pm
    - ii. Consideration in detail to be completed by 11.55 pm
    - iii. Question on the third reading to be put by 11.57 pm
    - iv. Question on the long title to be put by 11.59 pm
- (2) At the time so specified, Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bills, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill en bloc, without further amendment or debate.

During the last sitting week of this parliament, the government indicated its intention to move to a new model of scheduling debates for bills. The government can confirm that, from next sitting week, it will be moving to implement the new government business program similar to the Victorian parliament's program. Although the government chose not to introduce the new model this sitting week, allowing all 93 members to speak to the budget bills, we believe that, for the same reason that we will be moving to the full model, we will through this motion set a time for the debate of the remaining stages of this bill.


As stated in fact sheet A4 on the government business program of the parliament of Victoria, the benefits of the government business program are the efficient and effective use of the Assembly's time, to stop late-night sittings, to stop time wasting and filibustering and to raise parliamentary standards as a consequence, and to guide when the Assembly will debate bills. We have allocated just under 2½ hours for the remainder of consideration in detail of the relevant bills before the House. In doing so, I have taken into account some historical data in relation to previous years and the length of consideration in detail in relation to the budget bills.

I can say that in 2017 three minutes was spent on consideration in detail. In 2016 it was 13 minutes. In 2015 it was zero minutes. In 2014 it was one minute. In 2013 it was 35 minutes, but I do need to clarify for members in the House—and there were very few from our side back in 2013—that what occurred on that occasion was that the then treasurer walked into this chamber, sought the call and got the call during the second reading debate and finished the debate. That meant that a number of opposition members were not entitled to even speak in the second reading debate. Remember that there were then seven Labor members. The treasurer at the time decided to seek the call to end the second reading on the budget bills in 2013, only allowing half of the seven Labor members to speak.

In moving this motion I remind members that all 93 members have spoken to this bill in the second reading debate. In 2012 there was one minute spent on consideration in detail. In 2011 there was one hour and 11 minutes spent on consideration in detail. That was a cognate debate, just like we are seeing here tonight. One of those bills included the repeal of the ambulance levy. In 2010 three minutes was spent on consideration in detail. On average, about 15 minutes is spent on consideration in detail of budget bills.

We have allocated almost 2½ hours for the remainder of this debate. We believe that is reasonable. It is about time we managed the business before this House in a sensible and efficient way. That is what the public expects. The public expects us to debate bills before this parliament in a timely way. Other states do this. This is sensible business operations. That is the way the Queensland parliament should operate. I ask members to support this motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Kawana, I encourage members to listen actively but please do not make the House disorderly.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.42 pm): I say to the Leader of the House that the reason there was not much consideration in detail debate when the LNP was in government was that we were cutting taxes. There was not much debate because everyone supported the cut to taxes. The difference with this budget is that there are five taxes being increased and they should be fully debated in this parliament.

Every week we are coming in here and the government is guillotining the debate because of its arrogance and its majority. I am so confused. One week we believe in family friendly hours. Then for the budget week they move a suspension of sessional orders so we can sit until whenever we finish tonight. Now we are back guillotining the debate and back to family friendly hours.

I am a big fan of Dolly Parton. One of Dolly Parton's great singles was *Working 9 to 5*. I thought in this generation that no-one works nine to five anymore, but it seems like we going back to that generation. It seems like we are working nine to five again.

How much more lazy can they get? They do not want to be here. They just detest sitting in this place doing what they are paid for. They get paid to be a member of the parliament. The Leader of the House indicated after guillotining the budget debate that next sitting week the government is going to force guillotines on every bill at the beginning of the week. Every bill will be guillotined in this House. According to the Labor government, they apparently determine when there has been enough debate and if the debate has been good enough or bad enough or whatever the case may be.

It is not up to any individual member elected to this parliament. We all represent 40,000 people or so who deserve an opportunity for their member to come in here and do what they are paid to do. It is like this lazy government is curtailing the hours of parliament. They are going to guillotine debate next sitting.

There are two reasons for that. One is that they are lazy. The second reason is that, if you have a look at the agenda of the House, we are now up to 11 bills. If we look at the next three or four sittings we have left in the year, on the current average that we are getting through bills this year, it would take the government five years to get through the 11 bills that they have on the *Notice Paper*. We would be into the next term of parliament before we even got to debate them.

**An opposition member:** That's their plan.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We know that the wheels move slowly with the Labor Party.

What is more offensive is this. If members look at today's *Notice Paper*, item No. 12 is one item that I had completely forgotten about—the Governor's speech, address-in-reply. Item 12 states—

'May it please Your Excellency—We the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland wish to assure Your Excellency of our continued respect for the Crown and loyalty to the system of government in this state and to tender our thanks for the speech with which you opened the first session.'

I hope His Excellency is still the Excellency when the next parliament sits, because we will still be thanking him for the speech that he made early in 2018. That is disrespectful to His Excellency the Governor. It is disrespectful to the system of government that we have in Queensland.

The government has guillotined its own budget. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer stood up before and spoke for longer in her reply to the second reading than she did when introducing the Queensland budget. She actually made it to 30 minutes. I saw her struggling. She had 20 seconds to go. I was enjoying it because the member for McConnel, the Minister for Education, I think had been sent the LNP speaking notes on the budget reply—

**Mrs D'ATH:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am appreciating that the opposition is not interested in having a debate in consideration in detail, but the member should be relevant to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, I have been listening quite closely to what the member for Kawana has been saying. I believe he is speaking to the motion. Member for Kawana, I counsel you to stay within the terms of the motion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If members again look at the *Notice Paper* for today they will see that there are 11 bills currently before the House. Then there are a further four bills that have been referred to parliamentary committees. Then we have four orders referred to parliamentary committees.

**An opposition member:** It's a logjam.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. It is logjam. What is going to happen next sitting? On Tuesday morning the Leader of the House will stand up in this place and move a motion saying agenda item 2, 3 and 4, for instance, will pass during that sitting of parliament. They are going to have to rush through and guillotine all these bills because they have not been able to manage the agenda and legislation through the House.

The Leader of the House can get up on a point of order and accuse me of repetition, but I am afraid to say it is. We warned the Leader of the House that if they went down the path of these family friendly hours they would be guillotining debate and stopping debate. We said they would not be able to get their agenda through the parliament. The Leader of the House assured us all that it was all going to be fine and that it is a more efficient way to manage the House.

Three sitting weeks later it is not so efficient, so we now have to move more efficiency motions. If members recall, in our last sitting week we determined the sessional orders for the budget debate. Now we are amending the sessional orders for the budget debate because they have not been able to manage the budget week. If you cannot manage the agenda of parliament, you cannot manage government. If you cannot manage to get bills through the parliament, you cannot manage government.

Every member in this parliament is elected and has a right to represent their constituents. What is going to happen next sitting week when every bill will be curtailed and guillotined? If the government decide that they want to do, for instance, four bills, there will be many members who will not be able to speak in the debate on those bills in the sitting week following this budget week, and that is a shame. I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, what is the point of even showing up?

**Ms Trad:** Good. Go!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Oh, you would want us to, absolutely.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Members, I understand that the member for Kawana was being provocative.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gladstone, you are not sitting in your appropriate seat to interject. Members, I have asked before: let us conduct the House the way it should be.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The reality is that the Labor Party would like nothing more than just to be able to run their agenda without anyone else here. In fact, they would be putting us on satellite or something—

**Mr Mander:** Skype.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They would be putting us on Skype. Next sitting week they will realise that they still cannot do it. Then we will all get Skype invitations to login from our electorate offices. The reality is that the Labor government are lazy. They cannot handle the agenda. They cannot handle the debate. They are afraid of the debate.


I take the interjection before from the Leader of the House when she was talking about when there were seven members of the Labor Party sitting in opposition and the former treasurer jumped to his feet which automatically closed the debate down. The former treasurer had no option when there was no-one from the opposition sitting here. What was he going to do? Sit there, ring the bells and wait for Desley Scott to race down from level 14? What was he meant to do? The debate had to go on. We cannot help it if they cannot manage to get any of their seven members down here.

My memory serves me correctly now. What in fact happened was that there was half the shadow ministry here but they had forgotten that they had all spoken on the budget. When the Speaker went to call the next Labor member, they all looked at each other and recalled that they had all spoken so they could not jump. They looked behind for poor Desley sitting there and she was not there. That is what happened. That is why the former treasurer had to stand and then the debate was shut down. There was no guillotine motion.

Labor has a majority in this state now. For colleagues who were not here before—and there are a few over there who will serve a few years but will not be here next term, so they can disregard what I am going to say, if they wish—I can recall the Premier when she was the opposition leader basically saying that if there was a guillotine debate, if there was a gag motion, it was corruption and it was terrible. She was going to refer it to the CCC. She was going to refer it to anyone who would listen. How times have changed now the Premier has a majority. I have never, ever seen her come in here and

defend the decision of the Leader of the House to guillotine these debates because she is afraid of her own record of speaking against guillotining debates. That is what she is afraid of. This is an arrogant government—out of touch and lazy.


*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.53 pm): I speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the House, and I do so because I am committed to good management of the business of the House, as is required in Westminster parliaments worldwide. The need to make sure that we manage the business of the House is very important; otherwise we are failing the people of Queensland. I have heard from members some suggestion of having some sort of logjam. We know where the jam is coming from. There is plenty of jam being laid on thick when we have seen filibuster after filibuster in debates in the House over the last couple of weeks.

It is absolutely important that this House use the capability that it has to manage its own business. That is one of the requirements, one of the duties, that we all have as members of the parliament—to manage the business of the House. If there are some people who cannot help themselves but who like the sound of their own voice, if there are some people who have that problem, then perhaps the House, on behalf of the people of Queensland, have to manage it for them.

There are some members who like to think that they are some sort of expert in Westminster traditions in this place. I suspect that some of them focus on other palaces in Britain. They are a bit too focused on other palaces, rather than the Palace of Westminster. The reality is that business management happens each and every day in a sitting week in the Palace of Westminster. It is part of the fundamental practices of that House from which we draw some traditions. Indeed, it is part of the practice of just about every other Westminster parliament in the world. We need to learn from those experiences to make sure we deliver a business-like, sensible, understandable parliament to the people of Queensland. That is what this motion recognises in relation to delivery of the appropriation bills before the House tonight. The same principles stand for how we should manage the business of the parliament going forward.

The Leader of the House has articulated very well that there is well and truly sufficient time to deal with consideration in detail of the bills before the House in the time that has been made available in the motion she moved. There is no question she has outlined and described on the record that there is plenty of time to address the issues and concerns that members from across the House may have about elements of those bills before the House and the clauses thereof. There is plenty of time. What we are experiencing now is more filibustering. That is why I urge the House to support the motion moved by the Leader of the House so that we can properly manage this House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.57 pm): There are a couple of points I want to make. First of all, we can talk about the logjam and we can talk about managing the House, but there is a mechanism that was looked into and introduced in a bipartisan way—that is, the committee system. The committee system was specifically introduced so that on legislation we could seek out and discover from witnesses what would be good ideas and different ideas. Then they could be talked about and voted on, and hopefully some agreement could be reached.

If you approach every piece of legislation as your God-given right to ram it through this place, then every member who opposes that legislation has a right, having been elected by the people of Queensland, to stand and speak their opposition and articulate their reasons for that opposition. They have been voted in to represent the people of their electorate. They can do that through the committee system. They can do that through private meetings. They can do that through negotiation. For them to simply to come in here and say, 'No. Thou shalt do as I tell you or I will guillotine the debate,' that is not democracy. That is not managing the business of the House. In fact, that is leaning heavily towards a dictatorship where there is a suppression of any dissent.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** I hear the squealing from the other side. The simple fact is that being in government in this state means that you have a majority of members of this House and you have the ability to come into this House and introduce legislation for members to debate. It does not mean that you have the right to come into this House and force your will on every single one of the 93 members of this House. To suggest otherwise is completely incorrect.



I take the minister's point that the House needs to be managed, but in most parliaments in the Westminster system there is a fair amount of negotiation and there is a reasonable amount of compromise. When that happens, there is better legislation because it is more representative of the people's will in Queensland if everybody who represents the people of Queensland has an opportunity to have an input.

There are a couple of points. First of all, if we keep having motions put without notice, it will be very difficult for me to write my speech of opposition and request that it be incorporated. The first thing would be for the government to stop moving motions without notice. If the government gave some notice, we might not all need to stand up. We might be able to write our thoughts and have them incorporated for consideration.

**Mr Bleijie:** You could just email them to mangocube.

**Mr WATTS:** We could email them to mangocube. I am sure he is reading those carefully. I do not want to get taken off track because there are some on that side who think this is a joke. They think this building should just issue a rubber stamp to the members who sit on this side and then anything that is raised should be rubberstamped. We have a committee process and we have a parliamentary floor, and everybody in here has the same right to speak up for their electorate and speak about the desires of their electorate as seen by that individual member. To take that right away is a very dangerous thing. It is very dangerous for democracy here in Queensland. I would say a couple of things. First of all—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** Sorry?

**Ms Trad:** Democracy according to you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Deputy Premier, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mr Bailey:** He's tongue-tied.

**Mr WATTS:** My tongue is certainly not tied. The member who is sitting opposite who is suggesting that my tongue might be tied might pay more attention to the roads and the second range crossing and delivering it on time—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, if you are not going to speak to the motion, I will ask you to resume your seat. I ask you to speak to the motion, please.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I was taking his interjection and replying to it. My point is that, if the committee structure was such that there was time and opportunity for members to have a debate and a discussion so that various views could be put and evidence could be tested and recorded and that an outcome could be negotiated which everybody in this House could live with, I think a lot fewer members would need to stand up and speak in here. When the government try to ram things through and do not listen to members who represent their electorates across Queensland, we will have a situation where members want to get to their feet and express their position. That is the problem with a motion without notice. It takes away the ability for members to be able to express the position of their electorate.

I am one of those members who as yet has not made my speech on the address-in-reply. I have spoken on the first budget but I have not made my speech on the address-in-reply. It is not necessarily a document that everybody is rushing to read, and I accept that, but it is very important for the process of this House to have members record the important things in their electorates. I would like to record some of them before people in my electorate pass away, because they have cast their vote but they will not necessarily live forever. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity to make that address-in-reply speech at some point.

I urge the Leader of the House to instruct the committee chairs to be more welcoming of discussion and ideas from other members of this House—be they from the crossbench, their own backbench or the opposition. If they do that, we may find that a lot fewer members in this House will have the desire to get up and speak and represent their electorate. If members opposite want to try to run a dictatorship with a thin veneer of a parliament underneath and try to quash debate, then we will have no choice but to use the mechanisms that are in front of us. Those mechanisms are to rise and oppose a motion that is put without notice that outlines a guillotine to quash the debate and reduce opportunities for members to represent their electorates.

If there was a little bit of discussion, a little bit of negotiation and a little bit of bipartisanship across legislation, we might get a lot more done. Other than that, we will just have to accept that not everybody who lives in Brisbane will get to go home and have dinner with their families. I have accepted that I

cannot go home and have dinner with my family when I come down to this place. I am more than happy to stay and get some work done whilst I am here. If the business cannot be managed within the hours using the mechanisms such as the committees and the discussion in this House, then of course the hours will have to be extended and the guillotine will be—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 236(2), the member is clearly using tedious repetition. He is repeating his arguments over and over. He is not adding anything new to the points he has already made now on multiple occasions.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, you have the call.


**Mr WATTS:** I was actually trying to wrap it up, but it is so difficult because there are so many opportunities with the member opposite to extend the conversation about an inappropriate process in this House. Whether it is guillotining debate, whether it is moving motions without notice or—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Once again, under standing order 236(2), the member is repeating himself over and over and over again. I seek a ruling about whether the member is in conformity with standing orders. I believe he is not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** At this stage, I will allow the member for Toowoomba North to continue and there will be no point of order. However, member for Toowoomba North, I will counsel you to make sure you are speaking to the motion and there is not tedious repetition.

**Mr WATTS:** Hard as it is to believe, I am actually trying to sit down. I just want to make one last point. There are many processes of this House. One of those is the ministerial handbook. The member opposite, who has now repeated his point of order twice and is somewhat repetitious and somewhat tedious, needs to read and follow that ministerial handbook.

The processes of this House will lead to good outcomes for the people of Queensland. They will lead to good legislation and good government. An opposition that will hold a government to account is a worthy thing. A government that will negotiate and represent all the people of Queensland is a worthy thing. Anybody who thinks they have a God-given right to come in here and ram their agenda down the throats of all the people of Queensland needs to take a long, hard look in the mirror, because that was not what the founding fathers of this parliament had in mind when this parliament was set up and the first debates were held here 150 years ago. I will now sit down with some time on the clock, just for the benefit of the minister opposite who in fact cannot manage his portfolio.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.08 pm): I rise as well to contribute to this motion that we are talking on tonight, because it goes to the heart of the arrogance of this Palaszczuk government and the hypocrisy of this Palaszczuk government when it comes to debate in this House.

Those opposite who were not in this place prior to this term, who were not here when the LNP was in government, probably have a lot to learn. What members opposite are saying tonight is completely different to what they said in opposition when the LNP sat on the government benches. They say one thing when they are in opposition and then they say another thing when they are in government. It is just like what they do when they are out and about in Queensland. The Premier swans around regional Queensland saying one thing and then she comes down here into—

**Mr Bleijie:** Overseas more often.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. She then comes down here to the south-east corner and says something completely different. The point I am leading to is what the Premier did when she was the Leader of the Opposition. Compare that to what she and her team are now saying when in government.

**Ms Trad:** She's doing okay.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Oh, thanks. I am happy to take that interjection.

**Ms Trad:** Your side is not going to say it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Deputy Premier.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That comes from a Treasurer who I think set a record for the Queensland parliament—the shortest ever budget speech. She was so embarrassed and put under so much pressure that she had to speak for the full time in her budget reply.

**Mr Mander:** She was going to speak for the 30 minutes no matter what.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I know. She just had to get to the 30 minutes, beating up on every other—

**Mr Bleijie:** And still didn't mention 'debt'.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** No, and still did not mention—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to come back to the motion being debated.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will. I was talking about the Premier and the hypocrisy of what this government says compared to what they said when in opposition. I have a press release here and after I finish my speech I will be happy to table it. This is from 15 October 2014 from the now Speaker of the House, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, when he was the shadow Treasurer. I would like to quote from this because it sounds like he has written this press release for the current Treasurer. This is why I am standing here, because the Treasurer wants to shut down the debate, does not want us to talk about the fact that the people of Queensland do not want the five new taxes. It states—

I understand Tim Nicholls must be feeling the pressure, but having a bad day is no reason to try and shut down healthy debate on Queensland's budget ...

Amazing! We all know that nothing happens in the Labor Party without the member for South Brisbane's stamp. We know that this press release would have been approved by the member for South Brisbane before it went out. This is another great quote. It states—

It's immature at the very least ... to try and gag the debate because he's embarrassed by his own words and cranky about a key stakeholder—

**Mr Bleijie:** Is that what they said?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is exactly what the stakeholders have said about this Treasurer.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Southport.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It also goes to this point: it talks about a glass jaw and being unable to take valid criticisms. What we have seen is a Treasurer under pressure who has the biggest glass jaw in this chamber.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. She had to come in and justify for 30 minutes why she could not speak for the full time when delivering her actual budget speech. It goes to the fact that each and every week this lazy, hopeless Labor government is unable to deal with the bills before the House, because they keep shutting down the debate. They keep gagging the debate. They do not want us to talk. Why can they not just get their books—

**Ms Grace:** You can talk till midnight.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection.

**Ms Grace:** I'll extend the time for you.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. The Minister for Education has just said that she would like to extend the debate time. Come over to this side, Gracie, and vote with us.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport, I understand that your sight was impeded while I was on my feet.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I could not see you.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, I am halfway through making a determination and you have continued to interrupt. I will caution you that the next time you will be warned under standing orders. Members, I encourage a rigorous debate, but let's do it in an orderly fashion.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Essentially, those on this side of the House have the absolute right to speak on behalf of our constituents. The member for Toowoomba North talked about that. He talked about the fact that we should be allowed to actually speak on pieces of legislation, on clauses of bills, on things that are important to our constituents and to us. We also have all those bills that are going to be guillotined because of what—

**Ms Trad:** Yes, that's right.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** They are proud of it. Those over there are proud of the fact that when they were in—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will not have trouble taking my time, unlike the Treasurer in her speech. She can keep going on that one.

The simple fact of the matter is we should have the ability to speak in this House. That right is given to us by the electors who put us here to speak on their behalf. It is not fair to those people that this government is completely hopeless and is unable to run their agenda. It is not their fault that this government cannot get their books in order. We know that when in opposition they put out press releases every time a debate was guillotined. How many times have we sat in here already this term—we are not even six months into the term and debate after debate—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It will be interesting when we work out how many times the debate has already been guillotined. We know how many bills are already on the agenda. How many of those are going to be shut down before the LNP team get to speak on the debate? How many more times do the good people on this side of the House, who work hard each and every day to represent their electorates, have to be shut down and not allowed to speak?

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I know that the member for Mermaid Beach wants to speak on the clauses. He wants to talk on the clauses—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—and he has the right to be heard.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** Are you going to table that press release?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** You can get it on his website.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Ms Trad** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! We will not be having discussion across the chamber. Leader of the Opposition, you need to conduct your conversation through the chair, thank you. I also take this opportunity to remind you to table the document that you have referred to.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I table the document.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 15 October 2014, titled 'Nicholls fails to gag asset sales debate' [\[915\]](#).

It goes to the heart of this government. The arrogance, the secrecy, the fact that they think it is fine to shut down debate just because they do not believe that those on this side have a right to speak on behalf of our constituents is hypocritical. They said one thing when they were in opposition and now they are saying something completely different in government. It is arrogance at its best.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.20 pm): I rise to support the motion put by the Leader of the House. After that contribution from the member for Nanango, the Leader of the Opposition, I do not just want Deb 2020—I want Deb 2024, I want Deb 2028, I want Deb 2032, I want Deb 2036—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Everton, there have been a number of times when I have been either making a determination or on my feet. I caution you that the next time you will be warned.

**Ms TRAD:** Let us be very clear about what is happening here. What is happening here is an attempt to ensure that, after we sat until 2.30 in the morning today, that we complete in an orderly—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you have had your go. You are now warned under standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** After sitting until 2.30 in the morning today and after marking the time in which we will conclude today, which is midnight, Saturday, 16 June, we will have considered in an adult and a mature way the bills before the House. Let us be clear about what those opposite are doing, because it goes to the heart of why Queenslanders and Australians are disenchanted with politicians; that is, on occasion they have absolutely no reflection of the things that happen in people's lives.

The member for Toowoomba North got up and filibustered for 10 or 15 minutes and repeated the same thing over and over and over again in an attempt to convey that he is the champion of democracy, when he was part of a government that used their absolute majority in this House to sack parliamentary committees when they did not like what they had to say or table. They ran out of town the chair of the Crime and Misconduct Committee to put in their own lackey. Those opposite have absolutely no credibility. We allowed enough time for these bills to be debated. Every single member in this House has had an opportunity to contribute.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Maroochydore should stop heckling—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order!

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Maroochydore, 'heckler-in-chief'. We know that Frecklington cannot do it now. Because she is the Leader of the Opposition she has had to pass on the baton to somebody else, and it is the member for Maroochydore—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is referring to people not by their titles and I ask that she withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I ask you to refer to the members of this House by their correct title and I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms TRAD:** I withdraw. There has been sufficient time for each and every single one of us to make a contribution on the budget before the House. It has taken almost an hour for us to debate this procedural motion. As I said at the beginning of my contribution on this procedural motion, I think that most Queenslanders would be scratching their heads about what is going on here. To think that we cannot debate the budget that needs to be considered for the people of Queensland within one week is a ridiculous suggestion. It is very clear that we are suggesting an orderly progression to consideration in detail after each and every single person has made a contribution on behalf of either their portfolio or their shadow portfolio and their local constituents. Every single person has made a contribution to this debate. It is now time for us to proceed to consideration in detail.

I think that the Leader of the House has done an outstanding job in ensuring that everybody has had an opportunity. I cannot understand why the Leader of Opposition Business refuses to engage with the Leader of the House in the orderly conduct of the business before the legislative council, particularly when we in opposition worked as collaboratively as possible with those opposite and the former member for Callide—and that was a big ask. We have afforded every single opportunity for the Leader of Opposition Business to prove that he is older than three and to come to this with the desire to put the interests of Queenslanders ahead of petty politics. Unfortunately, he has proven himself incapable of graduating beyond kindergarten. In conclusion, and in accordance with standing order 88, I move—

That the question be put.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. I do not intend to debate the motion. What I will draw to your attention, Mr Deputy Speaker, are comments you made a very short time ago—I think whilst the Deputy Premier was on her feet or making an interjection—with respect to allowing robust debate. You indicated there may be a few people who want to speak. I have indicated that we do have—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are now debating. Your point of order is not relevant.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, you have to be satisfied pursuant to the standing orders that there has been sufficient debate with respect to standing order 88. I would put it to you that I do not think there has been, based on your comments during this debate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We are not going to debate the standing order around this. The motion has been put.

Division: Question put—That the question be put.

**AYES, 50:**

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

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 38—**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, 1—**Dametto.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**AYES, 49:**

**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.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 40:**

**LNP, 38—**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, 1—**Dametto.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1805 on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question is that clauses 1 to 37, as read, stand part of the bill. Those of that opinions say 'aye', those against 'no' –

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that we are considering two separate bills. The first bill has been read a second time and we are now in consideration in detail. We have indicated to the clerks at the table that we would like to speak to the clauses.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Those details were not supplied to me, but I am happy to put each of the clauses. Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



**Mr MANDER** (10.39 pm): I rise to speak against this clause. This clause increases the foreign acquirer duty tax from three per cent to seven per cent. This is tax No. 1 of the five new taxes this government has introduced in this budget. This is one of four that was foreshadowed just two days before the election was held in November last year and after the media blackout had commenced. It is the way of this government to hide things, to be deceitful and to bring in taxes that we know will cause damage to the Queensland economy. This is one of the four taxes that we were told would bring \$492 million into the government's coffers. We have now found through this budget process that this tax, along with the additional waste levy, will bring in a whopping \$2.2 billion.

This is another broken promise and there are no other words for it but an obscene tax grab. The House may not remember this, but this foreign investment tax was brought in initially in 2016 by the previous Palaszczuk government despite a promise to the property industry that this would not occur. A recent study by the property industry has estimated that this foreign investment tax has brought about a decline in foreign investment which has resulted in a decrease in gross state product of between \$2.4 billion and \$3.9 billion. We can only imagine the impact on the economy of an increase in the tax from three per cent to seven per cent as contained in this clause. The Property Council has been very vocal in its opposition to this. Chris Mountford said—

It is clear that reduced foreign investor interest in Queensland has cost the state far more than the revenue raised through this foreign investor tax ...

Let me say that again: 'that reduced foreign investor interest in Queensland has cost the state far more than the revenue raised through this foreign investor tax'. He continued—

Regrettably we are still seeing the Government pursue short-sighted tax increases without adequately considering the long term consequences.

Chris Mountford continued—

We certainly acknowledge that the State Government's tax increase is not the only factor that has reduced the flow of foreign investment to Queensland. But it has played a big part, and it is a factor that is entirely in the control of the State Government.

The data shows the State Government has kicked a significant fiscal and economic 'own goal' ...

We would contend that this tax, as well as the other taxes, has a direct impact on the construction industry, a direct impact on business confidence in investing in this state. This is one of five taxes which we believe are an obscene tax grab, and that is why we will vote against this clause.

**Ms TRAD:** The Palaszczuk Labor government made a commitment at the last election that we would increase the additional foreign duty from three per cent to seven per cent. This brings it into line with other jurisdictions, so let us be absolutely clear: there is nothing obscene about this. It is absolutely consistent with what is happening in other jurisdictions. It is something that we put before the people of Queensland. We said that we would fund our election commitments through modest revenue measures—this is one of them—and that we would ensure that we were managing the budget in a fiscally sustainable way.

With regard to the point that was raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer in terms of some of the statistics that he referred to and some of the commentary being made by the Property Council of Australia—and I do acknowledge the valuable analysis that the Property Council of Australia has made on this topic and other property related topics—let us be clear about what has driven down a lot of speculative foreign investment in property in Queensland, New South Wales and Australia. That is that the Foreign Investment Review Board has introduced application fees for interest in Australian property. If the shadow Treasurer could just be a little bit crazy and do some homework then he would find that the Australian government itself—colleagues from his own Liberal National Party government—has put out information to substantiate the fact that its introduction of application fees on the Foreign Investment Review Board around foreign investment in Australian property has reduced the amount of speculative interest in Australian property by foreign investors. That has driven down the interest, particularly here in Australia.

We do not think this additional foreign duty levy is obscene. We think it is responsible and, as the Premier has absolutely committed to, this is not something that will affect Queensland families. I absolutely believe that this is something that we should pass. It is modest, it is measured and it will help to fund the services and the infrastructure that Queenslanders need.

Division: Question put—That clause 4, as read, stand part of the bill.

*In division—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, before I speak to the division that has been called, I notice that there were significant interjections and conversations happening across the chamber whilst the division bells were ringing. I remind all honourable members that during a division or during the division bells ringing standing orders still apply and members will be called to account for their actions during that period.

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 46—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, 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.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**KAP, 1—**Dametto.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 38—**Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—

Division: Question put—That clause 5, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 51:**

**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.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**KAP, 1—**Dametto.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 38—**Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—

Division: Question put—That clause 6, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 50:**

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

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.



**NOES, 39:**


**LNP, 38—**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, 1—**Dametto.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—

 **Mr MANDER** (10.56 pm): I oppose this clause. Clause 7 relates to tax No. 2 of the five new taxes being introduced by the Palaszczuk government as part of this budget. This tax relates to the increased vehicle registration fees for motor vehicles valued over \$100,000 commencing on 1 July 2018. The RACQ has been scathing of this tax. RACQ spokesman Paul Turner said that motoring taxes had increased by almost 15 per cent over the past four years and that the organisation was opposed to this new state high-value-car tax as this tax does not apply in other states. He stated further that the additional two per cent in stamp duty is a double tax hit on motorists, who already pay a luxury car tax on these vehicles. He also said that it is revenue that is not reinvested into transport infrastructure—rather, it goes straight into consolidated revenue—and that it is a cash grab.

This extra charge is on top of the double the rate of inflation car registration expenses that everybody in Queensland is already experiencing. This tax has been passed off as a tax for the rich, but it is a tax that will hit people in rural areas—farmers, those property owners who need to have LandCruisers that will qualify for this new tax.

**A government member:** Rubbish.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection. It is not rubbish. This tax does not apply to vehicles over 4.5 tonnes, but it will apply to other vehicles. People on the land, who are already doing it tough, are being slugged again by this government. Not only does this tax affect those on the land; it also affects the industry. This tax does not apply in other states. What are people going to do with regard to purchasing their cars? It is quite easy.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Go interstate?

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. They will cross the border and buy a car interstate. This is just another tax grab. This is tax No. 2 of the five additional taxes that this government has proposed. Despite saying that four taxes will bring in only \$491 million, this tax is part of the \$2.2 billion that this government will grab from five taxes. That is why we are against this clause.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I join with the shadow Treasurer in speaking against this tax. I do so for a number of good reasons. The politics of envy always plays out strongly with the Labor Party. They are the great levellers. They said, 'We can't get it ourselves, because we're no good. We couldn't make the money. We couldn't do the work. We're not prepared to take the risk. We're not prepared to employ people. What are we going to do? We are going to do what all thieves and scoundrels do. We are going to tax them for it.' Intrinsically, this is a tax on enterprise. It is a tax on people who work hard. It is a tax on people who take risks, who earn money and invest in themselves and want to enjoy the benefits of their rewards.

The LNP supports the people who do that, because they are the people who create the wealth that those opposite tax. They are the people who make investments in buildings, businesses and shares. They are the people who get up early every morning and go to bed late every night. They are the ones who make sure that the wages bill can be paid every week when it needs to be paid. They are the people who are already paying the company tax, the income tax, the BAS, the superannuation, the GST and all the other things. All Labor wants to do—all it can do—is punish them. It wants to put the dead hand of government into the pockets of the people who actually create the wealth that this country relies on. During the course of the debate this week, I heard members opposite talk about how they are supportive of small business, yet now they are standing up to tax the one thing that a small business owner may work really hard for, that is, a vehicle that they like.

There are many good reasons to oppose this tax. It is a tax on business. Every time you increase the tax, you encourage someone to spend their money somewhere else. The car dealership will not sell the car because the tax makes the decision that much harder for the buyer. That affects jobs in that

dealership. If the sale does not occur, the stamp duty is not paid. As the member for Everton said, someone from Queensland will go over the border to buy a cheaper car. You can do that on the internet now and have it delivered, which is also what will happen.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, I apologise. Members, the member is making a contribution. I want to hear the contribution. I remind all members that if they would like to rise to their feet to make a contribution they can do so. There is time allocated to do that under standing orders, given that these bills have not gone to committee.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I was saying, this is a bad tax because it is a tax that relies on envy, which is never a good tax. It is a bad tax because it taxes reward for effort, which is never a good tax. It is a bad tax because it is poorly implemented and can be avoided easily. It fails that test of tax, because you can go interstate or online to buy a car and avoid the tax straightaway. It is a poorly designed tax. It is a tax that is counterproductive when it comes to jobs and supporting Queensland businesses, because it supports the New South Wales and Victorian businesses that will sell more cars. It is a bad tax because it encourages the bad behaviour of tax avoidance by consumers and by retailers, who will reduce the price of those cars to \$99,999 where they can. This is a bad tax by a bad government that never saw someone else's money, especially in the private sector, that they did not want to Hoover up and waste. They are doing it again today.

**Mr DICK:** I do not care what anyone says about the member for Clayfield: that was the best LNP budget speech we have heard all week. Bring back Tim!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Clayfield and others, I expect that you understand my expectations. I believe that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer rose to her feet. I was going to give her the call until I was rudely interrupted.

**Ms TRAD:** Let us be absolutely clear about what this additional charge is for. This additional charge is for luxury vehicles. It is for vehicles valued at over \$100,000. Yes, it is for Ascot Audis and Clayfield tractors. When my family owned and operated a small business, there was no way we could have driven around in a \$100,000 vehicle. Let me be absolutely clear that we are unlike those opposite, who came to government and jacked up duties on a whole range of measures that affected mums and dads, families, poor people, old people and seniors in this state. That is not what we are going to do. We are not going to ask those who can least afford it to contribute to what should be a very responsible increase in revenue back to the state. That was the commitment that we gave to the people of Queensland. We are unlike those opposite, who in 2012 made a five-point contract with the people of Queensland and then, when they came into power, broke every single one of those commitments.

We are not going to ask those who can least afford it to pay more money in duty on household insurance or life insurance. We said to the people of Queensland that if they can afford to buy a vehicle worth \$100,000 or more we will ask them to pay an additional \$2 in every \$100 of dutiable value on that vehicle. This is a very measured revenue measure. What this will raise—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I apologise. Members, I have made myself clear. The Deputy Premier, like some other speakers during consideration in detail, is not responding to interjections. I ask you to cease your interjections or I will start sending members from the chamber.

**Ms TRAD:** I have two further points to make before I finish. The member for Clayfield and the member for Everton said that this would create inefficiencies and would mean that Queenslanders who wanted to buy an Audi would go to New South Wales to purchase that luxury vehicle. The member for Clayfield and the member for Everton should do their homework before they come into this place and make assertions like that.

A new hybrid light non-commercial passenger vehicle worth about \$120,000 will still be cheaper in Queensland than in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. Those opposite like to put themselves forward as being very prudent economic managers, but once again we find them to be completely hopeless.

Let me say very clearly: this additional measure will provide some \$24 million in additional revenue back to the state. When we consider that we collect less than \$2 billion annually in registration charges but spend almost \$5 billion on the roads of our state in their communities—in regional communities—right across Queensland, then I think an additional \$24 million is a very small measure

to ask those who can afford Audis and those who can afford Lamborghinis to make an additional contribution to the very important infrastructure and services that this government delivers on behalf of Queenslanders.

Division: Question put—That clause 7, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 50:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 38**—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, 1**—Dametto.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—

 **Mr MANDER** (11.16 pm): We will also be opposing clause 12. This is tax No. 3 of the five new taxes that the Palaszcuk government has introduced in this budget. This clause relates to the amendments to the Land Tax Act which affect owners of larger properties, putting a greater impost on them.

This has been sold as a tax on those who are rich. Again this government fails to understand that when we tax people who own large parcels of land or own large buildings and who lease them to small business owners, who will be paying the increased rent? It will be small business owners. This will put greater pressure on those people who work every night and every day to make Queensland the great state it is. Who do members think the small businesses will pass those rental increases on to? They will pass them on to everyday Queenslanders.

This is another tax that was announced two days before the state election under the cover of the electronic media blackout. Many people had voted by that time. Probably up to 25 per cent of Queensland's population had voted before they knew about this particular tax. This is another obscene tax grab.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am happy to support the shadow Treasurer and add a few more comments. This increase in land tax simply serves to narrow the base and increase the tax. It is another poorly designed tax—fewer people paying a higher rate. It attempts to say that this is just a tax on those who can most afford to pay it.

Most people do not own these large parcels of land that have the high value that the tax is going to be paid on. Most individuals do not. Most people will feel the impact of this tax. Do members know why? They are members of superannuation funds that own all these businesses. QIC, for example, owns the Grand Central in Toowoomba. It owns it on behalf of superannuation funds. Who is going to be paying that tax? They are going to be paying that tax. There will be lower returns to superannuants all the way through.

It will impact shareholders in companies like Westfield. Westfield is a big company. It makes a lot of money. It sure does. I have no problem with that. I understand that. It pays a lot of tax. It sure does. It does that as well. It pays a lot of rates. It sure does. It does that as well. It employs a lot of people. It sure does. It does that as well. It pays a lot of mum-and-dad shareholders dividends on their shares. It sure does. It does that as well. They will be hit by this all the way through.

This is another tax that is going to be paid by everyday Australians, particularly those who invest their funds through superannuation funds, those who have self-managed superannuation funds and those who might own shares. Industry funds are going to pay it. QSuper is going to pay it. They are all going to pay it because it is a higher tax.

This goes to the heart of the falsity of the Labor argument that we can put a tax on and it is not going to hurt anyone. When we put any tax on it has drag. That is why we should aim to have as few taxes as we can. We need taxes. We have to pay for things. I am not saying we should not—I never have—but we have to have the right taxes and have taxes in the best way possible. There should be as few taxes as is absolutely possible in order to conduct the business of government and to provide the services that government is obliged and required to provide. This tax is not one of those tax taxes.

**Ms TRAD:** I think what we have heard from the member for Clayfield is a very valiant attempt to defend the trickle-down theory—that is, do not touch those people who seek to maximise profits or their capital acquisition because fundamentally that will all trickle down to the poor workers and they will be better off. They will be better off through the benevolence and the fantastic—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I am hearing a lot of commentary when there is an ability for all members to rise to their feet and make a contribution to consideration in detail. An interjection is not a contribution.

**Ms TRAD:** I want to reflect on the fact that at least the member for Clayfield put up some sort of a coherent argument—unlike the member for Everton, who really did not. I always question any member from the Liberal National Party who gets up and tries to defend superannuation when they were in the party that rejected and fought against the introduction of superannuation—

**Ms Jones:** Every step of the way.

**Ms TRAD:** Every step of the way. I take that interjection from the Minister for Tourism. For them to get up and defend superannuation funds just beggars belief.

**Ms Jones:** They believe in renewable energy now.

**Ms TRAD:** Yes. I take that interjection from the member for Cooper. They have also seen the light on renewable energy. Let us be clear about what this additional duty seeks to do. It seeks to put an additional 0.5 per cent on those land holdings of \$10 million or more.

**Ms Jones:** That is one per cent of Queensland.

**Ms TRAD:** Yes—a very small percentage of Queenslanders. This is a very modest measure. It returns to the state some \$70 million a year. It is a very modest measure. I think it is a very reasonable measure to put on to those people who have land holdings of \$10 million or more—0.5 per cent. I want to reflect upon the fact that the ABS only recently came out with some data that showed that the profits and profitability of the private sector had increased by some 40 per cent and more over the most recent years, while in Australia we are seeing some of the lowest rates of wage growth that we have experienced since the 1930s.

**Ms Jones:** The member for Clayfield wants to tax them instead.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection. The member for Clayfield and those opposite would prefer to put additional taxes and additional charges on those low-income workers rather than support measures that seek to ensure that foreign investors pay a little bit more for the infrastructure and the services that Queensland taxpayers have funded, that those who can afford Lamborghinis pay a little bit more on the duty of that vehicle back to the state Queensland—just a little bit more—and that those who have \$10 million or more in land holdings pay 0.5 per cent more in terms of their holdings.

I have never heard such incredible opposition to what are very reasonable revenue measures. To date, what we have argued against is additional revenue in the vicinity of \$120 million annually in a state budget of more than \$58 billion. This is what those opposite want to have a conversation about. Let us be clear: we put all of these measures to the people of Queensland at the last election. They expect us to introduce these measures in order to meet the expenditure pressures in order to continue to provide the services and the infrastructure that they expect their governments to provide.

Division: Question put—That clause 12, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 49:**

**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.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 40:**

**LNP, 38**—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, 1**—Dametto.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.

Clause 13—



**Mr MANDER (11.31 pm):** We will be opposing clause 13 as well. This clause changes the current exemptions that are in place for land or part of land that is used solely for the business of agriculture, pasturage or dairy farming. Again, on the face of it, this seems to be another blow to those people on the land when an exemption is already in place for people who are using their land for the benefit of this state. This is, again, another slug on those people who at the moment are doing it tough and can least afford it. That is why we will be arguing against this clause.

**Ms TRAD:** The owners of land seeking to claim or continuing to claim the land tax primary production exemption for the 2018-19 financial year onwards will be affected. However, the amendments are not intended to alter the Office of State Revenue's current assessing practice and are consistent with the two current public rulings which have been published by the Commissioner of State Revenue to provide guidance on OSR's current assessing practice. Therefore, owners of land who have appropriately qualified for the primary production exemption in previous financial years will continue to benefit from 2018-19 onwards.

Division: Question put—That clause 13, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 48:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 41:**

**LNP, 38**—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, 1**—Dametto.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 13, as read, agreed to.

Clause 14—



**Mr MANDER (11.38 pm):** We will be opposing this clause as well. This clause changes the rate of land tax payable and introduces the new schedule, which is of course part of this government's \$2.25 billion tax grab.

Division: Question put—That clause 14, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 48:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 41:**

**LNP, 38**—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, 1**—Dametto.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



**Mr MANDER** (11.43 pm): We will be voting against clause 15 as well. This clause is all about schedule 2, which sets out the land tax rates for companies and trustees. It currently provides that the top marginal rate of two per cent applies if the total taxable value of taxable land is more than \$5 million. Clause 15 amends schedule 2 to introduce a new top marginal rate of 2.5 per cent, which applies if the total taxable value of taxable land is more than \$10 million.

Division: Question put—That clause 15, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 51:**

**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.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 1**—Dametto.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 38**—Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House and the time limit for the consideration in detail of the bill having expired, the question is—

That clauses 16 to 37, as read, be agreed to.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 37, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Mr SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House and the time limit for the third reading of the bill having expired, the question is—


That the bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

## Long Title

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Just to explain, the various time limits agreed to are sectional. Each of these resolutions required by the House needs to be met at the particular time limit. Those are not being met because we are moving progressively through them, so I will call the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to move the long title of the bill.

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.51 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

## BETTING TAX BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1805, on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

**AYES, 51:**

**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.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 1**—Dametto.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.


**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 38**—Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House and the time limit for consideration in detail of the bill having expired, the question is—

That clauses 1 to 90 and schedules 1 and 2, as read, be agreed to.

I will ring the bells for one minute given there has been no intervening debate.

Division: Question put—That clauses 1 to 90 and schedules 1 and 2, as read, be agreed to.

**AYES, 50:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 38**—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, 1**—Dametto.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 1 to 90 and schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

**Third Reading**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House and the time limit for the third reading of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

**AYES, 49:**

**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.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 40:**

**LNP, 38**—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, 1**—Dametto.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

**Long Title**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House and the time limit for the long title of the bill being agreed to having expired, the question is—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Division: Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

**AYES, 50:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 1**—Dametto.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 38**—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.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.


**ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.06 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.



### Everton Electorate, Proposed Development


 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.06 am): I rise to talk about development issues in my electorate. There are a number of areas in my electorate where people are very concerned about development and the lack of infrastructure that accompanies that development. We have an iconic paddock at Everton Park called 'Murphy's paddock'. This land has been unused for years and years. As recently as 12 months ago it still had cows in it. It is something which has enabled the people of Everton Park and surrounds to enjoy a touch of country while living very close to the city.

Unfortunately, that land has been sold and a development has been proposed by Mirvac. It is proposed that around 130 units and homes will be built in this area. This has caused great angst in my community. People are very concerned about the appropriateness of this development. They are very concerned about an area that for years has flooded and wonder how homes and units could be built there. They are very concerned about the effect that it will have on traffic, particularly on local streets that are already congested.

This is now the chance for us to put in formal submissions to the Brisbane City Council and I encourage residents to do that. It is important to go through due process and make sure that the residents' views are known and that we have enough people who respond to that. Most people are not against development, but they want to make sure that that development is sustainable and appropriate for the area.

At Albany Creek a lot of residents are very concerned about the proposed connection of Greensill Road to Leitchs Road. Residents have been campaigning quite strongly over the last year. They feel that a lot of their comments have fallen on deaf ears with the Moreton Bay Regional Council. The Moreton Bay Regional Council has now submitted its plans for that area to the state development minister. We have signed petitions as well, and we are asking the state development minister to listen to the concerns of residents. Again, this is an area that is quiet, and the last thing residents want is a busy road running right through their suburb, which is full of families and young kids. We would ask the state development minister to consider these proposals very seriously.

### History Alive

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.09 am): I rise to speak about History Alive, a wonderful annual event that I attended last Saturday at the fabulous Fort Lytton National Park. The opening went off with a bang from the big 64-pounder cannon which was first fired in 1881 by Cecilia Palmer, the wife of the fifth premier of Queensland, Sir Arthur Palmer. This year I had the honour of firing the cannon. It took a little time to coax this old cannon into action.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** It did. I will take that interjection. That is what it was built for. We finally got the big bang in the end, not in anger—it has never been fired in anger—but to herald the opening of the 20th Queensland Living History Association History Alive event. This year the event was dedicated to Jason Armfield, Queensland Living History Association's founding member and safety officer, who unfortunately passed away during the year. He was a tireless worker and will be sadly missed by many.


This year we saw more than 700 re-enactors and historians, from crusader knights to Napoleonic cavalry to vehicles from the First World War, the Second World War and the Vietnam War. There was medieval jousting, cooking demonstrations, sword fights, penny-farthings and even Dr Who's TARDIS. I am not too sure if the good doctor was there, though. History Alive is not just a celebration of the past but also recreating the past.

I was also delighted to open Fort Lytton Historical Association's new 'Fort Lytton's Anzac Generals'. This exhibit features just 10 of the over 40 Fort Lytton generals and was a fitting and timely tribute just five months out from 11 November 2018, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that brought to an end the First World War.

This exhibition is just one of the initiatives that Fort Lytton Historical Association has undertaken to preserve our history for future generations and to share with all of Brisbane and, in fact, all of Australia. Fort Lytton Historical Association also plays a key role in maintaining Fort Lytton as a splendid public attraction, operating the visitor centre, the canteen, four museum buildings, the historic fort and the gun park. Fort Lytton was constructed by the Queensland government between 1880 and 1882 and was the centre of Queensland's military activity deep into the 20th century.

I would like to thank the Queensland Living History Association, the History Alive performance team, the Fort Lytton Historical Association and the Fort Lytton National Park rangers for once again participating in History Alive and to acknowledge the work and dedication of the volunteers and the re-enactors for this wonderful community event. I encourage all of Brisbane to pop down to Fort Lytton. It is a great part of our local history. They have fantastic night-time tours that are run by Daley, who has written the script, and there are re-enactors doing that. It is a fabulous night out. Please make the effort to come down. I go as often as I can so I will see you there.

### **Bribie Island Dementia Support Group**

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (12.12 am): According to Dementia Australia, Alzheimer's is a condition that will have the greatest social and economic impact of our time. With an estimated 425,416 Australians living with the disease, services have never been in such high demand. That is why the Bribie Island Dementia Support Group is such a vital volunteer service in my electorate. The group is run by dedicated locals committed to the health and wellbeing of dementia patients, their families and friends, and I am so proud to be their patron.

Last year I was moved by an experience I had with an elderly couple living in my electorate who trusted me enough to assist them during an extremely difficult time in their lives. This couple had no close family and were battling, as one of them experienced a rapid health decline due to vascular dementia. This situation is not uncommon in my electorate due to the large ageing population I represent and so I needed to learn more about their very sad and debilitating illness.


I contacted a fabulous woman by the name of Jan Donaldson of Bribie Island Dementia Support Group who shared with me some basic skills I needed to assist not only this beautiful couple in making their lives more comfortable but anyone who reached out to me for support. Dementia is a debilitating illness that strikes at the heart of so many families. Some sufferers experience a rapid decline while the decline of others is slow and gruelling. The loving couple I helped had coped with a slow decline for almost 10 years and were not prepared for a rapid decline to strike them out of the blue, derailing their very existence. With Jan's help I was able to work with them to ensure both of them had access to the health services and support that suited their needs so they could continue to live in their own home they worked so hard to build.

On 16 July the Bribie Island Dementia Support Group will be hosting a free information session about dementia friendly communities. A dementia friendly community is a place where people living with dementia are supported to live a high quality of life with meaning, value and purpose. Subjects included during the information session will be an overview of what dementia is, ways to reduce risk of dementia and the impact of dementia on a person and their families.

I encourage anyone who is caring for a loved one with dementia or who just wants to find out further information about this life-changing illness to attend this information session at Bribie Island RSL. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the RSL for its support in raising awareness of dementia in Pumicestone.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Members, in our gallery this evening we have Rotary Queensland and the Rotary Club of Fiji. We welcome them to the parliament of Queensland. Thank you very much for joining us at this late hour.

### **National Reconciliation Week, UMI Arts**


 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.16 am): Last week I had the great pleasure to visit UMI Arts in my electorate and address the assembled group of community elders at their morning tea celebration for National Reconciliation Week. UMI Arts is a not-for-profit company managed by an all-Indigenous board of directors. It is the peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural organisation for Far North Queensland, which is an area that extends from Cardwell all the way to the Torres Strait islands and west to the Gulf of Carpentaria. It was established in 2005, and its mission is to operate an Indigenous organisation that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to participate in the maintenance, preservation and protection of cultural identity.

UMI Arts also operates the Cairns Indigenous Arts Centre, which provides support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists who live and work in Cairns. It was at their premises at 335 Sheridan Street, North Cairns that I attended the National Reconciliation Week morning tea. This organisation is

run by Mr Peter Lenoy, a man I met just prior to the election. He is a man of absolute substance. His mother was one of the stolen generation. He is a peaceful, hardworking, solid Australian and he has a wonderful background and story. His contribution to our community is significant.

National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June, was initiated in 1996 to celebrate Indigenous history and culture in Australia and foster reconciliation discussion and activities. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey: the successful 27 May 1967 referendum and the 3 June 1992 Mabo High Court decision. Reconciliation promotes and facilitates respect, trust and positive relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It opens up a national debate on prejudice, discrimination and racism. It also raises broader questions about our national identity and the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights in our nation's story. As I said earlier, Mr Peter Lenoy is working extremely hard with a group of very talented Indigenous Australians, and I want to make mention of that here in the chamber this morning. The man is making a wonderful contribution to our society.


### Burleigh Men's Shed

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.19 am): I rise on Ipswich Cup day to advise the House that last year it was my great pleasure to attend the opening of the Burleigh Men's Shed by Mayor Tom Tate in Pizzey Park, part of the fabulous Mermaid Beach electorate. The gang at the Burleigh Men's Shed are the friendliest and most obliging gentlemen you could ever find and their real aim, apart from delivering some superb woodworking, is to assist in the provision of men's health and wellbeing. I was particularly pleased to run into a long-time friend who was a star national footballer and also a very successful small business operator on the Gold Coast. He has suffered some pretty serious health issues, and he told me that he was in some dark spaces mentally. To see how he has bounced back physically and mentally through his membership of the Burleigh Men's Shed was an absolute joy to behold. There is no pressure, no bitchiness and no hassles—just a solid, friendly workplace where men can enjoy each other's company and make worthwhile and appreciated contributions through toys, wood artworks, furniture pieces et cetera to bring joy to others and to give its members a sense of worthiness and camaraderie.

I was pleased to support the shed with lessons for their members on the operation of a defibrillator, which was generously supplied by the Bendigo Bank and Bunnings, who are regular supporters of timber for the shed. The Gold Coast city council has been a major supporter of the shed, providing premises and machinery to ensure a safe and clean working environment for the 'shedites' to complete their work. Bob Hinze, Robert Rowe, Ray Devenson, David Harris and Roger Merrett are just some of the boys who keep the shed ticking over. Their warm and friendly welcome to me and new members makes it a pleasure to visit the Burleigh Men's Shed whenever I can. My office has firsthand experience of the welcoming and convivial atmosphere of the shed as my executive assistant, Lisa Hedges, after experiencing the lovely people involved with the Burleigh Men's Shed, sent her stepdad, Mr Michael Fisher, along. He has reported back that it is an inviting, pleasant hub for social gatherings and he looks forward to his further participation.

Some may see the woodworking group as just hobbyists pursuing their passion, but the Men's Shed concept is far more important, to the point where you could almost classify men's sheds as men's health clinics. The sense of purpose and the gregarious friendship derived from regular association with other men in a stress-free common situation put light in the lives of particularly middle-aged men whom other circumstances may have cast gloomy shadows upon. I am a great supporter of the men's shed. I am very proud to say that I guarantee my ongoing relationship with and support of the Burleigh Men's Shed in whatever form they need me as their local member in the years to come. They do a wonderful job, and I recommend that as an activity all members in this House can support.

### Logan Electorate, Education

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.22 am): The mention of the men's shed by the member for Mermaid Beach reminds me of a speech that I heard earlier this week given to a bipartisan group of MPs by the ABC's Scott Stevens. He spoke of the need for the community—much as the member for Mermaid Beach—to be the centre of our political discussion. He spoke of the origin of the word community—'communis', which means 'in common, public, general, shared by the many'. It has come to mean all that we hold in common together. This is not limited to physical things like the village common but extends to the values and ideas we hold. As members of parliament, how much do we do to create a stronger sense of the values we hold, the ideas we share and the space we share in common?

Reflecting on these ideas this week, I refer to the teaching profession in which I was trained. It is our education system that creates the greatest common ground in which all Queenslanders participate, share and build together. We are not individuals on an individualistic journey of self-improvement; we are instead together sharing by all or the many the journey of sharing the knowledge and values of our community. However, some come to this common ground without the tools they need to fully participate in this common experience. We know that some have greater needs; for example, they have may fewer language skills. Some students need more to access the common ground of Queensland schools.

Gonski is all about ensuring that every school community and each student seeking to be part of that community has the facilities and great teachers they need. As new communities are forming in Logan, the new schools that are built will be the bedrock of those communities. That is why I am proud to fight for new schools and classrooms for Logan. This year we opened the new Yarrabilba State School, and so strong is the demand for students that we are already building the second stage of that school. This budget will also fund the new Yarrabilba high school, which will bring together the communities of Logan Village, Stockleigh and Yarrabilba into the world-class high school common learning environment. We are also building a health and community hub on state school grounds, again to build a common health standard and to keep everyone together. In this budget we are also funding a neighbourhood centre, again bringing community together.

Scott Stevens of the ABC urged us all to put the common ground in all we do, to build a common experience, a common equal access to our society. Reflecting on these ideas, we can do more. We are truly trying to make the development of Yarrabilba into something more: a true community.

### Australian 4WD Hire; Roesch, Mr V



**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.25 am): I bring to the attention of the House unscrupulous, unfair, fraudulent and quite possibly illegal activities that affect many Australians and foreign tourists as well as damage Queensland's and Australia's reputation as a friendly, safe and honest destination for holidays. Who is conning these tourists? Who is ripping off honest customers? Who is threatening them with legal costs and defamation actions? Who is carrying out a relentless, systemic and well-rehearsed fraud on four-wheel drive vehicle hirers? Who is breaking the Australian and Queensland Consumer Law and who-knows-what other laws?

The answer is a business called Australian 4WD Hire and an unsavoury character and undischarged bankrupt: a Russian businessman named Vitali Roesch. Let me say it again clearly: the rip-off merchants are the business called Australian 4WD Hire and the individual Vitali Roesch. Australian 4WD Hire's registered office and principal place of business is at the Q1 tower, Hamilton Avenue, Surfers Paradise. The business operates throughout Queensland and Australia, including my electorate of Clayfield. It appears that the company is under the command and control of bankrupt Russian businessman Vitali Roesch, despite the single share in the company that was transferred from Mr Roesch to his wife, Ms Maryna Kosukhina, on 27 February 2017. Ms Kosukhina was also appointed sole director on 11 September 2015; Vitali Roesch resigned as director on 7 October 2015. What is even more concerning is that he was charged with domestic violence against Ms Kosukhina and received an 18-month sentence but was given immediate parole by the court. I table a dossier outlining many of the salient facts around the operations of Australian 4WD Hire.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents regarding Australian 4WD Hire [\[916\]](#).


The dossier includes copies of media reports concerning the domestic violence case as well as media reports, including 'Russian magnate fights bankruptcy' and 'Russian Vitali Roesch, once linked to credit card scamming, now ordered to pay a six-figure tax bill'. It includes extracts from a 2013 QCAT hearing wherein the presiding member was satisfied that Mr Roesch is not a fit and proper person to hold a weapons licence. Perhaps this is because he has been charged on two occasions with assault occasioning bodily harm. He has also accumulated 59 demerit points since 2001, including for speeding and unlicensed driving offences. The presiding member concluded that his conduct 'demonstrates irresponsible and antisocial conduct, indicating that he is a risk to public safety'.

I will explain the scam or rip-off. When someone hires a four-wheel drive for the adventure of a lifetime they sign a lengthy standard form take-it-or-leave-it hire contract containing terms which, in my view, are a clear breach of Australian Consumer Law. They pay a deposit of up to \$5,000, sometimes more, and they leave a credit card imprint as additional security. They collect the vehicle, usually from an agency at or near an airport, and head off on their adventure. This is where it goes wrong. On many occasions the hire vehicle is not up to the job and breaks down through no fault of the hirer. Then Mr Roesch and the company start getting threatening and abusive. They start debiting the customer's

credit card for repairs—in one case for an engine replacement, in others for mechanical rebuilds. There are other scams, of course. Time does not allow me to cover them but, Mr Speaker, despite reports to the Office of Fair Trading, nothing has been done to date. There have been 10 Magistrates Court proceedings involving Australian 4WD Hire in the last two years, with one hearing held in Brisbane as recently as last week.

Many customers feel intimidated by Mr Roesch's intimidating and aggressive behaviour and his reputation, but I will not let this rip-off continue. I will be taking this matter further with the federal authorities. I call on the Attorney to also investigate and take action. In the meantime, here is a warning: stay away from Australian 4WD Hire and Vitali Roesch.

### **Female Facilities Fund, Sandgate Hawks**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.28 am): Since extending their ranks of AFL teams to include a full complement of female junior and senior teams some five years ago, the Sandgate Hawks have enjoyed a rapid growth in female participation. Celebrating their 75th anniversary this season, the Hawks have fostered a real sense of comradeship among the women, men, boys and girls who play for their teams. The Hawks know that the success of their female teams contributes directly to the success of their club as a whole.

Out on their magnificent field at Taigum the male and female players are equal, but off the field it is a different story. The current change rooms were built in 1979 and only have five male toilets and open showers. I recently caught up with Kara Fabian, the Sandgate Hawks senior women's team captain, who told me about the challenges of, for so many years, having to share these facilities with the male players. It is because of stories like this that, for some time, I have advocated, along with many other members on this side of the House, within the government to address the lack of facilities available for women in sport, using the Hawks and other local clubs like the Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club—well known for its female players—and the Brighton Bulldogs Football Club as examples. I thank the Minister for Sport for his recognition of this need and the government's support for the development of the Female Facilities Fund.


That is why I am so pleased to inform the House that women and girls at the Sandgate Hawks are set to kick a big goal, with a \$497,482 grant, as part of the Palaszczuk government's Female Facilities Fund program, to provide more practical and inclusive spaces for women and girls in sport. The Female Facilities Fund will help the Hawks' \$650,000 project to build an entirely new amenities block to include some 11 showers, 14 toilets, two change rooms and an officials' room, in addition to amenities for people with a disability and a parents room. This is all about addressing inequality in sport and in our community more broadly.

Equally I want to commend the leadership of the club's committee—in particular president Aaron Widt, who saw female facilities as a crucial part of their long-term strategic vision for the club. It is because of Aaron and the committee's leadership that these upgrades will go hand in hand with the club's long-term strategic vision, which will allow them to continue to host school and club AFL carnivals, other sporting teams, including the famous Bears Softball Club, and community events like the annual Vaisakhi festivities—all the while knowing that they are contributing to building a more inclusive experience for everyone at the Hawks and in the community.

We know that the lack of female facilities is a huge barrier to women and girls getting involved in sport and active recreation. By empowering sports to provide inclusive change facilities through the Female Facilities Fund, clubs like the Hawks can take an important step in addressing this inequality.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Sandgate. Go the Hawks!

### **Ambae Island, Monaro Volcano**

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.31 am): I would like to bring to the attention of the House the natural disaster that has been occurring in the Pacific islands; namely, on the island I come from—Ambae Island. The people over there have been displaced after a natural disaster that has resulted from a volcano called Monaro. It has displaced 11,000 people. I know that the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the member for Sandgate, who is here tonight, is very understanding of the contribution our people have made to Queensland.

There are children in tents. Families have been split up. Livestock have been left on the island because they could not be moved with boats. All of their food and farms have been decimated. It has absolutely destroyed the whole island. All of the islanders have had to be moved. It would be lovely to try to help some of these impoverished people after what they did for us when they were blackbirded here in terms of the contribution they made to Queensland.

It is amazing to think that the House could do something for these people going forward. Having seen photos of what has transpired over there I can say that it will take a long time to bring that all back into play. There is 150 to 200 millimetres of ash everywhere. Every single plant and every single water source on the island has been poisoned. As the rain falls and goes through the ash, it destroys more and turns it into a slush of devastation.

I know they have asked for someone from the Queensland parliament to go over there to have a look to see what they can do, if there is anything that can be done, to help. We are a Westminster parliament and they are a Commonwealth country, so it would be good to help them as much as we can. They have never asked for anything. They have always asked for a hand up, never a handout.

We have the Seasonal Worker Program here, so it would be nice to see whether we could incorporate that and make sure that Queensland can look after some of these people when there is work in Bowen and in the cane fields. Everyone is struggling to find jobs—I realise that—but there may be some opportunities for these people to have a go as well. It is good to make sure that we look after our own. They are not just my own; these people are all throughout Queensland as well and they have made a big contribution to the Queensland cane fields. It is not a big ask to give a little bit back.

### **Jordan Electorate, Queensland Day Awards**



**Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.34 am): Queensland Day is an opportunity to recognise and honour remarkable Queenslanders whose significant contributions have enriched our great state. The Jordan electorate is home to many inspiring individuals and community groups worthy of recognition for their outstanding achievements. It was with this in mind that I created the 'Jordan Greats—Queensland Day Awards'. With the seat of Jordan established in last year's state redistribution, it was also a fantastic way to better understand and acknowledge the amazing individual and community organisations within our very new electorate.

I am pleased to say that the community really embraced these awards, with a fantastic number of nominations, making the judging particularly difficult in the three categories of 'individual', 'young person' and 'community group'. Alas, there can only be one winner in each category and, on the eve of Queensland Day, I was pleased to announce the worthy recipients.

The Individual Award recipient is local philanthropist and businessman Terry Slaughter. Terry has been a massive contributor in the Jordan electorate. He is extremely active in his generous support of local charities, schools and community groups. Through his local business, Terry is well known for providing food vouchers for people in need through his partnership with Westside Community Care.

The Young Person Award recipient is tennis champion Ashleigh Barty. Many would not know that Ashleigh is a local Springfield girl and an obvious choice for the 'Jordan Greats' award. Few young people in our electorate have achieved as much as this superstar tennis champ. With plenty of wins along the way, 22-year-old Ashleigh has become a household name—currently placed 17th in the WTA rankings, inching ever closer to her career goal of achieving a top 10 ranking.

Finally, I was pleased to see the Community Group Award go to local community advocates Gales Community House. Gales Community House, now in its 16th year, provides services to the people of Gales and the surrounding area by promoting a safe and welcoming environment, offering programs, activities and services. This group of amazing volunteers assists the community to band together, get to know their neighbours and encourage social connection, developing a positive and well-connected suburb of Gales in the Jordan electorate.

I look forward to presenting each of the worthy winners with specially engraved 'Jordan Greats' medallions and, for Gales Community House, a particularly special presentation for their upcoming 16th birthday celebrations on 30 June. I look forward to continuing these very special awards for our electorate and I am confident that next year's 'Jordan Greats' will be just as worthy as this year's wonderful recipients.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Just before we conclude, I thank Hansard and all of our chamber attendants, table staff and assistant clerks for their great work this week.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.38 am (Saturday).

## **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, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson