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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 5 September 2018

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WEDNESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

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

PETITIONS

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

Abortion Bill

Mr Knuth, from 25 petitioners, requesting the House to vote against the abortion bill [\[1283\]](#).

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

House Sales, Solar Panels

From 155 petitioners, requesting the House to alter real estate legislation such that every free standing house sale cannot be finalised until solar panels and storage batteries sufficient for the number of people who might be able to live in that house are installed and operable [\[1284\]](#).

Wood-Burning Appliances

From 44 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use of all combustion stoves and heaters, all garden fire pits and heating implements in cities throughout Queensland [\[1285\]](#).

Voluntary Assisted Dying

From 506 petitioners, requesting the House to bring in voluntary euthanasia legislation [\[1286\]](#).

Citizen Initiated Referendums

From 121 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate for the introduction of binding citizen initiated referenda similar to referenda available in California, Switzerland and New Zealand [\[1287\]](#).

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Skilling Queenslanders for Work



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): My government backs jobs for Queenslanders and we back programs that give Queenslanders the skills they need to get into work. That is why in 2015 I made a commitment to restore Skilling Queenslanders for Work—the program scrapped by those opposite, even though a Deloitte report showed the program delivered an economic return of \$8 for every \$1 spent.


When I announced the program I said that we would support 32,000 people over four years. Queenslanders know that I keep my word and I deliver on my promises. I am pleased to report that we have successfully met our commitment to support more than 32,000 Queenslanders, and we have done it 10 months ahead of schedule. This job-creating initiative makes a real difference to people's futures and helps them secure long-term employment. It plays a critical role in increasing workforce participation by providing work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders, and it has been a huge success throughout Queensland. This is why we have committed an extra \$180 million over the next three years. That is an investment of \$180 million to give Queenslanders the skills to take the jobs we are continuing to grow.

This initiative has helped people like Michael from Cairns. Michael was unemployed, financially stressed and experiencing mental health issues after sustaining a brain injury. He participated in Skilling Queenslanders for Work through Envision. With the support of the program's wraparound support,

Michael gained employment at a local resort. Michael said that without Skilling Queenslanders for Work he would never have dared to dream that he could be where he is today. A mum on the Sunshine Coast came into the program unsure of what direction she wanted to take with her career. She participated in a Skilling Queenslanders for Work project run by the Maroochydore Chamber of Commerce. With a passion for working with troubled kids, she got a traineeship role with SunnyKids. She is over the moon to get a start in her new career thanks to Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

These are just a couple of the remarkable stories we are hearing from people involved in the program. Without this program many would still be unemployed today. We know that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is delivering long-term benefits. A survey of participants who completed the program in 2016 has recently been completed. The survey found that more than 73 per cent of participants were employed or engaged in further study at the time of the survey. This is a program that is kicking goals, which does make you wonder why those opposite scrapped it in the first place.

State Schools, Class Sizes

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): One of my government's top priorities is to give all of our children a great start in life. One of the best ways we can give school-age children a great start is to keep class sizes down. This helps to improve learning opportunities, which in turn leads to our students achieving better results.


I am pleased to report that class size targets in Queensland state schools have improved again this year. Every year our schools are allocated teaching staff to form class sizes within agreed targets. These are: 25 students per class for prep to year 3 and years 11 and 12; and 28 students per class for years 4 to 10. This year's class size data, to be released today, shows that the vast majority of classes in Queensland state schools are well within these agreed targets. In 2018, 93 per cent of state primary school classes and 97 per cent of state secondary school classes achieved the agreed class size targets. I am also pleased to report that, of the classes which were over target this year, the majority were over by just one or two students.

While class size targets do not represent a maximum or a ceiling to be enforced, my government has consistently improved performance against those targets. In 2015, just 88 per cent of primary school classes and 94 per cent of secondary school classes were meeting the agreed targets. We have been able to achieve these results by hiring more teachers in Queensland state schools, unlike the LNP. We went to the election last year with a commitment to employ 3,700 additional teachers over four years. Already we have hired an additional 1,000 teachers, and we are seeing the benefits in improved class sizes. My government will continue to put Queensland students first. We will continue to employ more teachers and more teacher aides and keep class sizes on target.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Hear, hear! I will take that interjection.

Sports Men and Women

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Queensland has been blessed over the years with its ability to produce sporting superstars—

Mrs Frecklington: Oh, here we go!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, Leader of the Opposition, I am going to talk about our Queensland sports stars because that is what good premiers do.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Kawana, you will direct your comments through the chair. If I hear any repeat of those cross-chamber quarrels, as I mentioned earlier, there will be action today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are women and men whose feats in the sporting arena excite, entertain and inspire us and who deservedly earn a special place in our hearts. We love seeing them in action and watching them perform. Johnathan Thurston, Sam Thaiday and Laura Geitz are three such superstars. Their names are synonymous with sporting performance and achievement of the very highest standard. Unfortunately, sporting careers must come to an end at some point, and that is also true for the great ones. I cannot remember a similar occasion when the conclusion of three such high-profile careers has come at the same time, accentuating the very real sense of loss involved.

Today on behalf of Queenslanders I pay tribute to JT, Sam and Laura. For all they have done and for all they have achieved, we say congratulations. For all they have given, we say thank you. We wish JT, Sam and Laura and their families all the best for the future.

Though the curtain has come down on the careers of these three sporting greats, there is one thing for certain: there will always be another Queenslanders to follow in their footsteps. Queensland is a virtual production line when it comes to sporting talents and triumphs. We saw the latest evidence of this only yesterday with John Millman's stunning win over the legendary Roger Federer in the US Open. Showing the tenacity that he is renowned for, John played brilliant tennis to defeat Federer in four sets. We wish him all the very best in his next match tomorrow. I am sure all Queenslanders join me in wishing him the best for that match. It is wonderful to see another Queenslanders rising to the occasion on the world sporting stage.


An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It appears they do not like this.

An honourable member: What about Jeff Horn?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We back Jeff as well. We love Jeff as well. It is wonderful to see another Queenslanders rising to the occasion on the world sporting stage, doing our state proud. We wish him all the very best.

North Queensland, Infrastructure Funding

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): Yesterday we got the news that the people of Townsville and North Queensland have been waiting on for more than a year. The current Prime Minister made the announcement that the Commonwealth would finally stump up their \$75 million share to widen the port of Townsville, as the Premier advised the House yesterday.

A government member: Finally.

Ms TRAD: Finally. The contribution matches the commitment that the Palaszczuk government made in last year's budget and the federal opposition's election commitment of some time ago. This is the biggest investment project in the port's history. Its importance cannot be overstated. It is a critical part of the Townsville City Deal agreed between all three levels of government back in 2016. I am genuinely pleased that the Prime Minister has finally agreed to allocate funds to this city deal project of great significance.

North Queensland is the economic powerhouse of northern Australia. With Townsville located so close to emerging Asian markets, there is huge potential for growth. Townsville is the country's largest sugar, zinc, lead, copper and fertiliser port and northern Australia's largest container and automotive port. From Townsville, North Queensland products are shipped right around the world.

The \$193 million project involves the widening of the shipping channel to accommodate larger ships, attracting more exports and imports and making it more economical to ship directly to northern Australia. That means fewer trucks from Brisbane to North Queensland and more local jobs for Townsville. Additionally, this will mean opening the port up to larger cruise ships, stimulating the tourism industry across the broader region and bringing more customers to Townsville's shops, cafes and hotels.

This project will comply with all of the new environmental protection laws governing port developments along the Great Barrier Reef coastline. Of course, as I mentioned, this funding has been a long time coming. Let us be clear: this is not new money; it is just a reallocation of some of the money allocated to Townsville at the last federal election by then prime minister Malcolm Turnbull. On the eve of the next federal election, with a new Prime Minister, at least some of the money that was promised to the north at the last federal election might actually get spent. Unfortunately, waiting for action has become a hallmark of this federal government. Unfortunately, Queenslanders are used to fighting for and also waiting for our fair share. State governments should not have to kick and scream to get their fair share—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, I have already warned the member for Kawana today about those kinds of interjections.

Ms TRAD: I am not sure why the member for Maroochydore hates Townsville so much.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that offensive and untrue and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, do you withdraw?

Ms TRAD: I withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms Jones: Something's up with them.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the member for Cooper. I do think something is up with them. I think it is about internal divisions within the LNP which we know have played out federally. They will continue to be played out.

This state government will always put the interests of Queenslanders first. We will always fight for the north's fair share. While we have funding relief—


An opposition member interjected.

Ms TRAD: They just do not like it, do they?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. It is not being helped by continued commentary.

Ms TRAD: While we have finally got funding relief on the Townsville port, we know that there are many more examples where Queensland is being short-changed and our government has had to step in and fill the gap. We will continue to fight for Queensland's fair share from Canberra, each and every day leading to the next federal election. I am proud to be part of a government that acts on the things that Queenslanders care about, that fights for what matters, so that we can make our state stronger, fairer and better.

Defence Industries

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): The Palaszczuk government is joining a new fight for more defence jobs for Queensland. The formal request for tender for Land 400 phase 3, estimated to be worth between \$10 billion and \$15 billion, is now open. As I said yesterday, I was not supported by those members opposite to travel to Adelaide to make Queensland's case directly to the decision-makers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I have called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: As I have said on many occasions, we work; they whinge.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, as I have expressed earlier, it would be helpful for the order of the House to not have commentary which is inflaming the opposition. These are ministerial statements.


Mr DICK: We have called for reinforcements and Rheinmetall Defence Australia has answered our call. Last Tuesday a giant Antonov cargo carrier flew into Adelaide from Germany, bringing with it the Lynx KF41, Rheinmetall's newly developed infantry fighting vehicle. Our goal is to see these Lynx vehicles rolling off the production line at the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence that the Palaszczuk government is building at Redbank, potentially bringing hundreds of additional highly skilled jobs to Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government brought Rheinmetall to Queensland. With our support, they won the \$5.2 billion Land 400 phase 2 project for the new combat reconnaissance vehicle, the Boxer. Momentum is continuing to build in this new industry. Just last month Queensland companies secured more work to build truck trailers for the Australian Army through the \$1.4 billion Land 121 5B contract.

The Palaszczuk government's 10-year road map and action plan for defence industries is winning the battle to deliver jobs for Queenslanders. Today I am pleased to announce that we are ramping up our efforts even further with a Queensland first: the establishment of a ministerial advisory council on defence industry and jobs, and two regionally focused boards for the north and south of the state. I know that it will be welcomed by the members representing the Townsville area that the northern board will be based around Townsville. They will provide strategic advice on developing Queensland's

defence industries and help attract further investment. They will identify local supply gaps and ensure suppliers right across Queensland have the chance to position themselves to tap into this growing market. These new expert advisory committees will ensure we continue to strengthen Queensland's reputation as a defence manufacturing powerhouse and further our state's position as Australia's natural home for defence.

Tourism Industry, Infrastructure

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.48 am): Today I am proud to reveal that we have already received 88 applications for funding through our brand-new \$36 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund. This is an overwhelming response that goes to show that the industry was hungry for infrastructure funding to build new tourism attractions across Queensland. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering industry programs for tourism infrastructure in Queensland—a first of its kind in our state.

Time is running out for potential applicants as they only have until Friday to submit their final proposals. Applicants include councils, local tourism operators and developers—all applying to build new tourism attractions to build the industry right across Queensland. We are looking for applications to match government support with a minimum \$1 million commitment.


In addition, we have also had strong interest in our \$10 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund, with 13 organisations applying for funding so far. Tourism is one of outback Queensland's fastest growing industries and I know that the Premier in particular is very passionate about growing this industry across the outback. Our \$36 million fund, designed to increase Queensland's share of the international tourism market, is part of more than \$180 million we have invested in tourism over the next two years. Excitingly, we know that many of these applications for the new tourism infrastructure funding are projects outside of South-East Queensland. This is yet another example of the Palaszczuk government listening to industry and working with business to grow jobs.

Australian Transplant Games; Organ Donation

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): It is less than a month to go until the Australian Transplant Games get underway on the Gold Coast. The Palaszczuk government is pleased to sponsor this fantastic event, supporting Transplant Australia with \$400,000 in funding. The Transplant Games are an opportunity to celebrate the ongoing story of organ donation long after the scars have healed. We are expecting around 700 people to take part in this important event, including organ and tissue transplant recipients, those on dialysis, donor families, living donors and supporters. The games will be held on the Gold Coast from 30 September to 6 October this year and you can attend the official launch right here at parliament tomorrow to show your support.

I also want to take this opportunity to encourage all members in the House to promote the importance of organ donation to their communities. In 2017, 105 organ donors in Queensland saved the lives of 297 Australians, with a further 23 lives saved by living kidney donors. While these statistics are fantastic, there is more work to be done to encourage all Queenslanders to have a conversation with their loved ones and officially register to be an organ and tissue donor. Almost 80 per cent of Queenslanders say they would donate their organs, but only 28 per cent have registered their decision. Registering your organ donation decision is absolutely vital. We know that nine out of 10 families consent if their loved one is officially registered. Sadly, that figure drops to four out of 10 families consenting simply because they were not registered and they do not know their loved one's wishes. Registering is quick and easy. Head to donatelife.gov.au. It only takes 60 seconds and all you need is your Medicare card. Every single Queenslanders has the power to make a difference and to save lives through opting in for donation and every member here has that same power by promoting the importance of organ donation in their local communities.

Gold Coast, GPS Tracking Devices

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.52 am): A very angry Police Commissioner has told me that recent claims about GPS trackers on the Gold Coast are wrong, ridiculous and reckless.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr RYAN: I will take those interjections because they are interjecting on advice from the Police Commissioner. It shows their respect for our Police Service!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I have spoken to two previous ministers this morning about bringing those things on. I would suggest that you get on with the ministerial statement. I am keeping the House in order.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. The minister was not being inflammatory or provocative in his ministerial statement.

Mr SPEAKER: I was not suggesting he was, Deputy Premier.


Ms TRAD: The heckling from those opposite was unparliamentary and he was responding to that.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, thank you. I have just provided some guidance to the minister. As I have said on previous occasions, these are ministerial statements. However, I will not tolerate unruly and disorderly behaviour in the House and I am dealing with that.

Mr RYAN: Police Commissioner Ian Stewart says the GPS tracking system in place on the Gold Coast is world class and represents best practice, and that is why it is used by many public safety agencies internationally. The commissioner has also confirmed yet again that the trackers are monitored in real time every second of every day. That is not an opinion. It is not a claim. It is a fact. If someone with a tracker attached to them ventures into a no-go zone or breaches a curfew or tampers with their tracker, an alert is immediately sent to police. The commissioner says if an alert of this type is raised police act swiftly, within minutes. The commissioner has also confirmed that if a Gold Coast based magistrate orders a tracker for a person then that tracker can be delivered to the court within hours if the court requires it.

Let us be clear, because the Bail Act is clear. It is only after a court has granted bail that consideration of a tracker takes place. In other words, these people will be on bail regardless. What our government has done is introduce an extra layer of monitoring of people if the court determines they need it. The laws that support these procedures began in March this year. The key point about all of this is that the extra layer of monitoring of offenders on bail never existed before then. This government's priority is making Queensland a safer place. That is why we gave the courts this additional monitoring option when releasing offenders back into the community.

Jobs


 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.55 am): Since 2015, 164,500 jobs have been created in Queensland. We have well and truly turned around the fortunes of Queensland when under the LNP 14,000 public servants were sacked and key job programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work were axed. We have proven that with our investment in employment and training Queensland can power the nation's employment growth. For more than 20 months in a row we have seen positive employment growth in our state. We have powered this growth with programs like Back to Work. With more than \$175 million in this year's budget, we will continue Back to Work until 30 June 2020 and continue to support local employers with the confidence to grow and create jobs through Back to Work. Almost 16,000 jobs have been supported under this program.

Through our Advancing Queensland Priorities the Palaszczuk government has committed to directly supporting more than 60,000 jobs every year, and we are well on our way thanks to the ongoing investment in this year's budget. The Palaszczuk government has delivered on our election commitments to boost Skilling Queenslanders for Work—and we have heard today from the Premier about how successful that program is—and of course to continue Back to Work, both programs slated for the chopping block under the LNP's election costings. We have also laid out \$45 billion in productivity enhancing capital works over the next four years. The \$11.6 billion alone is estimated to directly support 38,000 jobs. Investments over the four years include flagship projects such as Cross River Rail, the Cairns Convention Centre, upgrades to the M1 and the Townsville stadium. We are going to make sure it is Queenslanders continuing to fill these jobs.

This year TAFE has once again worked with the Queensland government to offer the Advance Queensland—TAFE Queensland Pathways Scholarships program. It is a two-year, \$300,000 initiative designed to encourage students to complete both a TAFE Queensland qualification and a university study in STEM related careers that includes nursing, engineering, science and technology. These are

skills that we know Queenslanders will need to fill the jobs of the future. Whether it is TAFE scholarships, free TAFE, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees or Back to Work grants, the Palaszczuk government is making sure Queenslanders have the training opportunities and skills to get the jobs we are creating right here in Queensland.

Renewable Energy


 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.58 am): Queensland is on track to deliver on our 50 per cent renewables target by 2030. We are an energy powerhouse with one of the highest penetrations of rooftop solar in the world—half a million households with almost 2,000 megawatts of clean energy capacity for their own use and exporting excess to the grid. One in three Queensland households has a solar system installed. This is a direct result of the Palaszczuk government policies creating an environment that has allowed the renewable industry in Queensland to flourish. Small-scale systems installed by households and businesses in Queensland currently represent in the order of \$2 billion worth of private investment. This investment is delivering more than 2,500 ongoing full-time jobs here in this state.

The Palaszczuk government is also helping make solar and battery systems more affordable for families by providing interest-free loans and grants. Successful applicants can save \$2,450 off their power bills over seven years while at the same time having paid off that loan. Loans and grants for battery storage will be available from late this year to all Queensland households. We currently have \$4.3 billion worth of renewable projects either underway or financially committed. We have our new publicly owned third generator, CleanCo.

This morning we read in the newspapers that the pro-nuclear lobby is predicting the sky falling on costs because of renewables. Let me assure Queensland families, businesses and industry that this is not so. Respected finance news agency Bloomberg produces an annual long-term analysis of the future of the global electricity system. Their head of global energy economics says this about their latest analysis, 'The future electricity system will reorganise around cheap renewables.'

In Queensland, that transition will be supported by the nation's youngest fleet of efficient coal-fired power stations. Last year, our Queensland renewable energy panel reported that our 50 per cent target is projected to place continuing downward pressure on electricity prices. That is just continuing the trend. I note also this morning that St Vincent de Paul's latest quarterly report into Queensland's energy prices tells us that electricity prices in the Sunshine State are down an average 7.5 per cent since last year. Canberra should come to Queensland for a lesson on energy policy. We have a clean, consistent, stable policy that benefits families, businesses and industry throughout Queensland.

Teachers

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.01 am): Queensland teachers are world-class educators. Every day in classrooms right across the state Queensland teachers work hard to give our students the very best start in life. The Palaszczuk government firmly believes that teaching is a highly valued profession. Already, we have employed an extra 1,000 in our schools throughout Queensland. We went to the last election with a commitment to raise the status of the teaching profession, because we believe that teachers deserve to be recognised and acknowledged for their hard work and professionalism. We want them to have career development opportunities and they deserve to be remunerated accordingly.

Last week, I was pleased to visit Jindalee State School with the member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh, to announce one of the biggest reforms for Queensland teachers in decades. From 2019, we will introduce two new teaching classifications—Highly Accomplished Teacher and Lead Teacher—with the opportunity to earn around \$112,000 and \$122,000 per year respectively. Until now, the only career pathways for aspirational teachers were to pursue administration and leadership roles. These classifications are about giving our teachers a genuine career pathway that will see our best educators stay in the classroom. It shows that Queensland is an employer of choice for teachers.


The Palaszczuk government is proud to acknowledge the great work of Queensland's teachers and school leaders. We have already trialled the program in Far North and North Coast education regions. So far, 30 Highly Accomplished and three Lead Teachers have been accredited, with more to come. The first cohort will now be paid from 1 July 2018.

At Jindalee State School I met with three teachers who have already been accredited: Lead Teacher Susan Scott from Chevallum State School on the Sunshine Coast and Highly Accomplished Teachers, Dwayne Rees and Helen Hamilton, from Murrumba Secondary College. We have partnered

with the Queensland College of Teachers to provide the national certification process aligned to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. These rigorous national standards recognise high-performing teaching across the domains of professional knowledge, practice and engagement.

From 2019, all teachers throughout the state will be eligible to apply for these new teaching classifications. The Department of Education and the Queensland College of Teachers will be running workshops to provide further information to those interested in applying. I encourage Queensland teachers to reflect on their personal practice and consider applying if they believe they are ready for this next professional challenge. This is a great outcome. It delivers on our commitment to let teachers teach and further recognises the important and professional work of our very best teachers.

Child Protection Week

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.04 am): Last Thursday, it was my absolute pleasure to attend the official launch of Child Protection Week 2018. Before I go any further, I want to acknowledge the incredible work of Anna Nolan, the chair of the Child Protection Week Committee, and her committee members for their tireless efforts in ensuring that this important week, which runs until Sunday, can showcase all that is important in the child protection space.

In child protection, we see aspects of the human condition that the average person could never envisage. Whether it is foster and kinship carers, those who work for non-government organisations, or our incredible Child Safety staff, day in and day out these people saddle up again, facing hardship, facing tragedy, looking disadvantage in the face and saying, 'I need to do something about that.' As the minister, it has been humbling to meet many of these quite simply amazing people and I pay tribute to them.

There are about 84,000 children known to Child Safety at any given time. We are distressed if they are harmed, but we are also deeply committed to doing our best for them. That is why, at almost the half-way mark of implementing the Carmody child and family reforms, it is so pleasing to look at our data and see that we are starting to make an impact. We have invested over \$556 million into implementing bold and transformational reforms. We have added more than 450 staff over three state budgets. Although these things do not happen overnight, we have seen seven consecutive quarters of improvement on key measures, including our response times to the most urgent cases—that is those that need to be responded to within 24 hours—which is the best result since 2009.

Our caseloads are down to 17.4. We have grown our foster and kinship carer numbers. More than 5,000 foster and kinship carers have opened their hearts and their homes to make a difference to vulnerable children. We have created groundbreaking IT solutions to better connect children in care, carers and child safety officers, including Carer Connect, which is the brand-new app that I launched last week that will better support carers and children in care. The focus of everyone working in child protection remains squarely on the children. We continue to strive to give every Queensland child, no matter their background, the best possible start in life.

Among many things, Child Protection Week is an opportunity for services and individuals to come together, share knowledge and make connections. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge great work. I can tell members that it is very hard to give someone working in this sector a compliment, because they just want to get on with things. In that context, I want to make special mention of the wonderful Kay McGrath, to whom I had the great pleasure of presenting a Child Protection Week Award last week. She has done so much to spread the word about child safety and about it being everyone's responsibility. I am sure that I can speak on behalf of all in this House in using the occasion of Child Protection Week to thank all of the amazing people who work in our sector. To all of them I say, 'You are so appreciated.'

Rural Economic Development Grants


 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.07 am): During the estimates committee hearing I pledged that agricultural businesses would be able to apply for Rural Economic Development grants by August. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is delivering for our regions. The \$10 million RED grants scheme is funded over three years and will create local jobs and be a real boost for rural and regional agricultural businesses that are part of our supply chain.

The RED grants are now open for expressions of interest from applicants. The scheme will provide grants of up to \$250,000 to be matched by the applicant for shovel-ready projects that will create regional employment. The scheme is open to applicants including businesses of fewer than 200

employees, primary producers, higher education institutions, local governments, agricultural industry organisations and other entities with investment ideas that will support the economic development of rural and regional Queensland.

Round 1 opened on 24 August 2018 and expressions of interest close on 26 October 2018. Additional rounds will be announced over a three-year period ending 30 June 2021. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit an expression of interest outlining the development plan to the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. QRIDA is administering the RED grants scheme and will review those expressions of interest and then invite successful applicants to submit a formal application against key criteria as part of a competitive process. The types of activities that can be funded under the scheme include investment in new technologies and innovations that enhance productivity, investments that value-add to agriculture or develop new markets, or assist business development or expansion, provided that such investment will create employment. The RED grants program is a further demonstration of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to creating jobs in a strong economy and increasing private sector investment in rural and regional Queensland.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Resources

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.09 am): I am pleased to put on the record that the first 25 of 100 new firefighter positions have been filled according to QFES's operational priorities as part of this government's commitment to growing our firefighting ranks. I advise the House that 11 new firefighter positions have been allocated to the north coast region, with five firefighters being stationed on the Sunshine Coast, four in Maryborough and two in Bundaberg. Another five are allocated to Toowoomba in the south-western region and one to Cairns in the Far North. I am advised that those positions have already been filled internally. I can also advise that the northern region will be bolstered by the arrival of eight brand new firefighters—seven of those to Townsville and one to Charters Towers—once they graduate from a recruit course in December.


Regional centres across Queensland are continuing to grow so it is only fitting that more front-line firefighting staff are sent to these areas to meet future demand. Those additional firefighters will go a long way towards bolstering our firefighter front line and we will continue working with the QFES Commissioner, Katarina Carroll, and other stakeholders regarding the deployment of the remaining positions, including firefighters and fire communications officers.

As I have outlined, eight of these new firefighters are currently taking part in a course with another 24 recruits who will bolster the QFES ranks in regional areas in positions vacated by attrition. Last week I spent some time with the 32 recruits and even took part in live fire drill training just like they will undergo throughout their training course at Lytton's Combined Emergency Services Academy. I congratulated the new recruits on being chosen from nearly 300 applicants. Almost all were existing auxiliaries, as you were once yourself, Mr Speaker. I reminded them why they should be very proud of the path they have chosen to protect the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

During their 78 days of training those recruits will hone their skills in the way Queensland manages live fire behaviour, wildfire, road crash rescue, technical rescue and hazardous materials. They will graduate in December and will take up positions throughout regional Queensland, including Charters Towers, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Maryborough, Bundaberg and Ipswich. QFES expects the highest standards from our firefighters and this latest intake will help these communities prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergencies.

HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 10 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 20 March 2018 and 1 May 2018*. This report covers the Health Legislation (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2018. I thank the committee for its work on this report, which is our sixth report on subordinate legislation in this parliament.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 10, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 20 March 2018 and 1 May 2018 [[1288](#)].

The amendment regulation is a very important regulation to enable the sharing of information by Queensland Health with front-line emergency workers through the Interagency Computer Aided Dispatch Electronic Messaging System, or ICEMS. The sharing of this information enables our police, ambulance and emergency services workers to access health information, which can be critical to safely and effectively resolving emergency incidents, to keep Queenslanders safe and secure. I take this opportunity to thank our front-line emergency services staff for their work and commend the committee's report to the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Domestic and Family Violence, Public Service Leave Provisions



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House—

1. notes the Palaszczuk Labor government's policy to give 10 extra days of taxpayer funded leave per year to perpetrators of domestic and family violence; and
2. calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to scrap its absurd policy that perversely rewards perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.14 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I recently met with Louise and Nerida, mums who are concerned because a treatment bed was not available for kids going through chemotherapy at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. Why is the Premier preoccupied with the name on the outside of the building rather than making sure our sickest kids have the best treatment facilities possible?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. From the outset can I say that my government is investing record money into health, unlike those opposite who cut and slashed services.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, this is your record. I am glad the Leader of the Opposition has asked that question because under the former government we saw cuts to front-line staff and sacking of nurses and midwives.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left! Order! I could barely hear the Premier's response. I want to hear the response to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We value the work of our nurses and our front-line staff to give the best possible treatment they can to families right across the state. That is why we have in this state a state-of-the-art Queensland children's hospital. I do not know the details of that particular case. I am more than happy for the minister to have a look into that case. We will always back our health professionals. There is no starker contrast than a government that backs their front-line health personnel with those that cut and sack their front-line health personnel.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite cut 1,800 nurses across this state.

Ms Jones: And midwives.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And midwives. We are restoring them with a record budget of over \$18 billion this financial year. Recently I was up in the Torres Strait talking to the families there about the needs of their health services. I have been to Longreach where we are putting in place new diagnostic machines to help those people.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South!

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is probably not a day that goes by that I do not see a chopper that is going in to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms Trad: So juvenile.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. It is juvenile. We are talking about a serious matter and those opposite are laughing. What you will see from this side of the House, from a Labor government, is investment in health services across the state. What you will see from those opposite is cutting and slashing and not putting families first, not putting Queenslanders first, not caring about the health needs of Queenslanders. That is their track record. I will back our track record against their track record every day of the week.

(Time expired)

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women. Why has the minister for women not uttered a single word to defend Phyllis Cilento—a great Queensland woman who smashed the glass ceiling for women doctors in Queensland, was Queenlander of the year and was made a life member of the AMA—from attacks to destroy her legacy by ripping down her name in Queensland's public hospital?

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am sorry, Minister; resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will refer to members by their correct title. I am sick of warning members about this. There are electorates represented in this House and members will be referred to by their correct title.

Ms FARMER: I thank the honourable member for her question. The member will be aware that the request for consideration of a name change for the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was actually raised by doctors. Nine hundred doctors signed a petition—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms FARMER: If doctors say to our government that they are concerned about this issue as it actually reflects some lack of awareness in the community about the appropriate place for children to go, we listen to doctors. However, I am absolutely amazed that a member of the LNP would challenge this government on our regard for women in this state. We are talking—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under standing orders. That is the third time today you have directly tried to address another member in this House.

Ms FARMER: Do the names Julia Banks and Jane Prentice strike any chords with the people over there?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, it sounds like a squabble.

Ms FARMER: Theirs is the party that, at the federal level, has women leaching out of its very core. Those women are cathartically telling the media about how they are bullied and about how disrespectfully they are treated in the party, yet those opposite have the gall to challenge this government over our regard for women and the achievements of women.

Six female members sit on the other side of this parliament. This government has a female premier, a female deputy premier and 50 per cent of the caucus and 50 per cent of the cabinet are women. In 2015, when we took over from those opposite, 31 per cent of government boards were made up of women—31 per cent. We have set a target of 50 per cent representation, and do members know what? Now we are at 47 per cent, because we say that women deserve the same place and the same respect and have the same value in society. People on that side have no basis on which to come to me or anyone else in this government and say that we do not hold women in the highest regard.

Queensland Economy

Mr PEGG: My question without notice is to the Premier.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member; resume your seat. Who just spoke up then? Member for Logan, you are warned under standing orders. A question is being asked and I expect it to be heard in silence.

Mr PEGG: Will the Premier update the House on progress towards meeting the government's economic policy agenda and of any developments regarding the new federal government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Stretton for that very important question, because, of course, on this side of the House we are about growing the economy to ensure that we have more jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders. However, in Canberra we see something different. We have to fight every step of the way to get our fair share for Queensland. That is very clear when we look at the amount of funding going to New South Wales, for example. Basically, they get \$2 of taxpayers' money compared to our \$1 when it comes to the infrastructure spend. I am absolutely disappointed that that is the case. While I would expect that something different would start to emerge, we know that is not the case. Recently, the newly appointed Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg—

An honourable member: Josh.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I know him. Josh Frydenberg has decided to seek out an old-time mentor, someone to whom he can call out so that they can think about their future economic direction. That person is Peter Costello. We know that Peter Costello is also a good friend of the state LNP.

Mr Dick: A very good friend.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He is a very good friend. In fact, they are close friends, because the member for Clayfield, the former treasurer, enlisted his good mate Peter Costello at great expense to Queensland taxpayers.

Mr Dick: He was a great mentor.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He was a great mentor, but it was at great expense to Queensland taxpayers as he was asked to do the Commission of Audit. We know what the federal government is going to do, because we saw the playbook when the state LNP used Peter Costello. The federal government will do the same thing: there will be a commission of audit, which means cuts and asset sales. That is exactly what it means. Watch this space. Watch the federal Treasurer. It is the same recipe from the LNP: the cut, the sack and the sell. That is exactly what we are going to see.

Can we expect more from the new federal Treasurer who is enlisting his good mate Peter Costello, just as the member for Clayfield and the member for Nanango did when they were in office? We will see nothing different to what we saw then. In conclusion, we look forward to seeing the federal commission of audit. They will want to sell the assets. They will cut the Public Service. They will sack workers. It is in their DNA: cut, sack and sell.

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. With Labor's plan to change the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital apparently a done deal, will the Premier tell the House how much a name change will cost the Queensland taxpayer—a move that is all about politics and not about patient care?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Everton for the question. As we know, this proposal came from the doctors and nurses. There was a petition and an online survey. The minister will consider that over the next couple of weeks. No decision has been made. However, on this side of the House we listen to the doctors and nurses. The member for Everton would clearly remember the doctors dispute. Does he remember the meetings at the Pineapple Hotel? We know that they are no friends of the doctors. They sacked nurses.

Ms Trad: Dr Rowan was involved in that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: we can ask the member for Moggill, as he was part of it. He knows all about it. Let us be realistic in terms of some of the arguments that the doctors are putting forward. One is that they need the name 'Queensland children's hospital' in order to get funding internationally—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Once again, they are dismissing the doctors' advice. It is no wonder that they are all sitting on that side of the House. The way that they treated the health system and the health professionals when in government was a complete and utter disgrace. Once again, they do not want to listen to logic or reason. They come in here and attack the Minister for Women about Lady Cilento, but what is happening in their own LNP? They hate women.

Ms Trad: They bully them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: they bully them and they intimidate them. Good on Julia Banks. She has left. She has seen the light. She does not need to put up with it. She can earn more in the corporate world. They will be coming after the member for Nanango next. Watch that space. She will not be there for long. She will be taking her orders from Gary Spence.

Ms Trad: I don't think the LNP women will be lining up to support her either.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We still do not know whether there is going to be a conscience vote. There is no leadership there. She says, 'I don't know.' She will have to take advice. She will talk to Gary Spence.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members! I am having difficulty hearing the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Nanango will consult with all of the males about whether or not there will be a conscience vote. She cannot get up in this House, cannot go and confront a media conference, cannot answer the question.

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I have asked for silence, Leader of the Opposition.

Climate Change

Mr HEALY: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on her government's policies to tackle climate change? Is the Premier aware of any alternative strategies?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for the question. On this side of the House we know that climate change is real. We acknowledge that. We know that there is science around it. For example, we know how important the Great Barrier Reef is for tourism. I know that the member for Cairns actually came from the tourism industry into this House, and I am so glad he did. We know how much the Great Barrier Reef supports tourism in our state.

We are seeing at the moment, especially at the federal level, that when it comes to issues around national energy policy one minute they say one thing and the next there is no national energy policy. There is no recognition anymore about climate change. We have farmers who are doing it tough on the land. They know that climate change is real. They say it publicly.

We have the situation at the moment with the LNP and the far right that they do not understand climate change. I even heard Andrew Bolt say the other night, when he was professing to be from the left, that we are getting fewer cyclones. I have had to deal with three in three years. We are getting more cyclones. We are seeing the impacts of drought and we are seeing the impacts on the Great Barrier Reef. They can put their heads in the sand about climate change—

Ms Trad: And the world is still flat.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We will actually look at the science, tackle the issues and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. That is what we intend to do. That is exactly what the new federal Treasurer was talking about when he went ahead with the NEG. He was recognising that we had to lower our carbon emissions.

It is very refreshing to see that when it comes to the Great Barrier Reef, the new Treasurer, the former minister for environment, does finally acknowledge climate change. It was in the foreword in the document released by Minister Leeanne Enoch and the Hon. Josh Frydenberg that this statement was said: 'We have made strong commitments to address global climate change.' There is one person in the LNP who finally believes in climate change—that is, the federal Treasurer.

We will be looking forward to seeing whether the state LNP and the federal LNP come into line and back the science behind what is a real issue confronting Queensland, confronting the nation and confronting the rest of the world. It is about time there was national leadership on this issue and it was not pushed to one side. It is about time those opposite stood up and said very clearly what they believe about climate change. We will do everything we can.

(Time expired)

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital survey allowed fraudulent multiple votes, did not even mention the name of the hospital and did not say how much the name change would actually cost. Will the minister explain how this is genuine consultation?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. We can understand why those opposite would be a little bit befuddled and a little bit confused about what is going on. We are doing two things they never once did. First of all, we are listening to the doctors. That is the first thing they never once did. The second thing they never once did was they never consulted Queenslanders. They have never in their life gone out and consulted Queenslanders. What are these people doing? It is so confusing.

That is not strictly speaking true. Former health minister Lawrence Springborg did consult Queenslanders on what the children's hospital should be called. Do you know what the outcome of that consultation was? The public said that it should be called the Queensland children's hospital. That is what the public said. That was the result of the consultation. Who decided to call it something else? They do not mention his name too often. Who decided to call it something else? Campbell Newman. It was Campbell Newman. Every day since then—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, that was a circuit-breaker stand-up. I was having great difficulty hearing the minister's contribution. I am very interested in his contribution, as I would hope those who asked the question would be.

Dr MILES: Would you like me to start over, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: No. You have two minutes remaining on the clock.

Dr MILES: I think the bit you could not hear, Mr Speaker, and the bit those opposite wanted to drown out with their interjections was that they did consult the public and the public said they wanted their new Queensland children's hospital called the Queensland children's hospital and Campbell Newman arbitrarily overruled it. Every day since then the doctors have said they want the name changed and every day since then those opposite have ignored them.

We listened to the petition. We asked the public. That public consultation has now closed. We are considering the outcome of that consultation. This is what good government decision-making looks like. That is another thing those opposite would find foreign. The member for Mudgeeraba asked about the system used for the survey—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you have been repeatedly interjecting on matters completely unrelated to the question asked. You are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: I am advised that the YouGov system has been in place for many years, including the three years those opposite were in power. If they were concerned about it as a consultation system they should have changed it. I note they did not use it very often though.

(Time expired)

Investment

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise how Queensland's competitiveness as a place to invest has been impacted by yesterday's South Australian budget? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any policy approaches in the budget that are applicable to Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question. I know that the member for Pine Rivers is a very strong advocate for small and medium size enterprises—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is not being inflammatory in any way with what she is saying. I would ask you to hear her response.

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question. I know that she is a very strong advocate for small and medium size enterprises within her community. I know that for them Queensland's tax competitiveness is a very important issue.

After the South Australian budget was delivered yesterday, I am pleased to report to the House that Queensland is still one of the most competitive places for small businesses, for all businesses, to invest. We are, on average, \$784 less than the national average in terms of taxation for each and every single Queenslanders. We pride ourselves on keeping our tax competitiveness right throughout the nation.

There are a number of other things in the South Australian budget that I do want to bring to the attention of the House because this is the first Liberal budget handed down in South Australia for some time. What we have seen is a lot of bad news for South Australians. There are very clearly some elements in the South Australian budget that would send shivers down the spines of Queenslanders. Let's go through them: 4,000 public servants sacked; TAFE campuses throughout the state closed; the plan to give year 10 students laptops scrapped; community grants for neighbourhood safety, for crime prevention, scrapped. This is what Liberal Party governments do.

This is what LNP governments do: 14,000 Queenslanders sacked; schools closed; community grants scrapped—not only grants were scrapped but also community organisations were gagged. At the last election what did we see from those opposite? We saw programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work axed, Works for Queensland axed and Back to Work axed. It does not matter the state and it does not matter the leader: they have the same playbook—cut, sack, sell. I note that Josh Frydenberg—the only bloke I know to be promoted by his colleagues in the LNP after failing the biggest policy agenda in the nation, the NEG—has turned to the architect of Queensland's cut, sack, sell agenda—Peter Costello. That means bad news for all Australians.

(Time expired)

Forde, Mr M

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to revelations that Michael Forde was a member of the Labor Party and actually ran as a Labor Party candidate.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you got it. Member for Capalaba, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, please begin your question again.

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to revelations that Michael Forde was a member of the Labor Party and actually ran as a Labor Party candidate. Was the Premier aware of Mr Forde's political background before his appointment to conduct the new generation rolling stock inquiry?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say from the outset that Michael Forde is a distinguished servant of Queensland. He has been an outstanding judicial officer. Everyone knows that when people are appointed to the judiciary they serve independently and impartially. He also conducted the tow truck inquiry. The opposition raised no issues about him doing that.

Mr Mander: He's a comrade!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. I believe that he will undertake his role in the same way he undertook his role as a judge when he served the state of Queensland.

Infrastructure, Federal Funding

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister advise what implications recent changes at a federal level will have on Queensland getting its fair share of federal infrastructure funding?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Jordan for her strong support of the State Infrastructure Plan, delivering almost \$46 billion over the forward estimates for Queensland. There are many implications for the changes that have happened in Canberra recently—none of them good for Queensland. One of the most immediate consequences was the leaking of the secret infrastructure list, the re-election list that the Liberal Party had put together.

Queenslanders were not surprised when they worked out that, once again, the federal coalition had completely duded Queensland. There was not one dollar for the single most important infrastructure project in Queensland—Cross River Rail. There was no money for the Rockhampton flood levee, designed to protect that community from flooding. They saw a rail line in Sydney being funded—yet another one. That is on top of \$5 billion for a rail line in Victoria without a business case and without an alignment. The federal coalition's descent from fracture to farce continues.

When he was elected, Scott Morrison said, 'We're on your side, Australia.' Didn't that have all the credibility of a loyalty pledge from Mathias Cormann? The federal coalition is about as chaotic and dishevelled as Mad Monday at the Bulldogs. George Christensen, keep your clothes on! A week is a long time in politics—and hasn't the federal coalition had two of their longest? Sadly, Australia has had two of their longest as well. In an Australian first, we had a leadership challenge that had never happened before where both the incumbent and the challenger lost. Only the federal coalition could deliver that. Federal coalition MPs complain of bullying and intimidation. They are told to eat concrete and harden up. That is what they get. That is what they think of women in the federal coalition party room.

Now we have the north Roseville branch convening a debate—not a debate about energy policy, climate change, tax policy, health funding, creating jobs and lifting wages. The single topic that the Roseville branch is debating is whether the coalition government is worth saving. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, dated 4 September 2018, titled 'Liberals host debate about whether the Coalition government is worth saving' [\[1289\]](#).

Save the dollars and cents of having a meeting. They are not worth saving. The only question for members opposite is: is the Leader of the Opposition worth saving? We know she has no authority and control. Everyone in this parliament knows that the member for Cleveland has more power and authority in that party room than the Leader of the Opposition, who is entirely in the thrall of the conservative hard right, entirely in the thrall of the extremist. She has no authority. She does not speak to the centre of Queensland politics and she does not speak for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Forde, Mr M

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that the Premier knew of Michael Forde's political background but did not disclose the clear conflict, how can Queenslanders have confidence in the inquiry when the Premier knowingly appointed a former candidate for her own party to conduct a politically charged review that now smacks of bias?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There were imputations in that question. The member's question was misleading in relation to the previous answer provided to the Premier as well.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am taking advice from the table. I ask you to please wait until we get the appropriate response. Member, I ask that you rephrase the question to ensure that it is—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are warned under the standing orders. I am giving direction and a ruling. Please rephrase the question to ensure that it is dealing with matters of fact, not matters of opinion.

Mr POWELL: Given that the political background of Michael Forde was known and not disclosed, how can Queenslanders have confidence in the inquiry when the Premier knowingly appointed a former candidate for her own party to conduct a politically charged review that now smacks of bias?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, if you have a disagreement with the question, you will wait till the question is finished before raising matters, not interrupt the questioner.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question from the member for Glass House clearly contains imputations. The Premier has never said that she was 'knowingly'—

Mr SPEAKER: Now you are debating the point, Minister.

Mr DICK:—aware so you cannot impute that.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are now debating the point. I ask you to resume your seat. Member, I think you have missed the mark on that occasion. I ask you to not refer to anyone's knowledge of matters—again, matters related to fact, not opinion.

Mr POWELL: Will the Premier now preserve its independence and remove Michael Forde to avoid any issue of bias or apprehended bias?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The answer is no. Michael Forde was appointed a judge in the District Court in 1995. He served for 15 years. Never has he been called into question for the way in which he has discharged his duties, and he will discharge his duties just in that manner when he does this.

Regional Queensland, Water Supply

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat please, member. Premier and member for Kawana, the question is being asked. It will be heard in silence.

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's steps towards regional Queensland water security, and is the minister aware of any initiatives on the federal government front?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. What absolute champions the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel have been for water infrastructure such as Rookwood Weir, with the local federal member riding on their coat tails. What an experience Rookwood Weir has been—dragging Canberra kicking and screaming to join us in funding Rookwood Weir.

Now I am starting to see a dam related trend. Every time there is some kind of crisis in Canberra someone brings up a dam. Leadership, energy policy, au pairs—find us a dam somewhere. Find us a dam. Canberra is lurching from crisis to crisis. At this rate Queensland will soon run out of rivers. But the money never flows. We get lots of words but no plans, no cash, no idea.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie!

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie!

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie, you are warned under the standing orders. I said your name three times and you did not respond. Obviously you were interjecting so loudly you could not even hear the chair.

Dr LYNHAM: In reality, we have seen the Turnbull-Morrison-Dutton government support every bit of infrastructure so long as it is not in Queensland. So long as it is somewhere else they will support it. As Minister Dick said, we have seen the Sydney rail line. We have seen the Melbourne airport rail line. If Rookwood Weir were on the Yarra, it would have been built by now. While we are up here, there is ScoMo up in the far north talking about Nullinga Dam. Let me help him out with some facts regarding Nullinga Dam. Building Queensland is completing a detailed business case with SunWater, delivering on our election commitment from 2015. They are currently gauging interest locally in potential water from the project, and the business case should be completed by next year. We want to make sure major infrastructure projects stack up—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, apologies for interrupting you. The Minister for Local Government and the member for Gregory are both warned under the standing orders. You are having your own private debate in the middle of question time. These quarrels across the chamber will cease.

Dr LYNHAM: We want to make sure that major infrastructure projects stack up and deliver for the taxpayers who fund them, not just float unfunded dam proposals before elections. Scott Morrison came in talking about new ideas and fresh emphasis. Here is a new idea: start investing in Queensland. Let

me give him a hint: Cross River Rail. Another new idea: get on board with a renewable energy policy and climate policy and meet our international obligations. Here is a new idea: get out of the way, call an election and let us get a decent Shorten Labor government in Canberra.

Fardon, Mr RJ

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given the government has launched a desperate eleventh hour court application to keep Robert John Fardon, a dangerous sexual offender, in custody, will the Premier tell the House what is the government's backup plan if the appeal is lost?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As this matter is before the courts, I am not going to prejudice that court case and I am not going to make any further comment.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I table a copy of a question the Premier actually asked about Robert John Fardon when she was in opposition.

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, please resume your seat. The Premier has answered the question and resumed her seat. She sat down. There is no further contribution as I can see so there is no point of order.

Tourism Industry, Regional Queensland

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is growing the state's tourism industry in regional Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know the member for Bancroft is a proud advocate for growing tourism and events in the Moreton Bay region. As part of our strategy of growing jobs in tourism and events markets, today I am very pleased to announce \$800,000 in additional funding for 20 major events across Queensland. I believe the member for Bancroft used to be a volunteer at the Abbey Medieval Festival. Get out your swords and the little pants! Each to their own, Mr Speaker. In all seriousness, this is one of the largest events on the calendar in the Moreton Bay region. It is one that is growing each and every year.

Today we are announcing \$800,000 in additional funding to support events right across Queensland—in Rockhampton, Cairns, the Gold Coast, the outback and Gladstone. There are also seven brand-new events to add to the calendar including three new ones—the 2019 Great Western Games in outback Queensland, the Cobb & Co Festival in outback Queensland and the Croc Nash Hash in Cairns—and One Hot Night in Rockhampton is another new event that we are announcing here today.

We have doubled the events calendar in Queensland. This was for destination events. We went to the election saying that we would increase funding from \$2 million to \$3 million and this is why we are able to see new events. This stands in stark contrast to what we saw the LNP do when in government, which was to slash \$188 million from the budget of Tourism and Events Queensland.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. The minister was Jann Stuckey. She is still here. She did not get rolled—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, can you please refer to members by their correct title?

Ms JONES: The member for Currumbin. This is straight out of the Costello playbook. The member for Clayfield could not do his own job. He had to outsource that to Peter Costello, and we have seen exactly the same now with the new Treasurer in Canberra, Josh Frydenberg. When it all gets too hard, when it all gets too difficult, let us outsource it to Peter Costello. We know that the playbook does not change. It does not matter if it is an LNP government here in Queensland or a Liberal National Party government in South Australia or in Canberra. There are only three tricks in the Costello playbook, and that is to cut, sack and sell. We are deeply worried about Josh Frydenberg leaning on his old mate Costello because we saw the devastating consequences for Queensland—the highest unemployment rate in 11 years under the LNP government.

Mr Dick: That is your legacy.

Ms JONES: That is their legacy—the highest unemployment rate. It is about time the LNP woke up to the fact that this playbook is a failed playbook and we will not cop it here in Queensland.

(Time expired)

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme, Alopecia

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. It is estimated that there are in excess of 100,000 alopecia sufferers in Queensland. Alopecia is an autoimmune disease that can be lifelong and can affect the self-image, self-esteem, self-confidence and mental health of sufferers. In Queensland, unlike other states, there is no financial subsidy for wigs under the current Queensland Health Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Will the minister consider establishing an alternative scheme to assist sufferers with this condition?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the minister, who yelled out 'too long'?

Mr Crandon: That was me.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. That is not your role in this chamber.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question. I am happy to organise a meeting with the manager of the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme to talk through what might be possible there. It is not something I am across right now, but I am happy to find out and get back to the member for Hinchinbrook.

Overseas Trained Doctors

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline any recent visa changes that could result in rural and regional doctors being deported?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I know he is very concerned about access to general practitioners and other doctors in Maryborough. Sadly, we have more bad news from the federal government on that front. They have recently moved to stop foreign doctors coming to Queensland on 457 and other visas. This will have a big impact on our ability to recruit doctors right across the state. They might be foreign trained doctors. Even doctors who have paid tens of thousands of dollars to train here in Queensland could be deported under these new changes. They could be working in one of our hospitals or in a private practice.

The federal government have done this because they say that Australia has too many doctors now. Right across the country that is true, and it is certainly true in the leafy suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne that the LNP cares about, but it is not true in Queensland and it is certainly not true in regions like Maryborough, Gladstone and Mackay. It is even less true in the rural areas that those opposite purport to stand up for. The members for Nanango, Callide, Warrego and Gregory complain about the lack of doctors in their electorates, but where are they when the LNP makes policy changes that make it harder for us to recruit doctors? They are silent.

Greg Hunt has boasted that he will deport 1,000 general practitioners. This will lead to a reduction in 11 million appointments every year, an effective cut to Medicare of \$415 million. We can bet they will not be cut from Sydney and Melbourne; they will be cut from Queensland first. Queensland's regional and rural areas will be hit the hardest. While they are busy deporting doctors, it makes us wonder what kinds of workers they are importing because there are some kinds of migrant workers they are happy to bring in. It brings us to the question on everyone's lips: what is the go with the au pairs? Most Queenslanders would say, 'Why would you deport doctors to bring in au pairs?' Most Queenslanders would say, 'What even is an au pair?'

The members for Callide, Gregory and others should go back to their electorates and say, 'The LNP doesn't think you need more doctors. We think you need more au pairs. Sure, you'll have to travel further to the doctor, but at least you can have date night at your local French restaurant and the au pair will look after your kids.' I started to wonder why the National Party have suddenly turned their backs on doctors and they are all about au pairs now. I worked it out. Do members know who needs an au pair? Barnaby. He has a new little kid, he has a new job, he is an envoy now. He is the one who needs an au pair, and that is why they have turned their backs on doctors and now they just want au pairs.

(Time expired)

Roads, Tolls

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. I refer to a proposal uncovered in right-to-information documents for Labor to give Transurban an extended road franchise agreement for the Gateway north area. Will the Premier rule out any changes that will see road users paying higher tolls?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look at the specifics of that question, but there are no plans for the government to increase any tolls.

Gold Coast, Infrastructure

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on Gold Coast infrastructure upgrades that are underway, including those on the M1 and the light rail?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Macalister for her question and her commitment to the M1 investment in infrastructure. It is very important for her electorate. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in infrastructure on the Gold Coast. Whether it is the M1, whether it is the light rail, we are delivering when it comes to infrastructure. We are investing heavily, with the \$190 million upgrade at the merge and also the \$197 million upgrade at Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. Anyone who drives on the M1 would know that they are major worksites. The earth is moving on the M1 projects, as any motorist can see.

We have a plan in place to deliver six lanes all the way to the border. We have four upgrades fully committed and funded, after there were none under the LNP in the three years they were in government. All we get from the opposition is criticism. What did the Leader of the Opposition actually promise at the last election on the M1? Absolutely nothing. Zero. The LNP committed zero dollars to the existing M1 in the last election campaign. It is consistent with their record in government.

However, they need to stop misleading the electorate in terms of their underfunded and underdeveloped so-called second M1, which they stopped when they were in government. They stopped it going in the South East Queensland Regional Plan. We are seeing that the dysfunction and division in Canberra is infecting the Queensland LNP, and there is no better example than the Gold Coast light rail. We have eight Gold Coast MPs from the LNP and we have 15 different positions. Let me go through them. The member for Bonney wants it to go to Harbour Town. The member for Burleigh, who appears to be on holidays apparently, and the member for Currumbin want it to go along a route past the member for Burleigh's brewery and bar. They want it to benefit his brewery and bar. What an absolute disgrace. What about the Gold Coast public?

We saw an extraordinary speech yesterday by the member for Mermaid Beach who talked about the light rail as being something that was 'inflicted' on the Gold Coast—like it was a disease. They are talking about the light rail like it is a disease. The member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Southport seem to support it. Hallelujah, isn't that fantastic. The member for Surfers Paradise opposed it originally. Of course, the member for Broadwater is absolutely silent. The shark is prowling. As we have all these positions from this dysfunctional LNP, he is on the prowl.

What we get on the Gold Coast from Labor is investing in infrastructure, investing in the light rail, investing in the M1, investing in local roads. What we get from the LNP is dysfunction and division.

(Time expired)

Southport, Development

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development. I table a report from Saturday's *Gold Coast Bulletin* about a proposed global tourism hub.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 September 2018, titled 'Gold Coast Development: Southport firming as location of proposed \$1B global tourism hub' [[1290](#)].

Will the Labor government rule out the Broadwater Tourist Park site for any development involving a casino?

Ms JONES: Yes, I am not aware of anyone talking about that site. Certainly, no-one has raised that site with me. What we have said consistently is that when we go to market we will be listening to the market's advice. At this stage, no-one has come to me with that and I rule it out.

An opposition member: So are you ruling it out?

Ms JONES: I ruled it out. I just said that: I rule it out. Yes, I rule it out. I rule it out. Do you want me to say it again? The question is: will the member for Bonney get a conscience vote on something that we know he personally believes in?

Great Barrier Reef, Funding

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's Advancing Queensland priority to protect the Great Barrier Reef, including how funding is being provided for the reef?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Keppel for her very important question about the Great Barrier Reef. Everybody in this House understands how important the Great Barrier Reef is. On this side of the House, we are working very hard to ensure that it is preserved for future generations. How we fund critical reef protection measures is fundamentally important. Several months ago, the federal LNP announced that, without tender, without consultation and without discussion, they were providing close to half a billion dollars in grant funding to a small, private Great Barrier Reef foundation.

To be honest, when I was provided that information I was shocked. Many people who have been working on the Great Barrier Reef were equally shocked. Not only was this decision and the process to reach that decision problematic, but the single biggest threat to the reef is climate change, as we hear time and time again, and it did not rate a single mention in the \$444 million funding agreement—not one mention. The staunch conservatives in the LNP party room do not believe the science of climate change and their influence can be seen in that agreement. The hardliners who deny the science won on that occasion.

This is not a question of whether funding should be spent on the reef—of course it should—and the Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$330 million over the next five years. This is about transparency in decision-making. It is not appropriate for that much money to be sent out the door to one organisation without so much as an application form. Today federal Labor has taken a stand for responsible decision-making and has announced that if elected it will reacquire unspent funds from the foundation and reinvest those funds in the reef via government agencies, which is the appropriate channel.

This is important. Let me explain this for those opposite. What the federal LNP has done with this grant is undermine the credibility of reef-funding initiatives. The practical impact of the funding model the federal LNP has created is that respected funding authorities like the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and CSIRO, organisations with demonstrated capacity in this area, now need to apply to a private foundation to access government funding. What kind of system are we operating in when scientific bodies as well regarded as CSIRO now have to go cap in hand to a private foundation for government funding?

Today there is a crucial question for LNP members opposite: do they support transparent decision-making, or do they stand by the irresponsible cash splash of their federal colleagues?

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I want to acknowledge that we have students and teachers from Pine Rivers State High School in the gallery today. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

Queensland Economy, Credit Rating

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Last week ratings agency Fitch downgraded the outlook for Queensland's credit rating. Does the Premier concede that her plan for increased taxes and increased debt will increase pressure on a credit rating downgrade and increase the interest bill for our children and grandchildren?

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Tourism.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we saw in June this year, the Treasurer handed down a budget that is responsive to the needs of Queenslanders. As we know, we have five million Queenslanders now living in this state and we will ensure—

Mr Bleijie: Queenslanders didn't ask for more taxes and more debt.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Queenslanders did not vote for you, either. They said no to the member for Kawana.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please speak through the chair.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. All we have heard about today is the LNP attacking doctors and attacking judges; it sounds like the same old LNP to me. Unlike those opposite, we went to the Queensland election with our clear economic plan that did not include the LNP playing with One Nation.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If you want to talk about chaos, imagine what—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have been interjecting all morning. Your interjections have been designed to disrupt. Sadly, you have disrupted the Premier whilst she was trying to deliver her response. You are warned under standing orders. Note to all members: if I hear repetitive interjections—repeating the same word does not make it any more powerful.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Queenslanders voted for good, decent government. That is what Queenslanders voted for. They said no to the chaos that would have followed if the LNP had been elected. Imagine our economy; imagine what would have been happening to our trade. What would have happened? We would have seen more cuts. We have just seen the South Australian budget handed down.

Mr Dick: Four thousand jobs.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We saw 4,000 jobs gone. Most of the front bench opposite sat around the cabinet table with Campbell Newman and made those decisions with Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, and Peter Costello.

Ms Trad interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The assistant minister said she sat around the CBRC.

Ms Trad: Proud of that record.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I take that interjection. She said she is proud of their record.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You just concentrate on your cufflinks!

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, I remind you to please put your comments through the chair.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said—and I have said in this House many times—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier. The clock—thank you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have seen our exports continue to boom; our job-creating projects are working; they are being delivered ahead of schedule; and we are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland because that is what Queenslanders expect. We know that that side is a rabble. There is no leadership. We do not know if there is a conscience vote. We are still mopping up their mess from the last time they were in government. There is no alternative for Queensland. We will get on with the job. We will continue to deliver and we will continue to acknowledge—

(Time expired)


Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired. Members, please leave the chamber quietly.

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 4 September (see p. 2208), on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. I start by saying the LNP's position is to not oppose the bill. That follows a lengthy review which established the need to modernise the language and structure within the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 to better reflect those industry and community expectations. I note

that there has been lengthy debate on this; it has gone on for some time. It is the clear view of the industry that this needs to occur. The LNP will not be opposing the bill; we will be allowing it to be facilitated.

The bill seeks to deliver a consistent penalty framework. In this regard, penalties for unlicensed plumbing work and for offences that endanger public health and safety have been increased. We see that as a notable cause for the bill. It also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act to establish a new licence to regulate mechanical services—that is for both heating and cooling units—and medical gas work in large or public buildings where incorrect installation can have fatal consequences. Indeed it can, and we talk about some of the potential for disease due to getting this wrong. This is something that we need to ensure is facilitated in the correct manner.

While acknowledging that an overhaul of the legislative framework to improve and modernise the legislation is a worthy undertaking, we do express some concern. I must acknowledge the committee chairman, who has ensured that there is comprehensive debate on this, as have the deputy chair and the members of that committee. Even after that process, we expressed concern that there still appears to be a level of confusion within sectors of the industry about how things will work under the new arrangements. I would have hoped that that level of confusion would not have existed by this point in time.

As I said, there was more than enough time for industry to be engaged. Whilst the comments of industry have been heated on some fronts, I do say that to still have that air of uncertainty around it is in my mind disappointing and could have been avoided. It is noted that the proposed new mechanical services licence was initially based on the Victorian mechanical services licensing model, but in response to stakeholders' feedback about applying that model the mechanical services class was refined, although this still implies some questions over the proposed approach.

It is noted with concern that the proposal allows transitional arrangements to be handled by regulation—that is clause 174—wherein it is stated that this is intended to be a temporary measure to facilitate a smooth transition to the new legislative scheme by enabling the regulation to be made to 'address any emerging or unforeseen issues.' The subject matter of any regulation under this clause appears broad and free-ranging and is therefore potentially open to abuse. Whenever we are implementing legislation in this House I would hope that, wherever possible, we are able to remove uncertainty and the potential for laws to be abused. That is a concern we certainly have. Subsequent to the change of government in 2015 it appears that the Plumbing and Drainage Act was never amended to affect that change. That could see hundreds of plumbers having their licences lapse, and we have questions concerning liability in that regard.

Our position is that we do not oppose this bill. The lengthy nature of the review means that some issues have been taken on board; however, we stress that this could have been done in a more precise manner to remove some of the ambiguities. Overall, the LNP will not oppose this bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Just a reminder that the following members were issued with a warning under the standing orders this morning: Glass House, Maroochydore, Logan, Chatsworth, Capalaba, Waterford, Gympie, Sandgate, Gregory, Coomera and Everton.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (11.21 am): I rise this morning to make a brief contribution to the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. It would be remiss of me not to reflect on my time on the committee during the last term of government when this proposed legislation was first presented to the House but unfortunately lapsed as a result of the election. I note that fundamentally this bill simply seeks to repeal the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2002 and replace it with a new, modernised and improved bill of 2018 which is intended to reflect the changing regulatory environment and modernise some of the language within the legislation.

While we will not be opposing the bill, we do have a couple of concerns. Before I address those concerns I should highlight the fact that some of the major changes in the bill recognise the need to tighten up the regulation around the installation of medical gas facilities, also to take into consideration specific needs around legionella in commercial air-conditioning systems. Earlier in the last government a report came to the House. There were changes as far back as then when we looked specifically at the issue of legionella. It is a dangerous condition that we are all aware of, but some of the presentations that came to the committee were interesting regarding things as simple as pressure valves that are installed in water systems that feed air-conditioning systems.

We had evidence presented to the committee on one occasion about ice-making machines. While most ice-making machines are compliant and there is no need for general concern, there were a number of imported machines that were identified as having specific issues. One of the main water

lines was located quite close to the compressor, which meant that water that should not have been heated prior to being frozen for ice was being warmed up. It is important that we have rigorous rules in place and that we have tight, modern legislation to address the many health and welfare concerns that Queenslanders should have around plumbing.

I do note that in the committee's report there were concerns expressed about WaterMark products. One of the concerns, which I believe the shadow minister will raise later, relates to the proposal that future provisions be dealt with through regulation rather than legislation. My concern always is that, if it is not legislated, then it is open slather for the minister of the day to make whatever changes he would like. I want to put on the record the concerns that were raised by a number of industry groups, including the plumbing union. I will read from the report, which states—

It should be noted that industry stakeholders, including MBQ, HIA, MPAQ, Plumbing Union and Services Trades College Australia, at the committee's public hearing were in agreement with their concerns regarding bathroom PODs.

For those of you who do not know what a bathroom pod is, it is becoming common practice to prefabricate an entire bathroom module overseas and then import that completed module into Australia. The concern is that the fittings or the layout of fittings within those bathroom pods may not comply with the standards that we have set here in Queensland. I know from past committee hearings—and I am sure it would have been raised again in these committee hearings—that on a number of occasions there has been a need for plumbers to go in and effectively retrofit those pods. It is appropriate that those concerns be noted. It is also appropriate to flag the industry's concern about it being regulated rather than dealt with succinctly and clearly within the current legislation.

The legislation is significant in that it does completely overhaul the old plumbing act. This is a brand-new act that will repeal the old act in its entirety. We are not planning to oppose the legislation; however, it was noted by those of us on this side of the House that the process was a little rushed and that the legislation was not given enough time to run the full course of hearings that should have been extended across the state to really get right down into all of the detail.

I note also there were concerns expressed in the statement of reservation about sunset clauses. The Queensland Law Society also expressed concern that the problem with sunset clauses is they leave things a little bit open-ended and create uncertainty. This is probably a little bit like some of the reviews and provisions we saw in the minister's Building Industry Fairness Bill around subcontractor payments. The typical thing that we hear from the government's side of the House is, 'Trust us, we're going to review this.' What we have seen is review after review. Some of the legislation that has come before the House does not necessarily provide the certainty that industry requires. I think that I am well and truly on the record in the past as expressing concern around the shiny baubles we have seen the government offer the building and construction industry in Queensland.

We will be supporting the bill, and I look forward to hearing further from the minister on some of the proposed amendments to deal with our concerns.



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (11.28 am): The key objectives of the Plumbing and Drainage Bill are outlined in the explanatory notes, which state—


Establish a contemporary, streamlined and flexible legislative framework for plumbing and drainage that is clear and simple for the end user, will ensure both public health and the environment are protected, and will meet industry and community expectations over the next decade.

I welcome the changes in the bill to increase the number of minimum penalty units from 165 to 250 for unlicensed or underlicensed operators. However, the experience of many commercial plumbers is not just that the penalties are not strong enough to act as a deterrent; a major issue is that unlicensed operators are simply not policed adequately. This results in higher costs for those who are doing the right thing to help prop up the QBCC while individuals continue to operate free of the administrative requirements or cost of maintaining the appropriate licences.

Particularly concerning is the amendment relating to contractors with plumbing and drainage licences who did not hold an occupational licence on or after 10 November 2014. While I support the move to ensure contractors who acted in good faith are not prosecuted because the LNP did not legislate its commitment, I think the amendment has not gone far enough to streamline the licensing requirements for certain contractors and plumbing licensees to hold an occupational licence. Considering the government's commitment to rectify this issue and get rid of the requirement for occupational licences for some operators, I feel that the amendments in their current form are just a cop-out. The financial and administrative cost of multiple licences for essentially the same thing is crippling small business plumbers, who are already competing against unlicensed and unpoliced operators.

If the intention of retaining occupational licences is to fund the regulatory body, I believe that the government should look at getting the QBCC to do its job and draw its funding from penalties imposed on those doing the wrong thing, rather than impose costs on those trying to do the right thing. Increasing the penalties for unlicensed work means nothing if there is no will to enforce those penalties. This move to retain occupational licence requirements on the grounds that those licence fees fund the regulatory body confirms the industry's fears that there is no real intention to improve enforcement of those increased penalties. I ask the minister to provide a time line for the removal of the occupational licence requirements for some operators so that the small local operators that are doing the right thing do not have to pay for the QBCC's failure to prosecute those who are not compliant.

I welcome the changes regarding project bank accounts and greater protections for subcontractors. Too often it is the local businesses that secure work on a major project that are left carrying all the risk, while large out-of-town companies that are able to secure big contracts walk away, leaving small operators trying to figure out how they are going to pay their workers. The flow-on effect, particularly to rural and regional communities, is enormous. I particularly support changes that will hold head contractors accountable for paying accounts to subcontractors by the due date.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (11.32 am), in reply: As I said in my second reading speech, many of us do not truly appreciate the value of a plumber until something goes wrong. I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate over the course of the past couple of days on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. I want to address some of the specific comments made during the debate. Before that, though, I would like to thank the Transport and Public Works Committee for its consideration of the bill and its contribution to the debate. Again, I thank the hardworking staff of my department for their tireless efforts in the development of the bill and their dedication to the continued delivery of the reform that our government has set out through the Queensland Building Plan.

We have heard from various members that the making of the new Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 will ensure existing standards are maintained and in many cases strengthened. The promotion of best practice is paramount. There will be, as a result of the passing of this bill, a reduction in red tape for businesses large and small in the industry. There will be a reduction in approval time frames that will see a significant benefit to home owners. There will be a modernisation overall of the plumbing and drainage laws. The new act also provides the regulation to keep pace with technological innovations and increasing standards for consumer protection. Our government will remain ever vigilant, ensuring that the safety of Queenslanders remains paramount.

There has been a lot of discussion and recognition of the importance of the licensing arrangements, particularly around medical gas in hospitals and medical facilities—places like dentists rooms et cetera—so that into the future that work will be regulated in the settings in which Queenslanders often find themselves at their most vulnerable. Ensuring we are delivering the best possible care will be supported by these reforms.

I note that faster permit approvals have been acknowledged by many members during the debate. They will save home owners time and money. Local governments can opt in or out as needed so that all Queenslanders can benefit from this cost- and time-saving initiative. All permit work will continue to be inspected by local government under the current rules to ensure the health and safety of the community and the environment are maintained.

I want to address matters in relation to commencement time frames. The plumbing law reforms will commence on proclamation. That will allow sufficient time for industry, local government and the community to prepare for implementation of the plumbing law reforms. It will also allow sufficient time for the supporting regulation and the Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code, the QPW Code, to be finalised through ongoing consultation with industry. The bill also provides for an extra safety net to quickly be deployed, providing for the plumbing regulation to prohibit the use of any products in Queensland, including WaterMark products. I know that a number of members this morning have raised issues of concern, which the government obviously shares, in relation to modular bathroom pods. If they or other WaterMark products are found to be defective, to be not fit for purpose or to pose a risk to public health, we will be able to prohibit their use and installation.

In respect of the amendments that will soon be considered, the bill clarifies a number of provisions to ensure that the landmark building industry fairness law reforms can be delivered. In terms of the reduction in time for the QBCC to consider plumbing applications, members are aware that we are proposing a change to reduce the time frame to issue new plumbing and drainage licences. That is good for licensees, small business and home owners.

In terms of contractor and occupational licence amendments—this has come up a number of times—I want to take the opportunity to address this in some detail. In my second reading speech I reflected on 2014, when the former Newman LNP government abolished the former plumbing regulator and transferred functions for licensing, compliance and disciplinary action to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. Contractor licensees who held both the required contractor and occupational licences were told on a number of occasions—I think the then minister, the member for Everton, stood in this place on a number of occasions and had the QBCC write to licensees—that they would be required to pay for only one licence. The intent was not legislated. That intent required an amendment to the relevant act. It came to our attention that the effect of that was that many licensees were placed in the situation—unknown to them, as based on commitments that were given in this place by the then minister—whereby they could be subject to disciplinary action because they were working unlicensed.

Today we commence the process of delivering on our commitment to ensure that the double-dipping by the commission around occupational and contractor licences ends. It will be a Labor government that gets this done. Our amendments today will correct the legacy issue of the former government. We will provide the certainty for contractor plumbing and drainage licensees who did not hold an occupational licence on or after 10 November 2014. After the passage of this bill, licensees will be taken to have held an occupational licence, whilst they may not have paid for it, whilst they held their contractor licence. This is the first step to getting this job done. The Palaszczuk government made an election commitment that we would move quickly to get this done.

I place on record our commitment to all contractors within the plumbing industry who also hold an occupational licence that we will deliver that. The first step today is to fix the mess that put some licensees in the insidious position of having potentially done unlicensed work. We will then identify the mechanism to ensure that the appropriate licensing regime is in place for not only plumbers but also other trades that are required—there are only a limited number in other trades—to hold an occupational licence at the same time as holding a contractor licence. It will be a Labor government that gets that done.

I note that the member for Broadwater and the member for Hill both made remarks in respect of that. I hope my clarification of that serves to address the queries raised in respect of the requests from the member for Hill for the government to give explicit time frames around that. I can assure the member for Hill that the preparatory work following the passing of today's bill, which is getting rid of step 1 and fixing up the LNP mess, will be underway and we will deliver on our commitment, which is to act swiftly to get the following steps done.

I want to touch on some of the reforms in the bill to amend the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017. The amendments to time frames of payment schedules to 15 days down from 25 in response to payment claims are a sensible working solution to concerns raised primarily by members of the industry who were concerned about ensuring that we deliver on both our commitment to see subcontractors paid on time in full every time and to ensure that those regular invoices and the ability for head contractors to pay quickly continues. It should be noted that these changes have received widespread support from industry and they deliver certainty of cash flow for the construction industry.

Other reforms for the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act include changes to project bank account provisions clarifying the protections for subcontractors. I am very pleased to clarify that a head contractor cannot take money out of a retention trust fund. There will be subcontractors all over this state who will be pleased to see that a head contractor cannot reach into a retention trust account to pay itself unless it is at the end of the defects liability period and there is an entitlement under the relevant subcontractor. That money is protected for the subcontractor also in the event of a head contractor insolvency. These are significant reforms. This is the Palaszczuk Labor government doing the heavy lifting in the corporate and commercial space where the federal government has been unwilling.

We are making further minor changes to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991. This amendment removes an outdated reference to a demerit matter, clarifies the definition of domestic building work and residential construction work and omits a redundant section of the act that refers to the allocation of demerit points for direction to rectify a remedy. The amendment also prescribes mandatory training for adjudicators and ensures that adjudicators adequately understand the new provisions introduced through this legislation. With this change, the role and the capability of adjudicators across Queensland—they perform an important role under our legislation—will be

strengthened. Further amendments to the QBCC Act support my intent and our government's intent to include architects, engineers and builders in the chain of responsibility where they specify building products in designing a building.

In conclusion, I want to thank members for their feedback on the bill and for raising those issues that concerned them and giving me an opportunity to restate our commitments, particularly around occupational licences. I note that members primarily have voiced concerns around three issues: firstly, the safety of those doing work in the broader community, and I commend all members of the House for recognising that and agree that it is absolutely fundamental that it should be the first priority of government; secondly, that tradespeople are appropriately trained and qualified for the work they are undertaking, and I again thank members for their recognition of that because, of course, it is crucial in any trade; and, finally, we have consulted broadly and extensively with stakeholders on the bill and the amendments and we will continue to engage with stakeholders into the future.

I also want to thank the member for Traeger for his active involvement in the committee that considered this bill. I note the member for Traeger's comments on changes to mechanical services licence classes. As noted by the member, the bill concerns very specialised fields and, as the member for Traeger mentioned, there are dire consequences when things go wrong and, as such, those undertaking this work must be properly trained and we will deliver that.

The member for Callide raised the introduction of a specialist air-conditioning and refrigeration licence. As I mentioned to the House during my second reading speech, I have instructed my department to further consider the concerns raised with the committee and I agree with the member that a two-day course is not sufficient to appropriately train people to install air-conditioning units safely. It is for this reason that in Queensland we already have a more stringent licensing regime than other jurisdictions which requires a minimum of a certificate III trade qualification and apprenticeship.

With respect to it being mandatory when fitting gas connections for installers to certify connections, there are standards in place and they are mandated through Queensland Health. These are the systems that give peace of mind to Queenslanders that medical gas in our health facilities is safe.

This bill delivers the third instalment of reforms under the Queensland Building Plan. We promised industry, consumers and all Queenslanders that our approach to these reforms would be methodical, it would be planned with industry, and the time frames for delivering on each of those pieces would be agreed. The purpose of that is to deliver maximum stability, maximum confidence to the industry and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the construction industry in Queensland. In that regard I am grateful to industry stakeholders, licensees and the community in general for their participation in the development of the Queensland Building Plan. I want to thank them for their dedication and hard work, which have resulted in a more refined bill. The Palaszczuk government will continue to work in close partnership with all of those stakeholders to implement these initiatives to ensure that our great state's great construction industry continues to lead the nation.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

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

Clause 2 postponed.

Clauses 3 to 173—



Mr de BRENNI (11.47 am): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mr de BRENNI: I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 17 (Inquiry about applicant)

Page 15, line 27, '40'—

omit, insert—

- 3 **Clause 18 (Extending decision period for application)**
 Page 16, line 26, '40'—
omit, insert—
 20
- 4 **Clause 18 (Extending decision period for application)**
 Page 16, line 32, '40'—
omit, insert—
 20
- 5 **Clause 19 (Deciding application)**
 Page 18, line 8, '40'—
omit, insert—
 20
- 6 **Clause 65 (Installing things as part of plumbing or drainage work)**
 Page 45, line 18, '*on-site treatment*'—
omit, insert—
on-site sewage treatment
- 7 **Clause 81 (Who is a *relevant person* for notifiable work)**
 Page 56, line 23, '(1)'—
omit.
- 8 **Clause 81 (Who is a *relevant person* for notifiable work)**
 Page 57, lines 7 to 19—
omit.
- 9 **Clause 83 (Action after notifiable work is finished)**
 Page 59, line 10, '81(1)(c)'—
omit, insert—
 81(c)
- 10 **After clause 157**
 Page 96, line 4, 'and transitional'—
omit, insert—
, transitional and validation
- 11 **After clause 158**
 Page 96, line 9, after 'Transitional'—
insert—
and validation
- 12 **After clause 173**
 Page 101, after line 5—
insert—
173A Holder of particular licence taken to hold associated occupation licence in relevant period
 (1) This section applies to a person if—
 (a) either—
 (i) the person held a contractor's licence under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* of 1 of the following classes of licence in any period from 10 November 2014 to the commencement (the ***relevant period***)—
 (A) a plumbing and drainage licence;
 (B) a drainage licence;
 (C) a drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance);
 (D) a drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance and installation);
 (E) a plumbing and draining restricted to plumbing licence;
 (F) a plumbing and draining restricted to tanks—water supply licence; or
 (ii) the person held a nominee supervisor's licence or site supervisor's licence under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* of 1 of the following classes of licence in the relevant period—
 (A) a plumbing and drainage licence;
 (B) a drainage licence;
 (C) a drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance);
 (D) a drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance and installation); and

- (b) the person did not hold in the relevant period an associated occupational licence for the contractor's licence, nominee supervisor's licence or site supervisor's licence.
- (2) The person is taken to have held for the relevant period an associated occupational licence for the contractor's licence, nominee supervisor's licence or site supervisor's licence.
- (3) In this section—

associated occupational licence means—

- (a) for a plumbing and drainage licence—a plumbers licence and drainers licence under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, schedule 1, items 1 and 2; or
- (b) for a drainage licence—a drainers licence under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, schedule 1, item 2; or
- (c) for a drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance)—a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, schedule 2, item 8, for the scope of work stated in item 8, column 4, paragraph (a) of the schedule; or
- (d) for a drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance and installation)—a drainer—on-site sewerage facility licence under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, schedule 2, item 8, for the scope of work stated in item 8, column 4, paragraph (b) of the schedule; or
- (e) for a plumbing and draining restricted to plumbing licence—a plumbers licence under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, schedule 1, item 1; or
- (f) a plumbing and draining restricted to tanks—water supply licence—a plumbers licence under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*, schedule 1, item 1.

drainage licence means the class of licence mentioned in the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003*, schedule 2, part 19.

drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance) means the class of licence mentioned in the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003*, schedule 2, part 19A, section 1(1).

drainage—on-site sewerage facility licence (maintenance and installation) means the class of licence mentioned in the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003*, schedule 2, part 19A, section 1(2).

plumbing and drainage licence means the class of licence mentioned in the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003*, schedule 2, part 18.

plumbing and draining restricted to plumbing licence means the class of licence of that name mentioned in the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003*, section 43.

plumbing and draining restricted to tanks—water supply licence means the class of licence of that name mentioned in the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003*, section 43.


I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments [\[1291\]](#).

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 173, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 174—

 **Mr BENNETT** (11.48 am): I rise to outline our concerns with clause 174, and I have flagged this with the minister for a long time in that we have real concerns about these transitional amendments. This is about a temporary measure that will run for 12 months and there was reference during the second reading debate about a smooth transition to a new legislative scheme to address any emerging issues.

When members consider how broad that clause is, they would understand why we have concerns. The clause is broad, free ranging and, in the worst case scenario, must be considered open to abuse. Even the Queensland Law Society commented on clause 174 and about this transitional regulation-making power that allows the legislation to bypass the parliamentary process and any material that imposes obligations on or affects the rights of individuals.

In this House we do not see Henry VIIIth clauses invoked very often. When we debate urgent bills, we see other issues emerging within the legislative framework that refer to sunset clauses. Although this provision contains a sunset clause of 12 months, the bill comes into force on assent. The committee's comments advise that the bill does not appear urgent. As the minister has said, over the past four years community consultation, broad-ranging roadshows and other consultation has developed what we have before us today.

I would say that this clause is a lazy approach and it is not supported. Basically, it shifts the authority from making this legislation—and any other legislation—away from the elected officials in this House and the committee process. It is the minister's department and people from whom the minister takes advice when formulating policy that allows this process.

These amendments are probably an example of what concerns us about the end policy. I recall that a lot of the issues with the BIF Act were raised by members on this side of the House in their contributions to the debate on that legislation. A year later, amendments to that legislation are being made through amendments that are outside the long title. The clause states—

- (1) A regulation (a transitional regulation) may make provision about a matter for which—
 - (a) it is necessary to make provision to allow or facilitate the doing of anything to achieve the transition from the operation of the repealed Act to the operation of this Act.

Members of the House should be concerned about voting for allowing anyone to do anything. The clause states further—

- (2) A transitional regulation may have retrospective operation to a day not earlier than the day this section commenced.
- (3) A transitional regulation must declare it is a transitional regulation.
- (4) This section and any transitional regulation expire 1 year after the day this section commenced.

I want to allow the minister the opportunity to address this House—

(Time expired)

Mr de BRENNI: I will address the matters raised in relation to clause 174 of the bill, which provides for a transitional regulation-making power. I acknowledge the concerns raised by the member about this provision as well as transitional regulations overall. These are valid concerns that I note were raised by the Queensland Law Society during the committee process. The instruments are valid and exist on Queensland's statute book. They are not new. Provisions such as clause 174 are quite justified and not unusual. In the past, such clauses have been regularly adopted by governments out of an abundance of caution.

A search of Queensland's statute book will reveal that over 60 acts that are currently in force have included such a provision at one time or another. In fact, in August 2012, the Newman government made use of such a provision in make the Civil Proceedings (Transitional) Regulation 2012 and there is the Water (Transitional) Regulation. I am sure those regulations are not unfamiliar to the plumbing industry.

The use of transitional regulation-making powers to make a transitional regulation is sometimes necessary to ensure a seamless transition from the operation of a repealed act to a new act. It is often not until the new act has commenced and been operational that it becomes apparent that a transitional regulation is needed. It is for that reason that the application of a transitional regulation be retrospective.

These matters are traversed in the *Queensland legislation handbook*, which includes a reference to transitional regulation-making powers. It tells us that, in 1997, the former scrutiny of legislation committee often reviewed such transitional regulation-making powers against the background of the committee's opposition to so-called Henry VIII clauses. The committee indicated that a transitional regulation-making power would have sufficient regard to the institution of parliament if it is subject to a 12-month sunset clause. That is what we have done. I note that subclause (4) of the regulation-making power has been drafted in consideration of that indication and that the provision will expire after one year of its making.

Like any subordinate legislation, as outlined in section 50 of the Statutory Instruments Act, this provision would be subject to a disallowance motion. At the last sitting I raised this issue with the shadow minister. This provision is not a new. The 20th edition of Erskine May 1983 states the following in relation to the privileges of parliament—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the member for Sandgate. We love a good read of Erskine May. It states—

... the commonest type of parliamentary control is a provision in the parent Act that instruments made thereunder, though taking effect forthwith or on some named future date, shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament adopted within a named time-limit.

In closing, it is also worth noting that a quick search of *Hansard* will show that not only did those opposite make use of transitional regulation-making provisions but also they have previously supported this type of provision in previous bills. I commend the amendment to the House.

Division: Question put—That clause 174, 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—Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 35:

LNP, 35—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 174, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 175 to 197—



Hon. MC de BRENNI (12.01 pm): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc, including amendments outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr de BRENNI: I move the following amendments—

13 Insertion of new pt 9, div 1A

Page 102, after line 1—

insert—

Division 1A Amendment of Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017

176A Act amended

This division amends the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017*.

Note—

See also the amendments in schedule 2.

176B Amendment of s 2 (Commencement)

Section 2—

insert—

(1A) However, chapter 8, part 1A commences on the date of assent of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*.

176C Amendment of s 8 (Definitions for chapter)

(1) Section 8, definitions *disputed funds account* and *retention account*—
omit.

(2) Section 8—

insert—

disputed funds trust account see section 23(1)(c).

retention trust account see section 23(1)(b).

176D Amendment of s 9 (What is a project bank account)

(1) Section 9(1)(b) and (3)(a), 'under'—

omit, insert—

in connection with

(2) Section 9(4)(b)—

omit, insert—

(b) ceases to be a beneficiary when paid all amounts it is entitled to be paid in connection with its subcontract, including a retention amount and an amount the subject of a payment dispute.

(3) Section 9(5), definition *remainder*, paragraph (a), 'under'—

omit, insert—

in connection with

176E Insertion of new s 10A

After section 10—

insert—

10A When amount is liable to be paid to subcontractor

The head contractor for a project bank account is liable to pay an amount to a subcontractor beneficiary if any of the following apply in connection with a subcontract between the head contractor and the subcontractor beneficiary—

- (a) the amount is due to be paid to the subcontractor beneficiary in connection with the subcontract;
- (b) the amount is certified, or otherwise assessed, as payable to the subcontractor beneficiary under the subcontract;
- (c) the head contractor gives the subcontractor beneficiary a payment schedule for the amount;
- (d) under section 77 the head contractor is liable to pay the amount to the subcontractor beneficiary;
- (e) the head contractor must pay the amount to the subcontractor beneficiary because of an adjudication under chapter 3, part 4 of a disputed progress payment relating to the subcontract;
- (f) the head contractor must pay the amount to the subcontractor beneficiary because of a final and binding dispute resolution process;
- (g) a court or tribunal orders the head contractor to pay the amount to the subcontractor beneficiary.

176F Amendment of s 11 (Who is a *supplier*)

- (1) Section 11(2)—

omit, insert—

- (2) However, a subcontractor is not a **supplier** if the subcontractor is required under any of the following Acts to hold a licence or other authority to lawfully supply the goods or services—

- (a) the *Building Act 1975*;
- (b) the *Electrical Safety Act 2002*;
- (c) the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*;
- (d) the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991*;
- (e) another Act prescribed by regulation.

- (2) Section 11(2)(c), '2002'—

omit, insert—

2018

- (3) Section 11(3)—

omit.

176G Amendment of s 19 (Who is a *related entity*)

- (1) Section 19(3), definition *family*, paragraph (d), after 'sister,'—

insert—

aunt, uncle,

- (2) Section 19(3), definition *family*, paragraph (f), after 'person'—

insert—

or the person's spouse

176H Amendment of s 23 (Head contractor must establish project bank account)

- (1) Section 23(1)(b), '**retention account**'—

omit, insert—

retention trust account

- (2) Section 23(1)(c), '**disputed funds account**'—

omit, insert—

disputed funds trust account

176I Amendment of s 25 (Name of trust account)

Section 25, 'words 'trust account'—

omit, insert—

word 'trust'

176J Amendment of s 26 (Notice of trust account's opening, closing or name change)

- (1) Section 26(2), 'written notice'—
omit, insert—
notice, in the approved form,
- (2) Section 26(2), '10 business days'—
omit, insert—
5 business days
- (3) Section 26(3), 'written notice must state the following'—
omit, insert—
approved form must require the following information
- (4) Section 26(3)(a)—
omit.
- (5) Section 26(3)(b) to (e)—
renumber as section 26(3)(a) to (d).

176K Amendment of s 27 (All payments from principal to be deposited in project bank account)

- Section 27(1)—
omit, insert—
- (1) Subsection (2) applies if the principal pays an amount to the head contractor—
 - (a) under the building contract; or
 - (b) because the principal is liable under section 77 to pay the amount to the head contractor in relation to the building contract; or
 - (c) because of an adjudication under chapter 3, part 4 of a disputed progress payment relating to the building contract; or
 - (d) because of a final and binding dispute resolution process relating to the building contract; or
 - (e) because of a court order relating to the building contract; or
 - (f) for any other reason that reduces the unpaid amount of the contract price for the building contract.

176L Amendment of s 28 (Limited purposes for which money may be deposited into project bank account)

- (1) Section 28, after 'trust account'—
insert—
, for the project bank account,
- (2) Section 28(a) and (b)—
omit, insert—
 - (a) paying the head contractor an amount the principal must deposit into the general trust account under section 27(2); or
 - (b) paying a subcontractor beneficiary an amount the head contractor is liable to pay the subcontractor beneficiary in connection with its subcontract with the head contractor; or

176M Amendment of s 29 (All payments to subcontractor beneficiaries to be paid from project bank account)

- Section 29(1)—
omit, insert—
- (1) This section applies if the head contractor is liable to pay an amount to a subcontractor beneficiary in connection with its subcontract with the head contractor.

176N Amendment of s 30 (Head contractor to cover shortfalls)

- Section 30(2), from ' , as soon' to 'available,'—
omit, insert—
immediately

176O Amendment of s 31 (Limited purposes for which money may be withdrawn from project bank account)

- Section 31(1)(a)—
omit, insert—
 - (a) paying a subcontractor beneficiary an amount the head contractor is liable to pay the subcontractor beneficiary in connection with its subcontract with the head contractor; or

176P Amendment of s 32 (Order of priority)

- (1) Section 32(1)(a), 'due to be paid to'—
omit, insert—
the head contractor is liable to pay
- (2) Section 32(1)(b), 'retention account'—
omit, insert—
retention trust account
- (3) Section 32(2), 'adjudication under this Act'—
omit, insert—
adjudication under chapter 3, part 4

176Q Amendment of s 33 (Insufficient amounts available for payments)

- (1) Section 33(1)—
omit, insert—
 - (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the head contractor is liable to pay 2 or more subcontractor beneficiaries (each a **claimant**) an amount from a trust account at the same time; and
 - (b) the total amount held in the trust account is insufficient to satisfy in full all of the amounts liable to be paid to the claimants; and
 - (c) at the time an amount liable to be paid to a claimant is due to be paid, the head contractor has not complied with its obligation under section 30 to cover the insufficient amount.
- (2) Section 33(2), 'due'—
omit, insert—
liable
- (3) Section 33(2), example, 'due'—
omit.
- (4) Section 33(4)—
omit, insert—
 - (4) Nothing in this section relieves the head contractor of its liability to pay in full the amounts the head contractor is liable to pay each claimant.

176R Amendment of s 34 (Dealing with retention amounts)

- (1) Section 34(1), 'retention account'—
omit, insert—
retention trust account
- (2) Section 34(2) and (3)—
omit, insert—
 - (2) If a project bank account is not established until after a retention amount is withheld from a subcontractor beneficiary, subsection (1) applies to that part of the retention amount still withheld past 5 business days after the project bank account is established.
Note—
Under section 15 a project bank account may be required for a building contract only after an amendment of the contract.
- (3) If subsection (2) causes the head contractor to deposit a retention amount into the retention trust account, the head contractor must give written notice of the deposit to the subcontractor beneficiary from whom the amount was withheld.
Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (4) The notice of the deposit must—
 - (a) be given to the subcontractor beneficiary as soon as practicable after making the deposit; and
 - (b) state the amount of the deposit and when the deposit was made.
- (5) The head contractor must ensure a retention amount held in the retention trust account is identifiable as being held for the subcontractor beneficiary from whom it was withheld.
Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

176S Insertion of new s 34A

Chapter 2, part 3, division 5—

*insert—***34A Withdrawing retention amounts held in retention trust account**

- (1) The head contractor must not withdraw any part of a retention amount held in the retention trust account unless the withdrawal is to make—
- (a) a payment to the subcontractor beneficiary from whom the amount was withheld; or
 - (b) a payment to the head contractor that is—
 - (i) to correct defects in subcontracted work, or otherwise to secure, wholly or partly, the performance of the related subcontract; and
 - (ii) made under the related subcontract; and
 - (iii) made after the end of the defects liability period for the related subcontract; or
 - (c) a payment ordered by a court; or
 - (d) a payment to a subcontractor beneficiary, engaged on behalf of the head contractor, that—
 - (i) is to correct defects or omissions in subcontracted work; and
 - (ii) would be made in accordance with the related subcontract if it were made to the head contractor.

Maximum penalty—300 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

- (2) In this section—

related subcontract, for a retention amount, means the subcontract under which the retention amount was withheld from payment.

176T Insertion of new s 34B

Chapter 2, part 3, division 6—

*insert—***34B Definitions for division**

In this division—

appeal, of an outcome of a dispute resolution process, includes a review of the outcome of the dispute resolution process.

dispute resolution process means a process prescribed by regulation.

176U Amendment of s 35 (When payment dispute occurs)

- (1) Section 35(1)(c)—
omit, insert—
- (c) the head contractor does not prepare a payment instruction to pay the full amount proposed to be paid under the payment schedule.
- (2) Section 35(2)—
insert—
- (d) the head contractor does not prepare a payment instruction to pay the full amount claimed in the payment claim.

176V Amendment of s 36 (Dealing with amounts if payment dispute occurs)

- (1) Section 36, heading, 'Dealing with'—
omit, insert—
- Obligation to transfer**
- (2) Section 36(1), 'disputed funds account'—
omit, insert—
- disputed funds trust account
- (3) Section 36(3) to (10)—
omit, insert—
- (3) However, the head contractor need not comply with subsection (1) for an amount the subject of a payment dispute mentioned in subsection 35(2) to the extent the amount to be transferred is more than the contract price for the subcontract with the subcontractor beneficiary.
 - (4) The **contract price**, for a subcontract, means the amount the subcontractor is entitled to be paid under the subcontract or, if the amount can not be accurately calculated, the reasonable estimate of the amount the subcontractor is entitled to be paid under the subcontract.
 - (5) An amount mentioned in subsection (4) is inclusive of GST.

- (6) Immediately after transferring an amount under subsection (1), the head contractor must inform the subcontractor beneficiary in writing of when the amount was transferred into the disputed funds trust account.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

- (7) In this section—

transfer means—

- (a) transfer from the general trust account or retention trust account; or
 (b) to the extent there is insufficient funds available in the accounts mentioned in paragraph (a)—transfer or deposit from another source.

176W Insertion of new ss 36A-36C

Chapter 2, part 3, division 6—

insert—

36A Identifying amounts held in the disputed funds trust account

The head contractor must ensure an amount held in the disputed funds trust account is identifiable as being held for the subcontractor beneficiary who is a party to the payment dispute for which the amount is held.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

36B Withdrawing amounts held in disputed funds trust account

- (1) The head contractor must not withdraw any part of an amount held in the disputed funds trust account unless the withdrawal is to—

- (a) make a payment to—
 (i) the subcontractor beneficiary who is a party to the payment dispute for which the amount is held; or
 (ii) the head contractor in accordance with the outcome of a dispute resolution process; or
 (iii) another person in the circumstances prescribed by regulation; or
 (b) comply with the head contractor's obligation under section 36C(2).

Maximum penalty—300 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

- (2) However, if the outcome of the dispute resolution process mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(ii) may be appealed, the withdrawal for the payment to the head contractor under that provision must not be made until—

- (a) the conclusion of the period within which the appeal may be commenced; and
 (b) if the appeal is commenced—the conclusion of the appeal.

36C Returning amounts held in disputed funds trust account after particular time

- (1) This section applies if—

- (a) the head contractor transfers an amount into the disputed funds trust account under section 36; and
 (b) at the end of the relevant day any part of the amount remains in the disputed funds trust account.

- (2) As soon as practicable after the relevant day, the head contractor must—

- (a) if the amount was transferred from the general trust account or retention trust account—return the remaining amount to the trust account from which it was transferred; or
 (b) otherwise—withdraw the remaining amount for payment to the head contractor.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

- (3) In this section—

relevant day, for an amount transferred into the disputed funds trust account, means—

- (a) if the amount is the subject of a dispute resolution process and the outcome of the process can not be appealed—the day the dispute resolution process ends; or
 (b) if the amount is the subject of a dispute resolution process and the outcome of the dispute resolution process may be appealed—
 (i) the last day by which the appeal may be commenced; or
 (ii) if an appeal from the outcome of the process is commenced—the day the appeal is decided; or
 (c) otherwise—the day that is 60 days after the notice of the transfer was given to the subcontractor beneficiary under section 36(7).

176X Amendment of s 37 (Ending project bank account)

- (1) Section 37(1), note, from 'amounts, including'—

omit, insert—

amounts the head contractor is liable to pay the subcontractor beneficiary in connection with a first tier subcontract, including a retention amount and an amount the subject of a payment dispute. See section 9.

(2) Section 37—

insert—

(4) In this section—

maintenance work does not include work for which a retention amount has been withheld under a subcontract with a subcontractor beneficiary.

176Y Amendment of s 39 (Amounts in project bank account unavailable for head contractor's debts)

Section 39(3), definition *creditor*, from 'it is entitled'—

omit, insert—

the head contractor is liable to pay an amount to the subcontractor beneficiary in connection with its subcontract with the head contractor.

176Z Amendment of s 50 (Principal to be given information about subcontracts)

Section 50(2)—

omit, insert—

(2) The head contractor must give the principal the information prescribed by regulation—

- (a) if the head contractor entered into a subcontract for the building contract before the day a project bank account is required to be established under section 13—within 5 business days after the project bank account is required to be established; or

Note—

Under section 15 a project bank account may be required for a building contract only after an amendment of the contract.

- (b) otherwise—within 5 business days after entering into a subcontract for the building contract.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units.

176ZA Amendment of s 52 (Principal to inform commissioner of discrepancies)

Section 52(1), after 'a copy of'—

insert—

information contained in

176ZB Insertion of new ch 2, pt 5, div 1, hdg

Chapter 2, part 5, before section 53—

*insert—***Division 1 Interpretation****176ZC Insertion of new ch 2, pt 5, div 2, hdg**

Chapter 2, part 5, before section 54—

*insert—***Division 2 Principal may step in as trustee****176ZD Amendment of s 54 (Right of principal to step in as trustee)**

Section 54(2), 'written notice'—

omit, insert—

notice, in the approved form,

176ZE Insertion of new ch 2, pt 5, div 3, hdg

Chapter 2, part 5, after section 54—

*insert—***Division 3 Principal as trustee****176ZF Insertion of new s 54A**

Chapter 2, part 5, before section 55—

*insert—***54A Application of division**

This division applies if a principal is appointed as trustee for a project bank account under section 54.

176ZG Amendment of s 55 (Information to be given to principal as trustee)

(1) Section 55(1)—

omit.

(2) Section 55(2) and (3), after 'as soon as practicable'—

insert—

after the principal is appointed trustee

- (3) Section 55(2)—
insert—
- (d) a copy of the records of transactions that the head contractor was required to keep under section 45(1).
- (4) Section 55(2) to (5)—
renumber as section 55(1) to (4).

176ZH Insertion of new s 55A

After section 55—

insert—

55A Right of principal to apply to Supreme Court for directions

- (1) As trustee for the project bank account, the principal may apply to the Supreme Court for directions about—
- (a) an amount held in trust under the project bank account; or
- (b) the administration of the project bank account; or
- (c) the exercise of a power by the principal.
- (2) An application made under subsection (1) must be served on all subcontractor beneficiaries for the project bank account unless otherwise directed by the Supreme Court.

176ZI Amendment of s 56 (Principal as trustee)

- (1) Section 56(1)—
omit.
- (2) Section 56(2), 'are required to'—
omit, insert—
may
- (3) Section 56(2) and (3)—
renumber as section 56(1) and (2).

176ZJ Amendment of s 57 (Protection from civil liability)

Section 57, 'A principal appointed as trustee under section 54'—

omit, insert—

As trustee for the project bank account, the principal

176ZK Replacement of s 76 (Responding to payment claim)

Section 76—

omit, insert—

76 Responding to payment claim

- (1) If given a payment claim, a respondent must respond to the payment claim by giving the claimant a payment schedule within whichever of the following periods ends first—
- (a) the period, if any, within which the respondent must give the payment schedule under the relevant construction contract;
- (b) 15 business days after the payment claim is given to the respondent
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

Note—

A failure to give a payment schedule as required under this section is also grounds for taking disciplinary action under the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991*.

- (2) However, the respondent is not required to give the claimant the payment schedule if the amount claimed in the payment claim is paid in full on or before the due date for the progress payment to which the payment claim relates.

176ZL Amendment of s 88 (Adjudicator's decision)

Section 88(6), 'decision to the registrar'—

omit, insert—

decision, and notice of the fees and expenses to be paid to the adjudicator for the decision, to the registrar

176ZM Amendment of s 165 (Conditions of registration)

- (1) Section 165(1)(c)—
renumber as section 165(1)(d).
- (2) Section 165(1)—
insert—
- (c) the adjudicator must complete the mandatory training as prescribed by regulation;

- (3) Section 165(3), 'subsection (1)(c)'—

omit, insert—

subsection (1)(d)

- (4) Section 165—

insert—

- (4) The mandatory training that may be prescribed under subsection (1)(c) may include training about—

- (a) the difference between processes under this Act and the equivalent processes under the repealed *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004*; or
- (b) amendments of this Act.

176ZN Amendment of s 185 (Adjudicator must give information to registrar)

Section 185(1), 'in writing'—

omit, insert—

in the approved form

176ZO Replacement of s 190 (Who may prosecute)

Section 190—

omit, insert—

190 Proceedings for offences

- (1) A proceeding for an offence against this Act may be started only within 1 year after the offence comes to the complainant's knowledge, but no later than 2 years after the commission of the offence.
- (2) A statement in a complaint for an offence against this Act that the matter of the complaint came to the complainant's knowledge on a stated day is evidence the matter came to the complainant's knowledge on that day.
- (3) A proceeding for an offence against this Act may be started only by a person authorised in writing by the commissioner, either generally or in a particular case, to start the proceeding.
- (4) The written authorisation is evidence that the person is authorised to start the proceeding.

176ZP Insertion of new ch 8, pt 1A

Chapter 8, before part 1—

insert—

Part 1A Provisions for transitional arrangements before repeal

201A References in ch 2 relating to progress payments

- (1) This section applies until the repeal of the *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004*.
- (2) A reference in chapter 2 to a payment claim is taken to be a reference to a payment claim made under the *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004*.
- (3) A reference in chapter 2 to a payment schedule is taken to be a reference to a payment schedule made under the *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004*.
- (4) A reference in chapter 2 to a progress payment is taken to be a reference to a progress payment under the *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004*.
- (5) A reference in chapter 2 to an adjudication under chapter 3, part 4 is taken to be a reference to an adjudication under the *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004*, part 3, division 2.

201B No subcontractors' charges over money held in trust

- (1) This section applies until the repeal of the *Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974*.
- (2) No entitlement to a subcontractor's charge exists to the extent it relates to money held in trust under a project bank account.
- (3) In this section—
subcontractor's charge means a charge within the meaning of section 3 of the *Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974*.

201C Repeal of transitional regulation

The Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Transitional) Regulation 2018, SL No. 17 is repealed.

176ZQ Insertion of new s 205A

Chapter 8, part 2—

*insert—***205A References in ch 2 relating to progress payments**

- (1) This section applies from the commencement.
- (2) A reference in chapter 2 to a payment claim includes a reference to a payment claim made under the repealed Act, including as preserved under section 205.
- (3) A reference in chapter 2 to a payment schedule includes a reference to a payment schedule made under the repealed Act, including as preserved under section 205.
- (4) A reference in chapter 2 to a progress payment includes a reference to a progress payment the right to which arose under the repealed Act, including as preserved under section 205.
- (5) A reference in chapter 2 to an adjudication under chapter 3, part 4 includes a reference to an adjudication under the repealed Act, part 3, division 2, including as preserved under section 205.

176ZR Amendment of s 209 (Unfinished matters for existing subcontractors' charges to be dealt with under the repealed Act)

Section 209—

insert—

- (2A) However, a reference to a subcontractor's charge in section 117 includes a reference to a subcontractor's charge mentioned in subsection (2).

176ZS Amendment of s 211 (Transitional regulation-making power)

- (1) Section 211(4), from 'This section' to 'expire'—

omit, insert—

A transitional regulation expires

- (2) Section 211—

insert—

- (4A) This section expires 1 year after the day of the commencement of subsection (1)(a)(ii).

- (3) Section 211(5)—

*insert—***commencement** means—

- (a) for a transitional regulation made under subsection (1)(a)(i)—the commencement of that subsection; or
- (b) for a transitional regulation made under subsection (1)(a)(ii)—the commencement of that subsection.

176ZT Amendment of s 307 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))Section 307(1), '*demerit matter*,—*omit.***176ZU Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)**

- (1) Schedule 2, definitions *disputed funds account* and *retention account*—

omit.

- (2) Schedule 2—

*insert—***appeal**, for chapter 2, part 3, division 6, see section 34B.**disputed funds trust account**, for chapter 2, see section 23(1)(c).**dispute resolution process**, for chapter 2, part 3, division 6, see section 34B.**retention trust account**, for chapter 2, see section 23(1)(b).**14 Insertion of new clauses 192A-192K**

Page 109, after line 24—

*insert—***192A Omission of s 67AZAA (When demerit points allocated for direction to rectify or remedy)**

Section 67AZAA—

omit.

192B Amendment of s 74AA (Definitions for part)

Section 74AA—

*insert—****install*** and ***installer***—

A person *installs* a building product in a building, and is an *installer* of the building product, if the person—

- (a) personally installs the product in the building; or
- (b) supervises the installation of the product in the building; or
- (c) carries out the relevant work in relation to which the product is installed in the building; or
- (d) engages a person to do an activity mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

responsible person, for a building product, means—

- (a) a person who designed, manufactured, imported or supplied the product; or
- (b) if the product has been associated with a building—a person who installed the product in the building; or
- (c) an architect or engineer who, in designing a building, specified that the product be associated with the building.

192C Amendment of s 74AE (Who is a person in the chain of responsibility for a building product)

Section 74AE—

insert—

- (c) the person is an architect or engineer who, in designing a building, specifies that the product be associated with the building.

192D Amendment of s 74AG (Additional duty relating to accompanying information)

- (1) Section 74AG—

insert—

- (4A) An architect or engineer who, in designing a building, specifies that a building product be associated with the building must ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that when the architect or engineer gives the design to another person the design is accompanied by the information prescribed by regulation for this subsection.

- (2) Section 74AG(5), '(4) or subsection (6)'—

omit, insert—

(4) or (5) or subsection (7)

- (3) Section 74AG(4A) to (6)—

renumber as section 74AG(5) to (7).**192E Amendment of s 74AH (Additional duties relating to recalls)**

- (1) Section 74AH(3)—

renumber as section 74AH(6).

- (2) Section 74AH—

insert—

- (3) An architect or engineer must not, in designing a building, specify a building product be associated with the building that the architect or engineer knows, or ought reasonably to know, is the subject of a recall order or corresponding recall order.

- (4) Subsection (5) applies if—

- (a) a building product becomes the subject of a recall order or corresponding recall order after an architect or engineer, in designing a building, specifies the building product be associated with the building; and
- (b) the architect or engineer knows, or ought reasonably to know, the building product has become the subject of the recall order or corresponding recall order.

- (5) The architect or engineer must, at the architect's or engineer's own expense—

- (a) inform each person to whom the architect or engineer has given the design of the recall order or corresponding recall order; and
- (b) either—
 - (i) amend the design to remove the specification; or
 - (ii) give each person to whom the architect or engineer has given the design a written notice specifying an alternative building product to be associated with the building.

192F Amendment of s 74AW (Minister may make recall order)

Section 74AW(4)—

omit.

192G Amendment of s 74AZ (Nature of recall order)

- (1) Section 74AZ(1)(b)(v) to (vii)—

renumber as section 74AZ(1)(b)(vi) to (viii).

- (2) Section 74AZ(1)(b)—

insert—

- (v) for a building product that an architect or engineer has, in designing a building, specified be associated with the building—the action the architect or engineer must take to ensure the specification is removed from the design;

Examples of action for (v)—

- amending the design to remove the specification
- giving written notice to persons to whom the design has been given specifying an alternative building product to be associated with the building

- (3) Section 74AZ(2), 'a supplier or installer'—

omit, insert—

an architect, engineer, installer or supplier

192H Amendment of s 74AZA (Supplier or installer must help responsible person)

- (1) Section 74AZA, heading, 'Supplier or installer'—

omit, insert—

Suppliers, installers and particular architects and engineers

- (2) Section 74AZA(1), ' , other than a supplier or installer of a building product'—

omit.

- (3) Section 74AZA(1)(a)—

omit, insert—

- (a) produces a copy of the recall order to any of the following persons—

- (i) a supplier or installer of a building product the subject of the order;
- (ii) an architect or engineer who, in designing a building, specifies that a building product the subject of the order be associated with the building; and

- (4) Section 74AZA(1)(b) and (2), 'supplier or installer'—

omit, insert—

supplier, installer, architect or engineer

- (5) Section 74AZA(2)—

insert—

Examples of reasonable help by architect or engineer—

- ceasing to specify the recalled building product in designs
- identifying or contacting persons to whom the architect or engineer gave a design specifying the recalled building product be associated with a building

192I Amendment of s 74AZC (Minister may publish warning statement)

Section 74AZC(2)(b)—

omit, insert—

- (b) a responsible person for the building product has already undertaken a recall of the building product; or

192J Amendment of s 74A (Commission may investigate grounds for taking disciplinary action)

Section 74A(2), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

192K Amendment of s 74C (Proper grounds for taking disciplinary action against person not a licensee)

Section 74C(1)(g), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

15 Insertion of new clauses 193A-193G

Page 110, after line 4—

insert—

193A Amendment of s 86 (Reviewable decisions)

Section 86(4), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

193B Amendment of s 87A (No stay by QCAT of particular decisions)

Section 87A(1A), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

193C Amendment of s 92 (Tribunal may conduct public examination)

Section 92(c)(ii), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

193D Amendment of s 95 (Expedited hearing of domestic building disputes or reviews)

Section 95(5), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

193E Amendment of s 99 (Licensee register)

Section 99(3)(d), 'Act and the provision of this Act'—

omit, insert—

Act, or the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017*, and the provision of the Act

193F Amendment of sch 1 (Transitional and validating provisions)

- (1) Schedule 1, section 77, 'section 104.'—

omit, insert—

section 104B.

- (2) Schedule 1, section 77(2) and (3), 'inspector'—

omit, insert—

investigator

193G Amendment of sch 1 (Transitional and validating provisions)

Schedule 1, part 15—

insert—

77A Validation of particular continued appointments

- (1) An existing appointment of a person continued as mentioned in section 77 is taken to have been continued as mentioned in that section from the commencement of the section as originally enacted.

Note—

Section 77 as originally enacted commenced on 10 November 2017.

- (2) Anything done between 10 November 2017 and the commencement of this section by a person as the holder of the appointment is taken to have been validly done by the person as if the appointment had been continued as mentioned in section 77 as in force after the commencement.

- (3) Nothing in this section continues the appointment of a person beyond the end of that appointment under section 104D.

16 Clause 196 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 113, after line 34—

insert—

- (3) Schedule 2, definition *demerit points*—

omit, insert—

demerit points see section 67AQ.

- (4) Schedule 2, definition *domestic building work*, ' , for schedule 1B,'—

omit.

- (5) Schedule 2, definition *residential construction work*, ' , for part 5,'—

omit.

(6) Schedule 2—

insert—

install and **installer**, for part 6AA, see section 74AA.

responsible person, for part 6AA, see section 74AA.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 175 to 197, as amended, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2—



Hon. MC de BRENNI (12.02 pm): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc, including amendments outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr de BRENNI: I move the following amendments—

17 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 122, lines 28 to 30—

omit, insert—

permit means a permit—

- (a) that authorises the carrying out for premises of either or both the permit work or notifiable work, stated in the permit for the premises; and
- (b) that is issued by—
 - (i) if the work is to be carried out by or for a public sector entity—
 - (A) the public sector entity; or
 - (B) the local government for the local government area in which the premises is located; or
 - (ii) otherwise—the local government for the local government area in which the premises is located.

18 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 124, after line 6—

insert—

public sector entity—

- (a) means—
 - (i) a department or part of a department; or
 - (ii) an agency, authority, commission, corporation, instrumentality, office, or other entity, established under an Act for a public or State purpose; or
 - (iii) a government owned corporation; or
 - (iv) a rail government entity under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*; but
- (b) does not include a distributor-retailer under the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*, section 8.

19 Schedule 2 (Acts amended)

Page 133, after line 3—

insert—

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017

1 Sections 115(1)(b) and 135(1), ‘subcontractor’s charges’—

omit, insert—

subcontractors’ charges

2 Section 117, heading and section 136, heading, ‘subcontractor’s charges’—

omit, insert—

subcontractor’s charge

3 Section 114, heading, and sections 208 and 209, ‘subcontractors’ charge’—

omit, insert—

subcontractor’s charge

4 Section 207, definition *subcontractors’ charge*—

omit, insert—

subcontractor’s charge means a charge within the meaning of section 3 of the repealed Act.

Amendments agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as amended, agreed to.

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

Clause 2—



Hon. MC de BRENNI (12.03 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr de BRENNI: I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 10, line 8—

omit, insert—

- (1) This Act, other than the following provisions, commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation—
- part 9, division 1A, other than section 176F(2)
 - sections 192A to 192K, 193A to 193G and 196(3) to (6)
 - schedule 2, amendments of the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.03 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.04 pm): I move the following amendment—

20 Long title

Long title, after 'this Act,'—

insert—

the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017,

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 1 May (see p. 773).

Second Reading



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to bring this bill before the House to ensure the ongoing maintenance of nationally important heavy vehicle legislation. The Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 for a number of matters and, importantly, delivers the third phase of chain-of-responsibility reforms. In addition, I note for the benefit of the House that I intend to bring amendments during consideration in detail on this bill. I will speak to this in more detail later in the speech.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Transport and Public Works Committee, including the chair, the member for Kurwongbah, for their time considering the matters contained in this bill and for providing industry stakeholders with the opportunity to make comment on the bill. The committee

has delivered its report after considering the bill and has recommended that the bill be passed. The report has also included one further recommendation for consideration. I now table the government response to the committee recommendation.

Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 7, 56th Parliament—Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018, government response [\[1292\]](#).

The government supports in principle the recommendation to amend the heavy vehicle national law to include a more definitive definition of performance based standards, or PBS. I will write to the National Transport Commission recommending that the definition of PBS in the national law is reviewed as part of the next maintenance process. This review will ensure that any proposed new definition for PBS will be consistent with the treatment of other acronyms within the national law and that any unintended consequences are avoided that could limit the meaning of performance based standards found elsewhere in the legislation.

This bill addresses a range of nationally agreed policy reforms that seek to improve safety and reduce the regulatory burden for industry. This is no more evident than with the third and final phase of chain-of-responsibility reforms, also known as CoR. CoR is about ensuring all parts of the transport and logistics supply chain contribute to safer roads. In order to achieve this, the national law includes obligations on drivers, on-road parties and off-road parties, in the transport and logistic supply chain such as operators and consignors.

The first two phases of the chain-of-responsibility reform were contained within the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 and the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018. Phase 1 reformulated existing obligations on all current chain-of-responsibility parties as a positive due diligence obligation to ensure that chain parties comply with their primary duty of care. This will more closely align the national law with existing work health and safety obligations. The second phase of chain-of-responsibility reforms brought this positive due diligence approach to executive officer liability obligations by including non-chain-of-responsibility offences for which executive officers are currently liable. The third phase in chain-of-responsibility amendments before the House today concern the investigative and enforcement powers of authorised officers.

The implementation of these provisions will help support a modern, best practice legislative approach to safety duties. These changes are required as the pending chain-of-responsibility reforms have revised offence provisions from a reverse onus of proof to a positive due diligence obligation. This means the executive officers are no longer required to disprove a presumption of their guilt and the prosecution will now bear the burden to prove all elements of the charge. As a result, there will be a heavier burden of proof on the prosecution to prove liability in chain-of-responsibility offences.

In order to mitigate this heavier burden of proof, authorised officers will be given additional powers to gather information from a person who is not an executive officer. This power has been expressly limited to information that is relevant to chain-of-responsibility offences. The purpose and intent behind these amendments is to ensure that there is an appropriate level of investigative and enforcement powers available to officers enforcing the heavy vehicle national law.

Further amendments within the bill provide for authorised officers to issue prohibition notices and for courts to issue injunctions. A prohibition notice requires a person to cease an activity until they have remedied an immediate or imminent serious risk to a person's health or safety—there is a nice bit of iteration there. A person who fails to comply with a prohibition notice is guilty of an offence and may also be restrained from contravening the prohibition notice by way of a court imposed injunction. These new provisions will complement compliance tools already available and provide authorised officers with additional alternatives to prosecution that are designed to improve compliance and better achieve the objectives of the heavy vehicle national law.


In addition to chain-of-responsibility reforms, amendments in this bill will clarify load restraint obligations for drivers, operators and other participants in the transport chain of responsibility. The current load restraint guides include enforceable load restraint performance standards that operators are currently required to comply with, which are then referenced in the heavy vehicle national law. These performance standards ensure that a load, when travelling under expected driving conditions, will not be dislodged or move in such a way as to be unsafe. Load restraint amendments in the bill will reduce industry confusion about precisely what is a load restraint obligation by moving the load restraint performance standards into the national law. This will ensure the load restraint guide is exclusively guidance only, as intended.

The bill also provides amendments that will provide productivity benefits and improved road access to industry by granting increased volumetric load capacity to heavy vehicles, without increasing mass. Industry will benefit from the use of more productive vehicles with greater road network access, but without the regulatory burden of applying for permits in other authorisations. The bill implements the ability to grant as-of-right access to specified PBS vehicles. This will allow those vehicles to access the same road network as heavy vehicles operating under general mass limits, but without the need for an individual permit. There will be no adverse road safety or road infrastructure impacts associated with this initiative.

A further amendment supports improved access for industry. Currently, if a road manager is unable to provide consent for an access permit application due to the proposed mass or dimension limits being unacceptable for a particular road network, the consent is simply refused. The amendment in this bill provides for road managers to nominate the mass or dimension limits at which a heavy vehicle could operate and not cause damage to road infrastructure.

The bill also inserts a new section into the Queensland application provisions of the heavy vehicle national law. This provision will allow proceedings for fatigue related offences to be commenced in a Magistrates Court district where an offence was detected or in a district in which an offence occurred. Currently, if a person has committed multiple fatigue related offences in different court districts, charges must be brought and the defendant is obliged to appear at courts in each of those districts. This issue is unique to fatigue offences, because the offences are, in effect, continuing offences, with each single journey potentially giving rise to multiple offences that may be committed in multiple court jurisdictions. The proposed amendment will mean that multiple offences can be heard in a single Magistrates Court. This will reduce unnecessary burdens for defendants. It will also mean that Queensland has a similar approach to that in other jurisdictions where courts have a greater discretion to determine the location of proceedings.

The bill also proposes a number of minor maintenance amendments to the heavy vehicle national law. Their intent is to clarify some existing provisions or better aid interpretation of the national law, such as ensuring annual indexation penalties operate as intended and removing the NHVR's obligation to advertise in national newspapers when amending notices. As I noted earlier, I intend to move amendments during consideration in detail. Those amendments are minor and technical, and include addressing draft anomalies that were identified by the Office the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel during the drafting of the bill. The amendments will ensure that the legislation functions correctly. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.14 pm): I rise to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. At the outset I place on the record my appreciation of the member for Callide. Several weeks ago, I rode with the premier—sorry; the member for Callide, Mr Colin Boyce, who would love to be premier. One never knows. I have great faith in the member for Callide, so watch this space.

I can tell members one thing: spending two days driving around the electorate of Callide in his 1984 Mack Super Liner was truly eye opening. There is no way in the world that I would insult truck drivers or the trucking industry by saying that after two days on the road I have learnt the lay of the land, so to speak. However, after those two days I certainly had to book into the chiropractor and I have a new-found respect for the trucking industry. It really is enlightening to sit alongside a registered driver and see the condition of the roads and the amount of paperwork that the trucking industry has to do. Whilst I will speak to the bill shortly, firstly I place on the record my sincere thanks to the member for Callide, Mr Colin Boyce, who did a wonderful job.

As we are aware, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads introduced the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill into the Queensland parliament on 1 May 2018. It was referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee for detailed consideration. Having done its work, the committee reported on 28 June this year with a recommendation that the bill be passed. Today, we will be supporting the bill. The committee made one further recommendation, that the bill be amended to include a more definitive definition of the term 'PBS', performance based standards, in the heavy vehicle national law. Basically, the recommendation is that the term in its own right be included in the section 5 definitions in the HVNL, rather than as a note within another definition.

I will comment on the objectives of the bill. The bill amends existing provisions of the heavy vehicle national law to further enhance its clarity and operability across all jurisdictions. As such, the bill contains amendments to the HVNL to implement key heavy vehicle policy initiatives to reduce complexity and improve the effectiveness of the investigation and enforcement of the HVNL. By increasing the allowed volume on certain heavy vehicles where mass is not a constraint, it also aims to improve the productivity of the road network, as well as the freight fleet.

The key amendments contained in the bill are along the following lines: firstly, strengthening investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers, which is the third stage of the chain-of-responsibility reforms, as the minister outlined; increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint; transferring the load restraint performance standards from guidelines into the HVNL; provisions to streamline the court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences—and I am aware that other speakers from this side of the chamber may flesh out that particular point; and, furthermore, maintenance amendments to clarify a range of existing provisions. As I have said already, the LNP will not be opposing the bill before the House this afternoon, as it seeks to implement key heavy vehicle policy initiatives designed to reduce complexity and, hopefully, improve the effectiveness of the investigation and enforcement of the heavy vehicle national law.

By increasing the allowed volume on certain heavy vehicles where mass is not a constraint, the bill aims to improve the productivity of the road network, as well as the freight fleet. I highlight that point again: improve the productivity. After only two days on the road with the member for Callide, it was very apparent that this bill needs to address productivity. Time and time again, issues such as red tape, paperwork, the condition of roads and the condition of bridges, as well as issues involving compliance and inspectorial staff came through. Everything has a way of potentially eating into the heavy vehicle industry's productivity. Therefore, I am sure that anything that can be done to support the industry is welcomed by both sides of the House.

The bill also inserts a provision into that part of the act that governs the application of the HVNL in Queensland. This provision will streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences. It should be noted that the approach taken to implement national heavy vehicle reform is through adoption of the national legislation enacted first in Queensland as the host jurisdiction and then applied by participating jurisdictions.

While generally supportive of the bill, we note the constantly changing operating environment and the importance of continual improvement in the regulatory framework for the heavy vehicle industry. Like many other industries that we have come across, the heavy vehicle industry is not immune to change. Accordingly, we will confirm the need for an independent review of the HVNL to be undertaken within the next 12 months. This legislation is designed to improve road safety, lift productivity and make enforcement less complex. It is certainly worthy of consideration and support in the House today.

I would like to make a couple of other quick comments. Removing the enforceable load restraint performance standards from the load restraint guide and placing them in the HVNL is a practical example of both a road safety measure as well as making the restraint obligations for loads carried on heavy vehicles far clearer. That will be welcomed by the industry, I am sure.

Additional information gathering powers, specifically relevant to the chain-of-responsibility offences, have been included in the bill to strengthen investigative and enforcement powers of authorised officers and to enable evidence to prove a breach beyond reasonable doubt to be collected. To ensure that agencies have the appropriate powers to achieve the objectives of the HVNL, such as where an authorised officer has a reasonable belief that a fleet or class of vehicles does not comply with the HVNL or where an immediate or serious risk to a person is imminent, suitable amendments are being proposed.

Furthermore, the amendments contained in this particular bill before the House today will not only strengthen the investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers but also allow, as has been mentioned already, an increase in freight volumes where mass is not a constraint. This is of particular concern to the heavy vehicle industry. I think most people would be aware that the HVNL is the cornerstone of the Council of Australian Governments' national heavy vehicle reform agenda and ensures the industry can operate across states without conflicting regulatory requirements. It is important legislation.

Upon commencement back in February 2014, the HVNL also established the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, known simply as the regulator, to administer the HVNL. For all practical intents and purposes, this is meant to be a national scheme. Consultation on the development of the bill was necessarily extensive. It has been pointed out in speeches on other amendments that have come before us that Western Australia and the Northern Territory were still involved even though they do not participate directly in the scheme at this stage.


With respect to other heavy vehicle matters, we recognise that the abovementioned HVNL amendments were unanimously endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council back in November 2017 after jointly being developed by the National Transport Commission and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator in consultation with state and territory agencies and enforcement agencies.

Importantly, heavy vehicle industry associations and other key stakeholders, whose input into these amendments was particularly important, were also consulted and supportive of the measures. That is why the LNP will be supporting this bill today. It is worth remembering, however, that it is generally acknowledged that the amendments do not necessarily address all areas of concern. That is why I look forward to next year when there will be a comprehensive overview of the entire act. I look forward to that.

I know that there are other speakers, particularly on this side of chamber, who come from rural electorates and are certainly across the heavy vehicle industry and are far more in tune with it than me after two days on the road with the member for Callide. The LNP recognises the vital contribution that the heavy vehicle transport industry makes to the overall national economy and our state gross product. We have always sought to introduce measures to improve productivity and the safety of those working in the sector.

It is worthwhile pointing out one other key statistic. The National Transport Commission projects that Australia's freight task will grow by around 26 per cent over the next decade. It is imperative that we build on the work done to date to ensure that the national legislation is fit for purpose in this digital age.

In closing, the LNP has always been a strong supporter of business, both large and small. We all know of the famous bumper sticker 'Without trucks Australia stops'. We have all seen them when we have been on the road. I take this opportunity to congratulate those hardworking men and women who very sadly at times put their lives on the line just to simply bring from market to place of distribution to retail sale the various goods that we sometimes take for granted. It certainly was a real eye-opener spending two days in the wonderful old 1984 Mack Super-Liner. I absolutely commend the trucking industry. We do support this bill with amendments today.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.25 pm): I rise today to make a contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. As we are the host jurisdiction for the HVNL, our Queensland parliament must first consider and pass amendments to the national law before it can be applied by the other participating jurisdictions. Here we are again with some more exciting amendments to the heavy vehicle national law.

This particular bill seeks to implement nationally agreed reforms that include strengthening investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers, increase freight volumes where mass is not a constraint—I will speak more on that later—and transfer load restraint performance standards from guidance material to the HVNL. It will make minor or technical amendments resulting from the maintenance process for the HVNL, that will remove unnecessary administrative or regulatory burdens and will ensure the HVNL remains contemporary and fit for purpose. Finally and most importantly in my eyes, it will insert a provision into the part of the act that governs the application of the HVNL in Queensland to streamline the court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences.

In keeping with the proactive chain-of-responsibility reforms that come into effect from 1 October, the reforms in this bill reformulate executive officer offence provisions from a reverse onus of proof obligation. This will mean executive officers will no longer be required to disprove a presumption of their guilt and the prosecution will bear the burden to prove all elements of the charge. As a result, there will be a heavier burden of proof on the prosecution to prove liability in chain-of-responsibility offences.

The investigative and enforcement power amendments assist the prosecution with this heavier burden of proof by providing authorised officers additional powers to gather information from a person who is not an executive officer. These information-gathering powers will be confined to information that is relevant to the chain-of-responsibility offences.

I turn to the increase in mass amendments I mentioned before. They will serve to grant improved road access to heavy vehicles with increased volumetric load capacity but with no increase in mass. This increase in productivity will not be at the expense of road safety or road infrastructure. This takes me back to when I worked in the mines. In iron ore mines there is a certain truck with a certain capacity. In a coalmine we see the same truck but the tray is three or four times bigger. It is carrying the same weight but is physically bigger. That is what we are looking at here. That example may illustrate this exciting news a little better.

The current provisions impose hardship on drivers of heavy vehicles who may have to respond to similar offences in separate court locations on different days throughout Queensland. This is important. The current law requires each offence to be brought in the Magistrates Court district in which the offence occurred, irrespective of where the driver's work diary was inspected.

The sensible amendments in this bill allow for the Queensland prosecution to commence proceedings for a fatigue offence in a Magistrates Court district in which an offence occurred or in a Magistrates Court district in which the offence was detected. Therefore, multiple offences that would otherwise be heard in multiple locations can now be heard in a single Magistrates Court. The choice of which court will be at the Queensland prosecution's election.

The amendment will overcome the problem faced in a recent prosecution where a driver on a journey through Queensland committed fatigue offences that needed to be heard in six different courts. The driver was not only required to appear in each of these courts but also required to pay in excess of \$1,000 in court fees even before any fine was imposed. Although he appeared in four of these courts, warrants were issued for his arrest as he failed to appear in two of the other courts. This outcome is disproportionate to the offences committed. Submitters were very happy to see these amendments, and that is what I was referring to earlier.

I would like to thank the members of the Transport and Public Works Committee for their input on this report and the other HVNL reports we have done. Thanks to the deputy chair, the member for Hervey Bay; the member for Aspley; the member for Bundamba; the member for Callide, who I heard recently went for a drive with the shadow minister in his old truck—good on you, well done—and the member for Traeger.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr KING: In his old rig.

Mr Millar: Mack Super-Liner.

Mr KING: Mack Super-Liner. It was probably made in Inala years ago—in 1984 apparently. I would also like to thank our hardworking secretariat—Deb, Margaret, Mishelle and Lyn—for their hard work on this, another heavy vehicle national law amendment bill.

We made two recommendations. One was that the bill be passed, as was described earlier. The second was that the term 'PBS', performance based standards, should be better defined. I know it is only a technicality. The number of acronyms that we have make a lot of people's lives and jobs easier, but they can make it very complex for others. We thought it would be better to have that more clearly defined because we were scratching our heads. There are a lot of acronyms, so we made that recommendation and we are pleased to see that it was accepted. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr SORENSEN (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to pay tribute to all the truckies who are out there driving on the roads every night for the contribution that they make to the economy of every town and city up and down the coast of Queensland and right out west to the borders. They spend a lot of hours behind the wheel of those trucks. If we can make the trucking industry safer and more viable, it will be better for the economy of Queensland because there are a lot of truckies out there. There are small businesses and big businesses. They need to be able to go across borders with the same loads. As you know, especially with capacity loading as against weight loading, when they get to the New South Wales border they have to go over the scales and, if they have two bullocks extra on it, they have to get rid of them.

If we can nationalise the whole road industry, it will make it better for the trucking industry right across-the-board. It is so difficult. You only have to watch some of the TV programs about the trucking industry in Australia to see that, even with the big heavy loads of machinery, they have to change things to go across the border. Do we really need that in the trucking industry in Queensland and right across our whole country? Trucks come from Perth across to Sydney. They go through about three or four states sometimes to get to their destination and the states all have different road rules. How do you expect the truckies to know most of those road rules when they keep changing at every boundary?

The committee made two recommendations. The committee recommended that the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 be passed and that the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 be amended to include a more definitive definition of the term 'PBS' in the heavy vehicle national law. Firstly, the term 'PBS', which stands for performance based standards, is used but not defined in the explanatory notes. The explanatory notes would be of more assistance if they included a definition for this acronym, particularly given that the term is not defined in the bill. I think that is a pretty good recommendation because a lot of people do not realise what it means. There are about four different levels of PBS as well—from big heavy trucks to ordinary semitrailers. I think that does need to be explained a little better.

In relation to the chain of responsibility, I do not think you can blame everything on the driver. The people who own the trucks should make sure that the trucks are up to speed. We see a lot of truck drivers now using cameras in their trucks. I think it is a good idea to make sure that in the future this sort of technology is in the trucks. With technology today, you can store 2,000 movies on one small apparatus. If you could switch on a computer and drive up and down the road, all the records would be there. At the moment the truck driver is responsible for those records and they always have to carry that book with them.

I know that in the mining industry they have a monitor on the trucks and they can tell you where any truck is at any time. With new technology coming around the corner, I expect to see some changes in 12 months time when we have a review. It is pretty important that we keep up with technology for safety reasons as well. If you have a camera in the truck and somebody has an accident, it is all there on film and so there is no argument. At least they know who is responsible for that accident.

I was in the dairy industry and my old truck driver used to come and pick up the milk. One of the biggest disasters he ever had was when a bloke committed suicide one night. He drove straight into his truck. He said that the worst thing about that was that every night when he went to sleep he could see his eyeballs looking at him as he was coming at him. That is what happens on the road sometimes, especially with truckies. It was not his fault that that car ran into him.

When it comes to court processes, when people get fined, especially for fatigue offences, if they have committed more than one offence in different districts, they have to go to different courts. There is usually court fees of \$1,000 to appear in court, so if they have to go to three courts then they have an extra fine really in having to pay the court fees for each of those court appearances. If they have two or three fines from different areas, it would be better if they could go to the one courthouse. It would save on courthouse bills and they would only have to pay \$1,000 for the one court case. It helps those sorts of things as well. I am sure that some of my colleagues from Western Queensland will talk about different things, so I will allow them time to do that.




Mr BOYCE (Callide—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. The bill is self-explanatory and is a matter of course. The HVNL is the cornerstone of the Council of Australian Governments' national heavy vehicle reform agenda and ensures that the industry can operate across state borders without conflicting regulatory requirements.

The HVNL regulates matters relating to the operation of heavy vehicles such as mass and dimension, vehicle safety standards, driver fatigue management, heavy vehicle accreditation and use of intelligent transport systems. The HVNL also places obligations on identified off-road transport parties involved in the transport and logistics chain—the chain-of-responsibility parties—and includes enforcement powers and administrative provisions.

The bill amends the HVNL to implement nationally agreed reforms that include strengthening investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers, increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint and transferring load restraint performance standards from guidance material to the HVNL. The bill also makes minor technical amendments resulting from the maintenance process for the HVNL that remove unnecessary administrative or regulatory burdens and to ensure that the HVNL remains contemporary and fit for purpose. The bill also inserts a provision into the part of the act that governs the application of the HVNL in Queensland. This provision will streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences.

A complete review of the legislation governing the HVNL has been flagged for 2019 and I welcome it. As the member for Chatsworth has stated, I own a road train. I am an owner-operator. I would like to inform the House that it is constantly on my mind every time my truck is on the road and the consequences of what happens when things are not right and things go wrong. Just recently my son brought a load of fat bullocks to the meatworks at Dinmore. You come through Toowoomba—18 sets of traffic lights—down James Street in peak-hour traffic and down the Toowoomba range, which is quite a hair-raising experience, I can assure members. The day before that particular trip to Brisbane there was a truck rollover in the middle of Toowoomba in James Street, and I sent my son a video of exactly what happened. That is part of my chain of responsibility as a heavy vehicle owner.

I fully support measures that address conflicting regulatory requirements across state borders in regard to safety and operations in the heavy transport industry, and I would remind the House that trucks carry Australia.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (12.40 pm): I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. The nature of national reforms across states and national model legislation means that this is not the first time—not even the first time this year—that this House has debated heavy vehicle national law. I am pleased to see that enthusiasm is still here for national heavy vehicle law bills.

I thank the chair of the committee, the member for Kurwongbah, committee members—the members for Bundamba, Hervey Bay, Callide and Traeger—and the minister for carrying this through. I thank witnesses to committee hearings, submitters and the committee secretariat and staff.

Summarised, the objectives of the bill are to implement nationally agreed reforms that include strengthening investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers; to allow for increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint; to transfer load restraint performance standards from guidance material to the heavy vehicle national law; to remove unnecessary administrative or regulatory burdens and to ensure the HVNL remains contemporary and fit for purpose; and to insert a provision into the part of the act that governs the application of the HVNL in Queensland to streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences.

Given that there are several components to this bill, I wish to speak on just a few of those. Firstly, on the strengthening of investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers, this is related to the need to strengthen these powers as a result of a change in the onus of proof from those in the chain of responsibility to those seeking to prosecute. These were as a result of previous proactive primary duty approaches taken in chain-of-responsibility reforms.

These changes will provide authorised officers with additional powers to gather information from a person who is not an executive officer in the chain. They will enable a fleet or class of vehicles to be ordered for inspection—rather than individual vehicles—where there is a reasonable belief the fleet or class is defective. They will empower authorised officers to issue prohibition notices, and they will enable the courts to issue injunctions.


On the matter of increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint, the intention is to grant improved road access to heavy vehicles with increased volumetric load capacity but with no increase in mass. This increase in productivity will not be at the expense of road safety or road infrastructure. Industry will benefit from the use of more productive vehicles with greater road network access but without the regulatory burden of permits and other authorisations. To describe what this means, I quote from the Department of Transport and Main Roads from the public hearing—

The provision here allows access to PBS level 1 vehicles on the general access routes. General access is generally your biggest vehicle, so your 19-metre semitrailer. PBS level 1 allows up to 20 metres. There are still general mass limits, so it is the same weight but just slightly longer.

Basically, where the mass is the same it allows vehicles that are one metre longer to not have to go through a burdensome regulatory process. This will allow these vehicles to access the same road network as heavy vehicles operating under general mass limits without the need for an additional permit. This policy to grant improved road access to heavy vehicles with increased volumetric load capacity but with no increase in mass was agreed to by the Transport and Infrastructure Council. It sounds sensible to me.

I will touch briefly on other components of the bill. Amendments in this bill allow for the Queensland prosecution to commence proceedings for a fatigue offence in a Magistrates Court district in which an offence occurred or in the Magistrates Court district in which the offence was detected. These are Queensland specific provisions. Multiple offences that would otherwise be heard in multiple locations will be heard in a single Magistrates Court. The choice of which court will be at the Queensland prosecutor's election. As the member for Kurwongbah mentioned earlier, this amendment will overcome the problem faced in a recent prosecution, for example, where a driver on a journey through Queensland committed fatigue offences that needed to be heard in six different courts. This is a sensible course of action to reduce unnecessarily duplicated processes.

In summing up, this bill is a sensible next step in the ongoing national heavy vehicle law reform process. Standardised processes ensure industry certainty and reduce overregulation across state boundaries. This is sensible economic reform. It is a straightforward bill. They say that without trucks Australia stops. Without the regular passage of heavy vehicle national law through this parliament, trucks may stop. I am pleased to see bipartisan support for this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.45 pm): I rise to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. Most of the changes in this bill are to conform with the HVNL. I would like to make some points about the bill insofar as it affects the rural areas that I represent. We acknowledge

the benefit of having uniformity across states, which is what the bill tries to address, but it is very important to recognise when we touch on these matters that there are differences in the industry in different areas.


As an example, I had a call recently from someone who operates out of the territory—he does a lot of livestock haulage—who said that with droughted livestock the fatigue management laws can be very onerous. The conditions are very different. A lot of other factors come into play when you are dealing with fatigue and you have droughted livestock on the back. If it takes another hour or two or you get held up somewhere, there should be some capacity in those laws to manage issues like that. There are a lot of smaller owner-operators in those areas who are doing a lot of compliance work that seems to continually grow. I know there is an attempt here to reduce that. They are getting whacked with fines. It highlights the need to look at things differently in different areas.

I note that the committee recommended that the bill be passed. I think there were six points that were taken through from the original agreement when this process started. There were six key objectives from when this regulatory reform first came about. Not everything has been satisfied, but there is hope that these things in the fullness of time would be addressed. We have taken a lot of notice of the NRTA's submission. It does a good job of representing a lot of drivers in our areas. They held heavily on those six recommendations in the RIS relating to uniform laws; regulatory burdens not increasing; minimising legal administrative costs; productivity and effectiveness; efficient production of sustainable freight in heavy operations; and a framework which allows for regular review. That is a brief summary of those points. I think that is a good starting basis for everyone to move forward on.

It is important to note with anything going forward in the transport industry that it is not all apples. I recall a comment made to me recently about Bradley Hawkins, who is a terrific operator up there in the gulf. Bradley has built a big business up, but a comment was made that if Bradley was not doing the job up there then freight would not be delivered, because he does it for a price. He works the trucks himself and he works that hard that it would be different to expect anyone else to go up there and do the same job at the same rate which means businesses would not be able to operate for any higher cost-structure.

These things are very sensitive. They highly impact on areas of my electorate because they are very remote, distances are longer for drivers and there are not as many stopping points for trucks when drivers need to pull over for fatigue management. I also make mention of the fact that the Winton Roadhouse has reduced their hours and the McKinlay Roadhouse has now shut down. As towns are dying out in these western areas, there are fewer and fewer options for these truck drivers to pull over, get a meal, have a drink and rest. A lot of that gets forgotten when these rules are made, particularly rules on fatigue management, so there has to be latitude in there.

I think the laws can be very unforgiving. They are probably good and needed in some of the high-traffic coastal areas, but it is different out in those places. I make the point again, particularly in the context of the current drought, that drivers are taking long loads and they have animals under stress that need to get somewhere fast, so they cannot be getting \$3,000 or \$4,000 fines on fatigue management when, all things being considered, that is completely unreasonable. Moving forward, we accept that these changes are needed and are probably sensible, but these things need to be taken into consideration.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.50 pm): At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the trucking industry. It has been demonstrated over my time in this House that both sides of parliament think these national heavy vehicle reforms are important. We have to acknowledge those small business people across the nation who provide such an essential service in moving large volumes of freight. There is sometimes frustration, but when we enact laws in this place we must be thinking about safety. With these policy initiatives, we will remove complexity and improve effectiveness and enforcement around the new laws.

I want to talk a bit later about the reforms that are needed. I ask the House to consider what is happening in high-value irrigated agriculture parts of the state, in particular, with harvesters and agricultural vehicles moving around regional Queensland. I would like to keep the focus on that issue, and I have raised it many times in this place.

By increasing the allowed volume on certain vehicles where mass is not a constraint, it also aims to improve the productivity of the road network. A good example of this that we hope will be enacted is with the cane harvest, which is currently on in my part of the world. It is about the number of bins that can be put on these heavy vehicles. It is about productivity and decreasing the number of truck movements on our roads. With that comes safety. It is also about sustainability for these farms.

I note that the bill inserts a provision into that part of the act that governs the application of the HVNL in Queensland. This provision will streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences. It should be noted that the approach taken to implement national heavy vehicle reform is through adoption of national legislation that was first enacted in Queensland as host jurisdiction and then applied by participating jurisdictions. I did note the member for Traeger's comments about fatigue management, but all of us need to feel safe when we are on the roads, particularly with heavy vehicle movements being so prevalent. We are talking about predominantly regional and remote Queensland.

While generally supportive of the bill, we note the constantly changing operating environment and the importance of continual improvement in the regulatory framework for the heavy vehicle industry. We need to make sure we get the heavy vehicle industry right and we need to keep reviewing it. I note that there is a review in 12 months. That is very important and appropriate.

The committee recommended that the bill be passed. One further recommendation was that the bill be amended to include a more definitive definition of the term 'performance based standards' in the heavy vehicle law. Basically, the committee recommended that the term be included in section 5. We know about the objectives of the bill. The bill amends existing provisions of the HVNL to enhance its clarity and operability. The bill contains amendments to implement key heavy vehicle policy initiatives to reduce complexity and improve effectiveness, as has been stated. It is also about improving those productivity issues that I spoke about, particularly in my part of the world where the road network as well as the freight network is integral to providing services and products from farm and to market.

The key amendments of the bill are: strengthening investigative and enforcement powers, which we support; increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint, which is another good initiative; transferring load restraint performance standards from guidelines to the HVNL; provisions to streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue offences; and maintenance amendments to clarify a range of existing provisions.

This legislation is designed to improve road safety, lift productivity and make enforcement less complex so it is worthy of consideration by all members in this House. Removing the enforceable load restraint performance standards from the load restraint guide and placing them in the HVNL is a practical example of both a road safety measure as well as making the restraint obligations for loads carried on heavy vehicles more clear and concise.

Additional information-gathering powers, specifically relevant to chain-of-responsibility offences, have been included in the bill to strengthen investigative and enforcement powers. We cannot for one minute think that any erosion of those provisions would be accepted. To ensure agencies have the appropriate powers to achieve the objectives of the HVNL such as where an authorised officer has a reasonable belief that a fleet or class of vehicles does not comply with HVNL, or where an immediate or serious risk to a person is imminent, suitable amendments are proposed. We support them.

The amendments contained in the bill will not only strengthen investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers but also allow an increase in freight volumes. The HVNL is the cornerstone of the Council of Australian Governments' national heavy vehicle reform agenda and ensures industry can operate across state borders without conflicting requirements. All of us in this place would like to see more national legislation across our borders to remove duplication—and, in some cases, 'triplication'—and, more importantly, those regulatory burdens that come always at a cost to small business.

Upon commencement in February 2014, the HVNL also established the regulator to administer the HVNL. For all practical purposes, this is a national scheme so consultation on the development of the bill was necessary. I note that Western Australia and the Northern Territory are still involved although they do not participate in the scheme. For all intents and purposes, the east coast of Australia is fully on board and so are we. With respect to heavy vehicle matters, we recognise that the abovementioned HVNL amendments were unanimously endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2017 after jointly being developed by the National Transport Commission and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator in consultation with state and territory agencies and enforcement agencies.

It is worth mentioning that it is generally acknowledged that the amendments do not necessarily address all areas of concern with the national heavy vehicle law, so this needs to form part of a further discussion in a review of the act. Of course, we mentioned earlier that constant review and scrutiny of this legislation is welcomed.

The reform agenda of the HVNL has been a multi-staged process over several years. This bill is primarily focused on streamlining certain enforcement provisions. These amendments reinforce the need for a fundamental overhaul of the HVNL to ensure that it takes full advantage of technological

advancements made in a digital economy. I note the member for Hervey Bay's contribution. It is important that we acknowledge dash cam and all of the other technological advancements we have now at our fingertips. We should be using those to their full advantage.

That said though, there is talk about digital disruption that can happen, particularly taking our mind off the road. Digital disruption is transforming the world in commerce and industry. We would support a fundamental overhaul of the HVNL to put more contemporary arrangements in place. In this regard, some innovative thinking is needed on how the potential improvements in safety and productivity in the transport sector can be leveraged to the advantage of the industry and ultimately the safety of our community.


I will take this opportunity to highlight some local Bundaberg region issues that continue to cause us concern and I ask that these items be dealt with as soon as possible. The national harmonisation process that has all the states abiding by the same laws must become a reality. There is currently the absurd situation where Queensland is the only state that continues to require the use of police as escorts for national heavy vehicle movements across our road network. We need to consider what the cost of this is to the transport industry and those small mum-and-dad businesses, particularly around the Bundaberg region. This could be as simple as moving a harvester from one part of the farm to another part of their farm on the other side of the road, or it could even be a contract harvesting business moving it down the road.

There is another issue we find in Queensland. The processing of permits for vehicles over four metres wide to travel on our roads is still a concern, especially around time lines on approvals for permits. I am hearing that 90 per cent are within six days; however, for the other 10 per cent, it can take up to 56 days for a permit to be issued. There needs to be acknowledgement that agriculture harvesting machines are not the same as, say, mining equipment that travel on the same roads, back and forward, day in, day out. That is easy to give a permit to those regular transporters but, as I alluded to before, those harvesters need to go when they are called and where they are called and it can be on any road at any time.

I highlight the importance of these road safety and productivity measures within this legislation. I again highlight the need for those vehicles over four metres to be dealt with in future legislation. This is about productivity. It is about those small business men and women, particularly in the Burnett and Bundaberg regions, who rely on those permits to be issued in a timely manner. It is still an issue, as I have raised before.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): It being 1 pm, we will break for lunch. I remind members that there will be a photo on the grand staircase for those wearing red socks at 1 pm.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. It is certainly an area in which I have had a lot of experience and involvement over many decades. The LNP position is to not oppose this bill as it seeks to implement key heavy vehicle policy initiatives designed to reduce the complexity and improve the effectiveness of the investigation and enforcement of the heavy vehicle national law or, as it is commonly known, the HVNL. By increasing the allowed volume on certain heavy vehicles where mass is not a constraint, it also aims to improve the productivity of the road network as well as the freight fleet.

There is a sign that is common on most of the heavy vehicles on our roads that says, 'Without trucks Australia stops.' There is no truer comment, particularly with regard to my electorate of Burdekin and the broader North Queensland region. We do not have access in a lot of those areas to rail or sea transport—to shipping—and as a consequence the transport of food and fibre on a daily basis is all contingent on heavy vehicles.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr LAST: I take that interjection from my colleague the member for Whitsunday. I do not think there would be a member in this House who would not have seen a Blenners truck on the road. I think they have a fleet of a couple of hundred trucks. They have the responsibility of trucking all the bananas out of Tully and Innisfail into the southern markets.

The bill also inserts a provision into that part of the act that governs the application of the HVNL in Queensland. This provision will streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences. I will relate some of the history regarding national heavy vehicle enforcement and the need for consistency and standardisation across Australia. It was not too many years ago when a truck would be pulled up and a truck driver would get out with a handful of drivers' licences and say, 'Which one do

you want?' He would have a driver's licence issued in every state of Australia. It was not that long ago when a truck would be pulled up and the truck driver would be asked to produce his logbooks and he would produce several logbooks as well.

In a lot of these cases they were trying to meet deadlines under pressure to deliver produce and that type of thing. However, that just reinforced how necessary it was to get some standardisation and consistency across the industry and across Australia because these truck drivers are driving all across Australia. On any given week they can travel from Cairns to Melbourne to Perth and back, and there needed to be that consistency in the way the law is applied and certainly that commonality.

Whilst we are generally supportive of the bill, we note the constantly changing operating environment and the importance of continual improvement in the regulatory framework for the heavy vehicle industry. Accordingly, we will confirm the need for an independent review of the HVNL to be undertaken within the next 12 months.

The bill contains amendments to the HVNL to implement key heavy vehicle policy initiatives to reduce that complexity and improve the effectiveness of the investigation and enforcement of the HVNL. By increasing the allowed volume on certain heavy vehicles where mass is not a constraint, it also aims to improve the productivity of the road network as well as the freight fleet. I will relate this story. I was at a feedlot at Toowoomba several months ago. In Queensland we have volume loading, so the feedlot would put 60 bullocks on a B-double road train to go interstate. Then when they got to the border they were constrained by mass limits. If they were over a certain mass, they would have to unload one or two of these bullocks to meet their requirements. That highlights the inconsistencies between states and the difficulties that some of these operators and trucking industry bodies have in complying with the law. Honourable members can imagine the logistical issues and problems that would cause if they got to the border of New South Wales and all of a sudden they had to kick two bullocks out the back gate. The need for that consistency and uniformity is so important when it comes to heavy vehicle guidelines and enforcement.

I note the key amendments contained in the bill are: the strengthening of the investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers; the increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint; transferring load restraint performance standards from guidelines to the HVNL; and provisions to streamline court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences. How important is that? Again I will use an example. On a station at Julia Creek a particular trucking operator decided to run the gauntlet, so he picked up tickets in Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Mount Isa. They all had their own court jurisdictions. As honourable members would appreciate, that trucking operator then had six or seven court appearances, all spaced over a period of about six months, to deal with what was a succession of infringement notices issued over a one-day period. The fact that we can now bring all of that together and have them dealt with in a single court at a single sitting certainly makes practical sense and helps to reduce the burden not only on our investigating officers but also on the justice system and our court processes.

The amendments contained in the bill will not only strengthen investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers but will also allow an increase in freight volumes where mass is not a constraint, thereby improving the productivity of the road network as well as the freight fleet. Our road network, particularly in country areas, is under enormous pressure. I still have roads in my electorate that are unsealed and that are seeing increasing numbers of road trains that are freighting out minerals, livestock, grain and commodities. Honourable members can appreciate the number of trucks coming out of places like Bowen and the Burdekin, particularly at this time of the year when 80 per cent of Australia's tomatoes are coming out of Bowen. There is a huge pressure on our road network and there is a need to get this right.

Upon commencement in February 2014, the HVNL also established the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to administer the HVNL. With respect to heavy vehicle matters, we recognise that the above amendments were unanimously enforced by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2017 and that, importantly, heavy vehicle industry associations and other key stakeholders were consulted and had input into these measures.

I support this bill. I will just touch on a subject that my colleague the member for Hervey Bay touched on previously about the technological advancements. Earlier I mentioned logbooks and those sorts of things. Going forward there is no reason why, with the technology that now exists—and a lot of companies already do this—vehicles cannot be tracked using GPS coordinates. There is no reason why operators cannot use electronic devices to monitor those vehicles, which can be uploaded in real time to assist with compliance. I think that needs to be taken full advantage of going forward. We have already seen how that digital disruption is transforming the world in many other ways. Certainly, that is the way of the future for the trucking industry.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.10 pm): I rise to support the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 and make a short contribution in support of the bill. As we have already heard, the heavy vehicle national law regulates matters about the operation of heavy vehicles such as their mass and dimensions, vehicle safety standards, fatigue management, heavy vehicle accreditation, speed compliance and the use of intelligent transport systems. The heavy vehicle national law also includes chain-of-responsibility offences, enforcement powers and administrative provisions. The bill before the House proposes to amend the heavy vehicle national law to implement a number of nationally agreed reforms.

It is important for this bill to pass because, as we have heard, Queensland has the host legislation for the heavy vehicle national law, and the legislation must be passed in this parliament first before it can be passed in other jurisdictions. The nationally agreed reforms which are picked up in this amendment bill seek to: strengthen investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers; allow increased freight volumes where mass is not a constraint; transfer load restraint performance standards from guidance material to the heavy vehicle national law; and make a range of minor maintenance amendments to ensure the heavy vehicle national law remains contemporary and fit for purpose. It also makes an amendment specific to Queensland with respect to the election of a Magistrates Court location, which I will come back to in a couple of moments.

As many people in this chamber have already said, safe roads are productive and efficient roads. When you think about it, when you prioritise safety on the roads you also prioritise the productiveness and efficiency of those roads. Unsafe roads create inefficiencies; unsafe roads are less productive. Having a heavy vehicle national law regime which focuses on safety is not only about those involved in the industry being safe but about making our roads as productive and efficient as possible. I want to pay tribute to the work that is done by people within my agency, the Queensland Police Service, with respect to the heavy vehicle national law and the work they do alongside the heavy vehicle regulator. They work alongside the regulator with respect to the movement of heavy vehicles on our roads. They assist with heavy load escorts and compliance activity. It is important to acknowledge not only the work done by the regulator but also the work done by the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport and Main Roads in prioritising safety on our roads.


The bill before the House does not just reflect nationally agreed reforms. There is significant consultation that goes on behind and in front of the scenes to ensure this regime provides the best safety framework possible for heavy vehicles and all roads users, for that matter. I want to note the extensive consultation process that was undertaken with respect to the development of this bill. There was consultation with the National Transport Commission, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Maintenance Advisory Group and the industry advisory group.

The industry advisory group includes the Australian Trucking Association, the National Farmers' Federation, the Transport Workers Union and the Australian Logistics Council, as well as vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, transport operators and transport training industry members. The Heavy Vehicle National Law Maintenance Advisory Group also has wide membership which includes policing agencies, key industry groups, the Local Government Association of Queensland, Transport Certification Australia, Toll Group and Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia. I say this because it reflects the hard work that has been done to bring this bill before the House. It also reflects the consensus building that has occurred. This is about all people in the sector and all people in the industry having a key focus: to enhance safety on our roads. They are to be commended for their collaboration with respect to these reforms and also more broadly in supporting a national heavy vehicle regime.

I said that I would come back to the Queensland specific amendment, and that is about the election of a court location for fatigue related offences. There is an inefficiency, an unnecessary burden, in the law as it currently stands, and this bill will seek to address that inefficiency, that unnecessary burden, by ensuring that drivers of heavy vehicles who have to respond to similar offences across different Magistrates Court locations only have to come before the one Magistrates Court. The inefficiency, the unnecessary burden, that exists now—as I am sure other speakers would have discussed—requires a driver to appear in each Magistrates Court district throughout the state. We had a situation where a driver who had to appear in six Magistrates Courts had to pay court fees in each Magistrates Court, and then he had warrants issued for his arrest because he failed to appear in two of the courts. This is really an inefficient way of ensuring compliance with the national law and supporting compliance with respect to safe driving.

Road safety is everyone's business. The message that is consistently promoted by all members of this House, members of our community, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service is that we have to make good choices when we get behind the wheel of a vehicle. Whether it is a heavy vehicle, a car or a pushbike, everyone has to make good choices. We

have to make sure that we do not just consider our own safety when we operate those vehicles but the safety of others. I am really proud that Queensland is the host jurisdiction for this legislation because it is about safety on our roads. It is about promoting good choices on our roads. All members of this House should be very proud that we are the host jurisdiction. I look forward to seeing the bill passed by the House and other jurisdictions adopting these reforms.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.16 pm): If there is one seat in this House that relies on the trucking industry, it is certainly the seat of Gregory. The seat of Gregory, as many of you know, is 460,000 square kilometres and trucking is a big part of our industry. In terms of getting goods from Brisbane out to Windorah or Longreach, moving cattle or heavy machinery, or relying on the heavy vehicle industry for the mining industry, trucking is big business when it comes to regional Queensland.

Like the member for Callide, trucks have been in our lives a bit as well. Growing up in agriculture, trucking and using trucks has been a main part of being able to make a living. I was a little bit jealous when the shadow minister went for a ride in the member for Callide's Super-Liner, because I have a 1974 White Road Boss with a joey box waiting for you in Gregory. It is not as comfortable as the Mack Super-Liner, I can tell you that now, and the air conditioner does not work as well. I will get you out there in December in the 40-degree heat. We will go and find some roads and we will take you around.

Mr Last: I take the interjection.

Mr MILLAR: I am happy to help. I encourage all members of this parliament to catch up with a truck driver and go for a bit of a trip with them if they get the opportunity. Members would get to understand how difficult it can be on some of these roads with the time constraints they have. The trucking industry is one of those industries which is held up by red tape and continual ongoing reforms. Many people are just trying to make a living running a family business. You have to understand that these trucks are very expensive pieces of machinery and they need to meet their repayments when they take out a loan. A lot of these truck drivers, men and women, are spending a lot of time away from their families travelling around Queensland and the nation.

This bill is part of the ongoing changes under the national heavy vehicle reform agenda, which will see heavy transport regulations align with most states. This has the widespread support of the industry because it is intended to improve the efficiency and safety of road freight transportation, which is very important. This is a vital industry for Queensland, especially the seat of Gregory. Under the Labor government we are seeing a statewide rail fail, and that rail fail also included the cattle industry. We saw cattle crates decommissioned for nearly eight months last year and they only got back on the rail just recently. It was the heavy vehicle road fleet—the truck drivers and the cattle transporters—in the seat of Gregory who were forced to take up the slack to try and get these cattle down to meatworks at Dinmore or across to Rocky.

I support the intentions of the bill in reducing the complexity of the heavy vehicle national regulations as they apply in Queensland and in streamlining the court processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences.

I am very aware that many heavy transport operators feel that since the reforms commenced in 2014 they have been living with constant change. This has been very challenging to them, because many are just small businesses operating in an environment where there are logistical deadlines. Failing to meet delivery deadlines comes with real costs for both the transporter and the recipient. It is this aspect of the work that can create real risk for drivers.

This bill will streamline the processes for the prosecution of fatigue related offences. While this should be seen as a positive, I stress that it is vital that there is a timely review of how this is working for the industry, for the Queensland businesses reliant on road freight services and, of course, for the compliance officers themselves. Indeed, given the extended and constant adjustment of the legislative environment for heavy vehicle operators over the last few years, I think it is essential that we have an independent review of all of the HVNL within the next 12 months. This will allow operators to give valuable, on-the-ground feedback about the impacts of the changes. Getting feedback from them is important, because they live with this day by day.

Operators can tell you the challenges of complying with the changes, as can I. I have a logbook which is very thick. There are many requirements associated with that logbook—filling it out, constantly being on top of it and making sure you are not making mistakes. I have heard stories of people being fined for spelling mistakes in their logbooks.

Mr Costigan: Trivial stuff.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It is trivial. They are being fined for little mistakes in their logbooks when they are trying to get what they have on the back of their truck to the destination in a timely manner, making sure they are meeting all of the requirements when

it comes to the hours they are allowed to be on the road, taking rest stops and then trying to get home to be part of a family environment after that. We have to make it easier for these truck drivers, because they are only human. They should not continue to feel that they are wrapped up in boundless red tape and facing compliance breaches for little mistakes. We have to get that valuable feedback. They will give that valuable feedback. For an industry so fundamental to Queensland's productivity and so necessary to the daily lives of all Queenslanders, this is something the minister should make a firm commitment to.

I am pleased to note that, while Western Australia and the Northern Territory do not participate in the national heavy vehicle reforms, they have been extensively consulted. This is important, because many road freight operators in the seat of Gregory operate across those borders. We have trucks going into the Northern Territory and all the way over to Western Australia.


I am also pleased to see that the legislation will move the enforceable load restraint performance standards from the Load Restraint Guide to the HVNL. This change will not only improve road safety but also clarify the restraint obligations for loads carried on heavy vehicles. By increasing the allowed volume of certain heavy vehicles where mass is not a constraint, the legislation should improve the productivity of the road network and the freight fleet.

I acknowledge some great operators in the electorates of Gregory and Burdekin and throughout regional Queensland. In Clermont, which used to be in the electorate of Gregory, is Straw Jones, a major transport operator. Lyn Jones, her husband and their family do a great job in moving cattle right throughout regional Queensland. I also mention Duggan Transport and Ballard Transport. I also mention the Johnson family. The family of the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, was heavily involved in road transport and moving cattle right around this state. Family members of the Johnsons continue to do that. Gidgee and others do a great job in getting cattle from our country in to the meatworks.

Of course, the Emerald Carrying Co has one of the biggest fleets in the nation and is a successful Central Highlands business. It moves not only freight but also a lot of fuel right around this nation to make sure we can continue our productivity. It does a great job. If you want to see a topnotch operation—how to do everything right and how to have the shiniest trucks—you only have to go to the Emerald Carrying Co and see what it does. There is also Curley Cattle Transport, RTA, Frasers Livestock Transport and many more.

I make one final comment that does relate to the bill as it concerns fatigue. We are putting in place rest stops, where trucks can pull off the road and drivers can have their breaks. We have to make sure they are designated as 'trucks only'. We do want tourists in our region, but we are finding that more and more grey nomads are using truck stops as a place to rest. The truck stops are designed for the drivers of type 1 and type 2 road trains to have a place to have their required rest, which is under compliance. I congratulate the minister on the provision of the truck stops, which are very important, but I ask him to look at putting up some signs to the effect that those areas are for trucks only. I like the Winnebagos and the grey nomads coming to our area, but there are caravan parks and other places they can park.

When you have to cross-load—a truck comes down from Clermont and cross-loads cattle to go to Rockhampton because of fatigue issues or because they have run out of time and they need another truck—you have to line those trucks up dead straight to make it safe to load the cattle across and continue to their destination. It may be as simple as 'These rest areas are for trucks only. Please park at the caravan park' or down at the river. I congratulate the minister on the provision of the truck stop at Peak Downs, at Emerald, but we are finding a lot of Winnebagos turning up so it is important to put up a sign that says 'trucks only'. This is about fatigue management.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. It is an old adage but one that has held true for generations: without trucks Australia stops and Queensland stops. I listened intently to the contribution of the member for Gregory. He and those in his electorate understand the importance of the heavy vehicle industry to rural and regional Queensland. I also mention the former member for Gregory, who is a former minister for transport and main roads, Vaughan Johnson.

Mr Millar interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. The current member for Gregory and the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, understand the importance to rural and regional Queensland of the heavy vehicle industry with respect to trucking cattle, fresh produce and other goods.

There is no question that trucks and our heavy vehicle industry play a pivotal role in our day-to-day lives. We on this side of the House, the Liberal National Party, recognise the vital contribution the trucking industry makes to not only the Queensland economy but also the Australian economy as a whole. That is why any efforts that can be made and any measures that can be introduced within this parliament that will boost productivity and safety for all in this industry and ultimately reduce the complexity of compliance are very worthy of consideration and support.

As has been outlined in the explanatory notes to this bill, amendments will be made to implement key heavy vehicle policy initiatives to reduce the complexity and improve the effectiveness of the investigation and enforcement of the heavy vehicle national law, and improve the productivity of the road network and freight fleet by increasing the allowed volume on certain heavy vehicles where mass is not a constraint.

I also wish to reiterate the bill's other amendments, which, while classified as being minor and technical, are nonetheless worthy of note. These include amendments which will reduce the administrative or regulatory burden for the regulator and/or the heavy vehicle industry, clarify existing requirements or otherwise aid interpretation of the heavy vehicle national law, and address technical drafting issues.

There is one thing you can be sure of in this House—that is, we the Liberal National Party will always aim to reduce administrative and regulatory burdens on industry when it is appropriate and safe to do so. Those other amendments that I have just listed, while minor, are in fact incredibly important to the heavy vehicle industry. I take this opportunity to acknowledge my colleague the member for Scenic Rim, who spoke in this parliament on this very issue last year when he was then the member for Beaudesert. As the member for Scenic Rim highlighted, confusion and inconsistencies in the application of the heavy vehicle national law have resulted in many truck drivers who simply want to do the right thing left with no idea what to do or where to go. Anything that can be done to reduce complexity and assist in the compliance with legislation is worthy of both consideration and implementation by this parliament.

I also want to note the significance of this bill's impact on road safety—an issue which I am very passionate about in my electorate of Moggill. With Queensland Road Safety Week now behind us, it is quite timely and indeed appropriate that we consider these amendments. In my electorate of Moggill and surrounding western suburbs, road safety and addressing our road networks and infrastructure are front and centre issues that must continue to be addressed. Recently we saw yet another crash on Moggill Road, this time involving a young girl left with major injuries, and I was inundated yet again with calls asking just what it will take for the state Labor government to care and act. Only in the last month we saw the release of yet another damning RACQ travel time report featuring the Centenary Highway as the second slowest section of road for inbound travel and taking all top 3 positions for the slowest section of road travelling outbound.

While supportive of this bill, the question must be asked: just what good is it for the industry to have these productivity and safety gains if its trucks will only end up sitting idle in bumper-to-bumper traffic in the western suburbs each and every day? This again only reinforces my call for a comprehensive integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs to ease traffic congestion on Moggill Road and across the western suburbs. The Liberal National Party is the party for business, of enterprises small and large and everything in between and they all, in one way or another, rely on our heavy vehicle industry. That is why this industry deserves our continued encouragement and support so that Queensland and Australia do not stop. I commend the bill to the House and I also pleasingly note that Queensland is the host jurisdiction for this legislative framework.



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. Obviously trucks and Toowoomba are synonymous. Toowoomba has been a hub for heavy vehicle movement as the wealth of Queensland has been carried to the port, starting with bullock carts through to today's big trucks and heavy vehicles. Ensuring that we can improve the effectiveness and the ability to be able to investigate and enforce the regulations surrounding our heavy vehicles is very important, and the people of Toowoomba understand this because there are 3,500 to 5,000 heavy vehicles thundering down James Street every day. Therefore, ensuring that the regulation is in place to make sure that that is safe for our community is very important.

However, we know that because of that volume of heavy vehicles moving through the centre of town the LNP funded and got the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing up and underway. This will make a fundamental difference to heavy vehicles for those complying with the time requirements as it will reduce their travel time because they will no longer be stuck in traffic going through Toowoomba because of this wonderful piece of infrastructure and it will increase the distance and reach of their

vehicles. It is a bit of a shame that this piece of infrastructure is currently behind schedule. There is some hope that in March heavy vehicles, which this legislation affects, will be able to start going down that new road, but I am hearing disturbing commentary around the slip that they are faced with at one of the cuttings and how long that might take to fix. In the long term that critical piece of infrastructure that the state and federal LNP governments committed to will make a difference logistically for many people.

This bill is about trying to improve efficiency and ensuring that compliance is consistent, and that is fantastic because we know that the logistics movements in Australia and in Queensland add to the cost of business. Whether it is export, whether it is import, whether it is interstate or whether it is intrastate, the simple fact is that Queensland is a big place and heavy vehicles move a lot of our produce around. Every time a heavy vehicle has an extra cost associated with its movement, it puts the price of everything up. I certainly am very happy that this legislation will reduce some of the compliance and complexity that heavy vehicle operators face. I am also pleased with this legislation from a safety point of view. This legislation is very important, but it is also important to ensure that we have the appropriate infrastructure that enables these heavy vehicles to operate effectively and efficiently.


The member for Gregory talked about having appropriate stops for drivers to be able to get their required rest. We also need to ensure that we have roads that are designed and built to be able to carry these kinds of heavy vehicles. The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing will be a great example of that and will make a big difference to the people not only in my part of the world but also further afield. Whether you are moving from Melbourne and getting caught up coming through Toowoomba, whether you are heading to the Northern Territory or whether you have come from Western Queensland, it will make a big difference.

This legislation is good legislation. I am pleased that we are the lead jurisdiction in doing this as Queensland is obviously very dependent on the heavy vehicle industry to get all of our produce to the port, so our wealth is linked. It is important that we do lead the way in ensuring that we have appropriate legislation to keep things efficient and safe on our roads. It is important that we also review this on a regular basis, because we know that technically—using electronics and advancements in technology—the space around this is moving very fast. Ensuring that we have not just nation-leading good practice around heavy vehicle management but world-leading good practice around heavy vehicle management in Queensland is something that everybody would support. We want it to be efficient. We want it to be effective. We want it to have the right infrastructure in place. We want to have the right legislation so people can get on and operate their businesses without jumping through unnecessary hoops and difficulties as they move across state borders.

This legislation has lots of good positives, but we should ensure that as technology changes and as opportunities come our way to update and improve our practices around road movement and heavy vehicles we keep abreast so we are the world leaders in that space. From my perspective, I am very happy to see this legislation come through the House. I will be very pleased to see heavy vehicles under this bill operating and travelling through Toowoomba. I will be far more pleased when they are travelling around Toowoomba using the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.

The last comment I want to make about compliance of heavy vehicles is that whilst there are great companies and operators in Queensland there are still a few rogue operators—I would like to suggest that they are all from interstate, but they might not be—currently using the Toowoomba range crossing. If you stand there with a dB meter some of those operators are way in excess of the legal noise limits that are currently allowed under legislation. I have been drumming on about this for some time and we have not seen any great enforcement of the noise restrictions. I am not sure that 'restrictions' is the right term, but trucks are supposed to operate at a certain level across Queensland. When some of them go down the range crossing, anybody with a dB meter can hear that some trucks—not many but some—are not operating to the noise standard they should be because they have been altered. That is a regulation that many people on the escarpment in Toowoomba would very much appreciate being enforced by the transport department.

With those few words, I will be supporting this bill. Our industry is a wonderful industry that should continue to be effective, efficient, safe and well supported by this House because the things they move are what make our lives liveable in regional Queensland and also create a lot of wealth for our state.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. With sections of the Warrego, Cunningham and Brisbane Valley highways located in my electorate of Ipswich West, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this important subject of heavy vehicle transport. Whether it is cattle from the Darling Downs, fruit and vegetables from the Fassifern or Lockyer valleys, broiler chickens from the Brisbane Valley or freight from interstate, they all pass through the electorate of Ipswich West.

I would like to begin by thanking the members of the Transport and Public Works Committee who reviewed the bill and tabled their report in June 2018: the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah; the deputy chair, the member for Hervey Bay; and the members for Callide, Traeger, Aspley and Bundamba. I would also like to thank the committee secretariat, the Hansard reporters and the submitters.

I note that the committee made two recommendations in its report: firstly, that the bill be passed and, secondly, that the bill be amended to include a more definitive definition of the term 'PBS' in the heavy vehicle national law. I am informed by the chair of the committee that 'PBS' stands for performance based standards.

The operational provisions of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 commenced on 10 February 2014. That act provides a single national law for the consistent regulation of heavy vehicle operations across most of Australia. The act also established the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the NHVR, to administer the heavy vehicle national law, the HVNL. All Australian states and territories except for Western Australia and the Northern Territory are participating jurisdictions for the purpose of the HVNL and have applied the act as a law in each of these jurisdictions. Although Western Australia and the Northern Territory are not participating jurisdictions, those states were consulted during the development of the amendments.

The amendments detailed in the bill were unanimously endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2017 after being jointly developed by the National Transport Commission and the NHVR in consultation with state and territory transport authorities, enforcement agencies and heavy vehicle industry associations. The NHVR is a cornerstone of the Council of Australian Governments' national heavy vehicle reform agenda and ensures that industries can cooperate across state borders without conflicting regulatory requirements.

The HVNL regulates matters relating to the operation of heavy vehicles, such as mass and dimension, vehicle safety standards, driver fatigue management, heavy vehicle accreditation and the use of intelligent transport systems. The HVNL also places obligations on identified off-road parties in the transport and logistics chain—otherwise known as the chain-of-responsibility parties—and that includes enforcement powers and administrative provisions. This bill amends the HVNL to implement nationally agreed reforms that include the strengthening of investigative and enforcement powers by authorised officers, increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint and transferring load restraint performance standards from guidance material into the act.

This bill amends the NHVR's investigative and enforcement powers and provisions to enable a new section 570A—a primary duty information gathering power—to be used for executive officer due diligence obligations and other identified safety obligations that include enabling fleet or class vehicles to be ordered for inspection where there is a reasonable belief that the fleet or class is defective, empowering authorised officers to issue prohibition notices and enabling the courts to issue injunctions.


In keeping with the proactive primary duty approach, these chain-of-responsibility reforms have reformulated executive officer offence provisions from a reverse onus of proof to a positive due diligence obligation. That means that executive officers of the NHVR are no longer required to disprove the presumption of guilt and the prosecution will bear the burden of proving all elements of the charge.

The amendments in this bill that relate to the investigative and enforcement powers are the third and final stages of the chain-of-responsibility reforms that were approved by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2015. Reforming the chain of responsibility will improve safety outcomes in the heavy vehicle industry by aligning the responsibilities of chain-of-responsibility parties and the executive officers more closely with national safety legislation, such as the Work Health and Safety Act.

There is firm support across the industry and jurisdictions for introducing a positive duty on all parties in the chain of responsibility to improve the safety of road transport operations. The successful implementation of these chain-of-responsibility reforms will address concerns that have been voiced by the agricultural sector and primary producers. These reforms will bring significant improvements for chain-of-responsibility parties managing their obligations.

The government recognises the important role that growers, farmers and fishermen play in feeding Australians and providing quality produce to overseas markets. The government also knows how important safe and reliable road transport is to all road users. We want to make sure that our roads are safe by ensuring that everyone in the road transport supply chain understands and follows the HVNL. As parties to the road transport supply chain under the HVNL, primary producers have specific

obligations to ensure safety by preventing a breach of the chain of responsibility. That requires each party with the ability to control or influence the transport activity to take positive steps to prevent mass, load restraint, dimension, fatigue, and speed offences. I commend the bill to the House.


 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill and the chain-of-responsibility laws. Heavy vehicle transport is a big issue in the seat of Condamine. The electorate comprises a large grain-growing area, cotton growing and, I am reliably informed, the heaviest concentration of livestock intensive feeding of any electorate in Australia. My electorate covers a vast range of different industries.

The transport of livestock causes the most angst in my electorate because it involves animal welfare issues. The timely loading and unloading of stock is crucially important. One of the problems that producers in my electorate have is access to feedlots and grain depots. Road trains and B-doubles are the predominant form of trucks that are used in those areas and not all roads are up to the standard of being able to carry those trucks. Some roads are permitted roads. To that end, the Western Downs Regional Council and the Toowoomba Regional Council have formed a working group that includes Transport and Main Roads, livestock carriers and general freight carriers. The NHVR also attends the meetings. They are working to identify which roads could be made as-of-right roads and the issues—whether that be a bend, an intersection, or a culvert—that are stopping heavy vehicles using those roads.

Some of those roads I have mentioned many times in this place. Bowenville-Moola Road is one that I have mentioned quite often, because there is a high concentration of feedlots around that road. I notice in today's *Toowoomba Chronicle* the federal member has announced funding to improve that road. That funding will be greatly appreciated by the residents of that area. We really appreciate the announcement of that funding. I am still looking for funding for the Oakey-Pittsworth Road. A lot of heavy transport goes along that road.

On that road, just outside Oakey, Martin's transport has a depot. Members might be familiar with Martin's transport. It is a very large transport company with about 140 trucks, predominantly transporting livestock. I heard the member for Hervey Bay talk about GPS tracking in trucks. I visited Martin's depot and met with the manager, Graeme Hoare. We went into the office where there is a big screen. That shows every truck that is travelling down the eastern seaboard—the whole 140 of them. Graeme can just press on an image of one of them and say, 'This one's in Swan Hill. It is being driven by Gary. It has to pick up cattle at so-and-so and then he is taking them to there.' He presses another one and it is a truck that is on the road. It shows the load it is carrying, its destination, how long the driver has been on the road and when he needs to take a break. The information is extraordinary and it adds to the safety of the industry.

Road responsibility goes across all industries. Chain of responsibility is everyone's business—from the person who owns the truck, to the person who is loading the truck and the person who drives the truck. I wish to highlight that it is also government's responsibility as well. If we want heavy transport vehicles to travel on these roads, we need to have them at a standard that is safe to travel on.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. Every member in this House understands that road transport is a key cornerstone of our economy. The ability to move goods around efficiently and effectively is critical for economic development in the beautiful state of Queensland.

Like many members in this chamber, I have a fair few truck owner-drivers in my electorate. One I befriended many years ago, and who is now not in my electorate due to the redistribution, is a very vocal individual when it comes to the road transport industry. The member for Scenic Rim would know him. His name is Ken Wilkie. He is a proud owner-operator. He has been in the industry for the vast majority of his life. He is the proud owner of a 4800 Western Star. It was his dream and it is his baby. I could say that he almost loves it as much as his wife.


Ken took me for a drive in his truck. We drove along the M1 motorway, through Brisbane and up the Bruce Highway. Being in a heavy vehicle such as that was certainly an interesting experience. A bugbear for truck drivers is the inconsideration of motorists who pull in front of them while they have a full load on. They are pulling 50 tonnes and if a car quickly weaves in front of them, especially when they are pulling up at the traffic lights, it is pretty hard to stop. All Ken asks is for other drivers to respect his right to be on the road as much theirs.

As the member for Condamine said, road safety is everybody's responsibility. That is what the truck drivers are also saying. Ken has been an active member of the National Road Freighters Association for many years. I am not 100 per cent sure about this, but I believe he was a past president

of the association. He has had a fair few gripes to me over the years. One of his gripes was exactly what the member for Gregory was saying in relation to truck pull-up areas. In recent times many grey nomads are pulling in there. The problem is that if a truck driver is on their logbook and they are literally at the end of their time period they have to find a place to pull over and if there are caravans and Winnebagos stuck in these truck stops it makes it a serious hassle for them as they like to stay nice and straight when they pull in so they can pull straight out when they leave.

Another of Ken's bugbears is a driver going from one jurisdiction to another is under different regulations and laws in each jurisdiction. Having a conformity of approach does make it easier for the driver. The member for Gregory brought up the logbooks. Ken and many other drivers have told me that simple mistakes can be made. The spelling of some towns in Western Queensland or the main thoroughfare areas on the eastern seaboard can be a little bit difficult. They ask for a bit of understanding when it comes to some of these more difficult town names.

Truck drivers want to come home safely to their families. They want to uphold the law. There are individuals who are rogue operators and unfortunately everybody gets tarnished with the same brush. The majority of truck drivers do the right thing. We should never forget that. We should always understand that without trucks Australia stops. That is true. I ask that the minister listen to the member for Gregory, especially in relation to the stopping zones. They are getting clogged up with grey nomads. A sign directing them to go to the local caravan park would suffice. I will leave my contribution at that.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.56 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members for their contributions to the debate on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. I thank the committee for its thoughtful consideration of the bill and I acknowledge the National Transport Commission and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator for all their hard work and close collaboration with jurisdictions to continually improve the heavy vehicle national law. Industry were consulted throughout development of the amendments and have been positive in their support.

This bill brings to an end a lengthy process to reform chain of responsibility under the national law. The safety of all those who work within the industry or interact with heavy vehicles on a daily basis is of paramount importance. Commencement of these reforms will establish the foundation for a more proactive approach to safety within the heavy vehicle transport and logistics industry. Given the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's commitment to an extensive consultation process on chain-of-responsibility reforms, I am confident that the concerns of primary producers have been addressed. Authorised officers will be in a better position to manage compliance of the national law, while industry is set to benefit from improved access and greater productivity without an increase in red tape or a reduction in road safety.

I note a number of members referred to undertaking a review of the heavy vehicle national law. I can confirm for the chamber's benefit that this review is occurring. It will be a back-to-basics review of the legislation and will call on the knowledge and experience of independent experts to inform and provide advice to develop a best practice legislative framework. The terms of reference and approach to the heavy vehicle national law review will be considered by myself and my fellow ministers at the transport and infrastructure council meeting this November. I expect the review will commence shortly after that.

I also note the committee recommendation about the definition of the term PBS in the heavy vehicle national law. I am supportive of improving clarity of the legislation to assist interpretation. I will be writing shortly to the National Transport Commission to ask for this issue to be addressed in the next maintenance package for the heavy vehicle national law and that these types of issues are taken into consideration in the formulation of the new heavy vehicle national law following the upcoming review.

The member for Hervey Bay referred to work diaries. In May this year the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator began accepting applications for the approval of electronic work diary systems. This technology will reduce red tape, improve productivity and make compliance with fatigue management record keeping provisions easier for industry.

The member for Gregory raised an important issue around the use of rest stops. I agree with him and other members that trucks should have priority and that rest stops serve an important function to ensure drivers can manage fatigue. I have already asked my director-general to undertake an investigation into both usage practices and the management of rest stops and report back to me.

I thank the Queensland Trucking Association and Mr Gary Mahon, who organised for me a trip on 24 June on a Mack Superliner with driver Craig Kelly from South East Queensland Hauliers. We drove from Brisbane to Maryborough. It was a very valuable experience, although I note that I have

travelled on heavy vehicles quite a number of times. It was a very good experience to have to deal with some of the challenges that truck drivers face on our roads. It was a pretty wet morning, which added to the experience.

I note that the very next day the member for Chatsworth and the member for Callide announced that the shadow minister for transport was also going to be travelling on a truck, in the electorate of Callide, which they did a week and a half later. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Their imitation was not only in method; the member for Chatsworth even travelled in the same kind of truck, a Mack Superliner. Very helpfully, on 6 July the member for Callide reported in the *Gladstone Observer*, 'Mr Minnikin had never been in a big truck before.' I am very glad to see that the horizons are broadening for the member for Chatsworth. He is getting new experiences. It is great to see him following the lead of this government and is getting out there and seeing what is happening on our road networks.

The electorate of the member for Callide has benefited hugely from the Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in the Dawson Highway, where we have replaced four load limited bridges. That very substantial package of work is now completed. A lot of work is happening on the Warrego Highway, at the southern end of his electorate. I do not think he mentioned that in his press releases, but certainly I note it here today.

I thank all of the staff of the Department of Transport and Main Roads for their hard work on the bill. Thank you for your commitment and support on this matter. I also thank my ministerial staff. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

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

Clause 2 postponed.

Clauses 3 to 38, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr BAILEY (3.02 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr BAILEY: I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 38

Page 32, after the table after line 6—

insert—

Part 4 Legislation amended

39 Legislation amended

Schedule 1 amends the legislation it mentions.

Schedule 1 Legislation amended

section 39

Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018

1 Section 45(1), inserted entry for section 319A(5)—

omit.

Heavy Vehicle National Law as set out in the Schedule to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012

1 Sections 412, 421(1)(a), 428, 437(1), 442 and 450(1), 'access information'—

omit, insert—

access program information

2 Section 421(1), 'access service'—

omit, insert—

access program service

3 Section 634(3)(b), 'vehicle.'—*omit, insert—*

vehicle; and

4 Schedule 4, table, entries for sections 30 and 50—*omit.*

I table explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Bailey's amendments [\[1293\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mr BAILEY (3.03 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr BAILEY: I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 6, line 7—

omit, insert—

The following provisions commence on 1 October 2018, immediately after the commencement of the *Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018*, section 16—

(a) part 3;

(b) schedule 1, amendment of the Heavy Vehicle National Law as set out in the Schedule to the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.03 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

3 Long title

Long title, after '2012'—

insert—

and the *Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018*

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (WORKER SCREENING) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 20 March (see p. 478).

Second Reading



Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (3.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill represents the first stage of amendments necessary to prepare Queensland for full scheme operation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. As we know, Queensland's transition to the NDIS is scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2019. We are at an important point in this transition and my department continues to support people, providers and the sector through this time. However, there is more work to be done over the next 12 months. I am committed to working with the federal government to ensure that the NDIS delivers better outcomes for Queenslanders with disability, their families and carers. A core component of that work is ensuring that there are robust and consistent quality and safeguards under the NDIS.

All of the painstaking work that is being done to create choice and control is built on a solid bedrock of protections for people with disability. Queensland has a history of creating systems that protect vulnerable people and we used all of that history and experience when negotiating with other states and the Commonwealth. I was pleased with how every other jurisdiction came to the table and reached an agreement that will create robust protections that will apply in every state.

The Council of Australian Governments committed to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework on 9 December 2016. The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework is designed to promote high-quality supports and safe environments for all NDIS participants. The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework will apply in all jurisdictions, including Queensland, from the time of their commencement of full scheme.

An independent national commission, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, has been established to protect and prevent people with disability from experiencing harm arising from poor quality or unsafe supports or services under the NDIS. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission commenced operations in New South Wales and South Australia from 1 July 2018. The commission's powers and functions will extend to Queensland following the end of Queensland's transition to the NDIS from 30 June 2019.

Queensland is working closely with the Commonwealth and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner to ensure strong and rigorous safeguards in Queensland under the NDIS. The commission will respond to concerns, complaints and reportable incidents; register and regulate NDIS providers; monitor compliance against the code of conduct and practice standards; and undertake investigations and enforcement action. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner also has a statutory duty to develop and oversee the broad policy design for a nationally consistent approach to the screening of workers. States and territories will maintain operational responsibility for worker screening, including managing and operating worker-screening units, from the time of their commencement of full scheme.

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening for the NDIS has been developed to support the implementation of nationally consistent worker screening under the NDIS. I am pleased to say that the Premier, as a member of the Council of Australian Governments, has provided Queensland's support for this agreement. The intergovernmental agreement and the proposed NDIS worker-screening check largely align with Queensland's current approach to worker screening, with some changes that are supported in the context of establishing a nationally consistent system.

For example, the approach taken under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening will support portability of NDIS worker-screening checks by ensuring that, once screened, a worker will be able to move from state to state and employer to employer without having to be rescreened. It will also eliminate the opportunity for people to make multiple attempts to gain a clearance by ensuring that people with adverse records in one jurisdiction cannot obtain a clearance to work in services funded under an NDIS participant's plan in another jurisdiction. Further, the IGA will support the national daily monitoring of criminal history information for NDIS worker-screening clearance holders and reduce barriers to information sharing across jurisdictions.

This bill is an important first step to implementing the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. The bill includes amendments to meet Queensland's obligations under the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework to share expanded criminal history information with other states and territories as part of a nationally consistent worker-screening system.

The bill aligns with the legislative amendments passed by the Commonwealth parliament on 10 May 2018 and assented to on 22 May 2018 to facilitate the interjurisdictional exchange of criminal history information for people who work or seek to work with people with disability. This will enable state and territory worker-screening units to determine whether persons are eligible to work with people with disability under the NDIS.

This bill also includes amendments to ensure appropriate quality and safeguard protections during Queensland's transition to the NDIS. The bill does this by clarifying that sole traders are required to undergo criminal history screening under the yellow card system during the transition period. Sole traders are individuals who are NDIS providers registered with the National Disability Insurance Agency and who personally provide disability services to NDIS participants. Sole traders are an emerging cohort in the market. While the current provisions are sufficient to require them to be screened, some changes are necessary to ensure that the provisions under the Disability Services Act 2006 work appropriately for the particular circumstances of a sole trader.

There are four key components to the changes related to sole traders. Firstly, the bill proposes a no card, no start approach to sole traders. This means that generally a sole trader will not be able to provide disability services unless they have a current yellow card or a current exemption notice. The only circumstances in which a sole trader will be able to provide disability services without holding one of these current notices is if they already hold a current blue card that is not suspended and have applied for a yellow card exemption or have applied for the renewal of their existing yellow card at least 30 days prior to expiry and the application has not been decided at the time of expiry.

This approach prioritises the safety of people with disability by recognising that sole traders are more likely to operate independently and accordingly it is appropriate their check is complete before they provide services. A maximum penalty of up to 250 penalty units applies if a sole trader breaches this provision. This offence and penalty is necessary to ensure that the safety of people with disability is safeguarded and prioritised.

However, the bill also recognises that transitional arrangements are necessary for existing sole traders providing disability services under the NDIS in Queensland. The bill enables sole traders who have been providing disability services and have made an application for a card prior to commencement that has not been decided to continue working for a period of four months post commencement while their application is being decided. This will enable sufficient time for pending applications to be processed. An individual's criminal history will be monitored during this time.

Secondly, the bill ensures that the basis for obtaining an exemption from screening under the Disability Services Act 2006 is the same for all funded non-government service providers and NDIS registered non-government providers, including sole traders. This means that current exemptions apply to sole traders—for example, for health practitioners.

Thirdly, the bill expands the current identification requirements under the Disability Services Act 2006 so that they apply appropriately for sole traders. Under the Disability Services Act 2006 service providers are required to certify the identity of an employee on the yellow card application form. However, this approach is not suitable for individual sole traders as they do not have an employer. The bill enables the sole trader to have his or her identity certified by a prescribed person—a justice of the peace, commissioner for declarations, lawyer or police officer—for the purposes of yellow card applications or applications for an exemption notice.


Finally, the bill expands the disclosure requirements under the Disability Services Act 2006 so they apply appropriately for sole traders. The Disability Services Act 2006 requires an employee to immediately disclose any change in his or her criminal history to his or her employer—that is, the service provider. It is an offence if the person does not disclose this information. This disclosure framework is not suitable for individual sole traders as they do not have an employer.

The bill requires a sole trader to disclose a change in criminal history to the chief executive of the department. A failure to do so amounts to an offence. The Disability Services Act 2006 requires sole traders to disclose any changes in criminal history or their police information to the chief executive of the department responsible for the administration of the Disability Services Act 2006. The bill also makes it an offence if a sole trader breaches their disclosure obligations under these provisions. The offences and penalties that attach are consistent with the existing penalties under those provisions that apply to engaged persons who fail to disclose a change in police information to their employer or the service provider. These offences are necessary to ensure the safety of people with disability is safeguarded and prioritised.

The bill was referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and the committee's report was tabled on 8 May 2018. In its report the committee made one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its report and recommendation. I also thank those stakeholders who took time to make submissions and appear before the committee.

The committee received four submissions on the bill, including from Queensland Advocacy Inc., the Queensland Family and Child Commission and Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia. All submissions were generally supportive of the bill and its objectives. There were some general issues raised by stakeholders in relation to the operation of the new NDIS worker-screening process. These issues were outside the scope of this bill and will continue to be explored by my department through the whole-of-government legislation review currently underway to ensure Queensland is prepared for full scheme implementation.

The bill represents the results of genuine cooperation between all other states and the Commonwealth to deliver strong protections for people with disability who will benefit from the NDIS. This bill means that Queensland will be ready and has delivered on its commitments to create strong safeguards. I look forward to hearing members' contributions to the debate on the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.16 pm): I rise as the shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors to address the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018 introduced into the Queensland parliament on 20 March this year by the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke. The content of this bill was considered by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. This parliamentary committee tabled its report on 8 May 2018. The committee recommended that the bill be passed.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the objectives of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018 are to amend the Police Service Administration Act 1990 to enable Queensland to participate in national information-sharing obligations for the National Disability Insurance Scheme worker-screening requirements under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening as it relates to the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and the Disability Services Act 2006 to clarify beyond doubt the screening requirements for sole traders during the transition period until full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework was agreed to by COAG on 9 December 2016. The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee was advised by departmental officers that the development of this bill was built upon the consultation already undertaken by the Commonwealth in relation to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. Broader consultation was therefore not undertaken and submitters to the committee's inquiry into the bill raised no concerns about the consultation process.

Stakeholder submissions to this bill included Queensland Advocacy Inc., which supported the amendments and agreed to a nationally consistent approach, and the Queensland Family and Child Commission, which supported the changes and referred to its blue card review from September 2017 and recommendations in relation to information sharing for the purposes of assessing and managing risks of harm to the safety, welfare or wellbeing of children.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission stipulated that information sharing between working with children checks and NDIS worker screening would provide for consistent government decision-making. It should be noted that this bill does not amend the working with children legislation. The Queensland Family and Child Commission simply raised this to alert the government to their blue card report and issues they experienced in relation to information sharing.

Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia also provided a submission with a view to supporting a nationally consistent approach. They also asked the committee to consider legislation in relation to cross-sector workforce screening with aged-care providers, but this was outside the scope of the inquiry.

It is worth noting that in May 2013 the then Liberal National Party government signed an intergovernmental agreement with the then federal Gillard government to implement the NDIS here in Queensland. The Liberal National Party supported the disability services sector in Queensland when in government, and we will continue to do so again while in opposition.

The state LNP also at the time announced an \$868 million commitment as part of the NDIS implementation. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a major national initiative and it has come a long way, in part, from our commitment to it in its early stages of development. The NDIS has progressed in the five years since we, the LNP, agreed to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme here in Queensland.

Each jurisdiction in Australia transitions to the full scheme implementation of the NDIS in accordance with individual bilateral agreements and at different stages. The full scheme operation of the NDIS does not commence in Queensland until 1 July 2019, but the legislative amendments contained in this bill are required during the transition to enable Queensland to meet its information-sharing obligations for worker screening as other jurisdictions, such as New South Wales and South Australia, commence full scheme implementation and the operation of their NDIS worker-screening systems.

All jurisdictions have agreed under the framework to share this expanded range of information and are considering any necessary legislative amendments required in each jurisdiction to give effect to this agreement. This is a truly national effort to give participants choice and control of their disability support packages, and the measures within this bill will help to ensure that there are consistent safeguards nationwide under this scheme. The Liberal National Party has a strong record of backing the Queensland disability support sector, and we plan to continue this record by working for a smooth transition for NDIS participants going into July 2019.


I would also like to take this opportunity to again acknowledge and mention that in my electorate of Moggill we are privileged to have the Help Enterprises McIntyre Centre Riding for Disabled. The McIntyre Centre, established in 1964, was, and still is today, a pioneering organisation. Thousands of young people have been positively impacted by having horseriding included as part of their everyday lives. The McIntyre Centre has been achieving life-changing educational and therapeutic outcomes for over 50 years.

In my role as the shadow minister it is my responsibility to hold the minister to account and to only oppose bills that will be detrimental to Queenslanders. It is not, however, my role to oppose legislation that will have a positive impact on the disability sector in Queensland. This legislation is vitally important in that it will allow Queensland to fully participate in the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This bill makes necessary legislative changes, and my colleagues on this side of the House will not oppose it here today.

I note that the expanded range of criminal history information to be shared for disability support worker screening is the same as what is currently in place for working with children checks. The information being screened is nothing controversial or new. It is only now aiming to be applied to the NDIS in much the same way that blue cards are obtained by people working with children.

The proposed legislation will continue the rollout of the NDIS that started in 2013 under the LNP, and it is a bill that is in the best interests of Queenslanders. This bill will allow Queensland to take the next step towards having a fully transitioned NDIS. This bill makes necessary changes and, as such, the bill is supported and will not be opposed by this side of the chamber.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the federal member for Ryan, Jane Prentice MP, and her service as the federal assistant minister for social services and disability services. I know there are many disability service providers in Queensland that have valued Jane Prentice's strong and dedicated commitment to this sector. I join with them in recognising her contribution over a number of years in her former ministerial position.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise to support the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Working Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. As chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, it indeed gives me great pleasure to speak in support of the committee's first bill for this term of government in this important area. It is good to see this body of work finally come to the chamber where we can sign off on it.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS, is transforming the way Australians with a disability obtain support services. Once again, Queensland is leading the way in being the first state to sign up to the scheme. I am proud as chair of the committee to recommend to the House that this bill be passed as, as I said, one of the first pieces of work coming to our committee.

Following on from the member for Moggill and his comments, it is worthy to note that there is genuine bipartisanship in supporting this particular piece of legislation. For me, in putting the team back together from the 55th Parliament with the deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, we worked together in a bipartisan fashion to see this through. We have some new members and I acknowledge their contribution as well. We cracked on as if we had not even had a break. We just got on with it. This bill has been sitting in the draw ready to go, and I am very happy to report on it today.

The NDIS is ambitious, major national reform jointly governed and funded through a partnership between the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments. Moving to the NDIS involves changing a service system that has been in place for 70 years. It is simply the largest reform since Medicare. Because of the work in the previous term of parliament by the Minister for Disability Services,

the member for Mundingburra, Coralee O'Rourke, I was so pleased to see the trial sites of Townsville, Palm Island and Charters Towers up and running and to see so many people in our part of the world transitioned. Transitioning was never going to be easy, but we are getting there.

The NDIS will give people choice and control over the supports they need. It is a new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and their carers. Under the NDIS, people who meet the eligibility criteria will have access to reasonable and necessary supports that enable them to achieve their goals and aspirations.

On 20 March 2018, the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors introduced this bill and referred it to our committee. We were required to table our report, which included examination, consultation and recommendations, on 8 May 2018 to the Assembly. It has taken a little while to land it but we got it here.

During our examination, we undertook to invite stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions on the bill. Our committee accepted four submissions. We did receive oral briefings from the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, and we held a public hearing on 16 April to hear evidence from Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia. Our committee also invited the Queensland Family and Child Commission and Queensland Advocacy Inc. However, both organisations declined the invitation.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework was agreed by the Council of Australian Governments, or COAG, on 9 December 2016. Under the framework, all jurisdictions agreed to a nationally consistent approach to worker screening including the assessment of an expanded range of criminal history information. To put it simply, we want the best people looking after those with a disability in Queensland. The Commonwealth will be responsible for the development of national policy settings for the screening of workers, and the states and territories will remain responsible for operating worker-screening units under state based legislation.

At its core, the bill seeks to amend the Police Service Administration Act 1990, which is to enable Queensland to participate in the national information-sharing obligations for the NDIS worker screening under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening; and to amend the Disability Services Act 2006 to clarify beyond doubt screening requirements for sole traders during the transition period until the full scheme implementation, which in Queensland will be on 1 July 2019.


A key tenet of the NDIS is that participants will have choice and control over their disability supports including being able to choose the providers who give support, how that support is delivered and managed and, importantly, paying for those supports.

I would like to note that in regards to consultation our committee received only four submissions. Departmental officers advised that the development of this bill was built upon the extensive consultation the Commonwealth undertook in early 2015 including 16 public meetings in capital cities and regional locations, and written and online submissions in relation to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. We note that the Queensland Disability Advisory Council was also consulted on the changes in this bill by the department.

Our committee sought feedback from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland, or ATSIDNQ, through Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia, or ADA Australia, about aspects of the bill and potential impacts it may have in regional and remote Indigenous communities. This was in particular regard to the yellow card process for those in remote and Indigenous communities who provide disability services and in circumstances where carers might otherwise not be available within a community, and the community is best placed to consider issues of past criminal histories.

These questions were raised for discussion at a meeting with ATSIDNQ of local champions on 20 April 2018. Their response to the committee made the following points which are supportive of the policy intent of the bill in that workforce-screening processes should be adapted in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and that safeguards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability need to be of the highest standards. The committee notes that the ATSIDNQ was unable to engage with regional, rural and remote communities on the topics raised by the committee in the limited time frame available.

I would like to thank the committee secretariat. They are doing an enormous amount of work in other areas. I want to acknowledge the team under Rob Hansen, the department, submitters and all my fellow committee members who all agreed and made one recommendation—that the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the bill before the House. I do agree with the chair of the committee that we are perhaps the best committee of this House. We have some wonderful members of the committee on this side of the House. It is a committee that has undertaken some very delicate work and is doing so at this point in time. I want to thank Rob Hansen for the work that he has done on this bill and other bills in the past and, in particular, for what he will be doing given the announcement at the Labor state conference last Sunday.

Bills of this nature may seem of less weight than other bills, but this bill is a critical bill because it goes to the safeguards of workers who are going to be involved in the NDIS and providing services to those people who qualify for NDIS packages or NDIA packages. There cannot be much more important work than looking after the funding or providing services for people who qualify under the NDIS.

The bill itself was tabled in March this year and the report was tabled in May this year. Public hearings were held on 23 March and 16 April. As the chair has said, four submissions were received. Others have canvassed the bill in some detail. I want to make a couple of comments in relation to the principal object of the bill as I see it, and that is an increased range of criminal history information being provided under the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. That range incorporates spent convictions, charges for offences alleged to have been convicted in Queensland and elsewhere, information about a charge or conviction even if it relates to a nonconviction, and expired convictions.

One may argue that, generally speaking, expired convictions and information regarding an offence or a charge is not normally disclosed, but we need to go back to the core of why this bill exists—that is, to ensure that those people who are providing services are the best possible people and any suggestion that past history of this nature should disqualify them should be made publicly available to the relevant agencies and action taken accordingly. The purpose is to screen workers to ensure those who do provide support under the NDIS are put through a process that is robust and comes out with the best candidates at the end of the day. Searches will cover the nation to ensure that a person who moves from state to state is caught by this mechanism and so it should be.

There are a couple of questions I would like to ask. As I understand it, there will be an application fee charged for the work in a state to undertake a search. What will that fee be, if one is to be charged? Will that fee cover all the work that will be required to ensure the application is dealt with appropriately? Who will pay for the search? When will this process be reviewed? Is there any indication as to the number of applications that will be received under the terms of the bill when it becomes an act? Those are important questions because there is an impact in relation to the relevant department or relevant officers of a department and clarification of those points would be of help to me.

I want to refer very quickly to the QAO office report on the NDIS scheme here in Queensland—report No. 14 of 2017-18. There are some comments at page 6 that I would not mind the minister commenting upon if she so desires. On page 6 in relation to Queensland it states—

Current gaps in processes for managing and monitoring readiness of state government agencies and the NDIA have increased the risk for Queensland's final stage of transition.


I am keen to understand where we are at in relation to addressing that issue raised by the QAO. The second quote is this—

In terms of how well-prepared Queensland is to oversee services post full scheme, more work needs to be done.

How are we addressing the concern raised by the QAO in relation to that quote? The third quote is this—

The government also needs to ensure it has timely and effective processes in place to monitor and resolve ongoing financial and operational issues impacting Queensland beyond transition.

Again, these relate to the bill because it is a process of getting Queensland in train for the rollout on 1 July 2019 and I would ask the minister to address those in her reply to the second reading debate. I want to again stress that the opposition does not oppose this bill. It is not only a common-sense bill; it is a bill that is essential to provide the best outcomes for those recipients of packages under the NDIS. I support the bill.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018.

Mr McArdle: The best committee in the House.

Ms PEASE: I agree completely. I will take that interjection. The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS, is one of the most significant social policy reforms undertaken in Australia. The NDIS is the new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and their carers. The

NDIS supports people with a permanent and significant disability including people whose disability is an intellectual, sensory or physical impairment or a psychiatric condition to participate in all aspects of life.

Under the NDIS, people who meet the eligibility criteria will have access to reasonable and necessary support that enables them to achieve their goals and aspirations which include social and economic participation. Disability services will be provided over a person's lifetime where they need it. A key tenet of the NDIS is that participants will have choice and control over their disability supports including being able to choose who provides that support, how that support is delivered and managed and, importantly, paying for those supports.

Participants purchase those supports and pay for those supports themselves through their package. Therefore, it is imperative that there is a robust and consistent quality and safeguards arrangement under the scheme. The Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill proposes amendments to the Police Service Administration Act 1990 and the Disability Services Act 2006 to ensure these safeguards. The bill includes amendments which will enable sharing of expanded criminal history information by the Queensland Police Service with other states and territories to ensure holistic risk assessments are able to be undertaken for NDIS worker screening. The bill will also clarify existing screening requirements for sole traders during this transition period until full scheme implementation of the NDIS in Queensland.

The Commonwealth, states and territories have developed an intergovernmental agreement, or IGA, to enable nationally consistent worker-screening policies and principles to be adopted in each jurisdiction. This IGA will support the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. The IGA provides for the sharing of expanded criminal history information across all jurisdictions to ensure holistic risk assessments can be undertaken. 'Expanded criminal history information' is defined to include any conviction, spent conviction, pending charge and non-conviction charge information held by a jurisdiction's police services.

This is similar to the existing intergovernmental agreement for the exchange of criminal history information for people working with children, which allows law enforcement agencies to share expanded criminal history information for the purpose of child related employment screening. Each state and territory needs to implement legislative changes to enable the sharing of expanded criminal history information between defined NDIS worker-screening units in each jurisdiction.

The bill makes changes to the PSAA to allow the Queensland Police Commissioner to share expanded criminal history information with other jurisdictions for the purpose of disability related employment screening. These amendments are necessary to support New South Wales and South Australia when NDIS worker-screening operations commence in those jurisdictions.

Sole traders are an emerging cohort of service providers in the NDIS market. The bill clarifies that sole traders, like all other providers of disability services in Queensland, are required to undergo criminal history screening in accordance with the current provisions under the DSA, or the yellow card system, during the transition period. This will ensure consistency of safeguards for people with a disability.

To support these objectives, the bill clarifies that sole traders delivering prescribed disability services are required to be screened and requires sole traders to have yellow cards before they can commence providing disability services, unless they have a current blue card that is not suspended and they have made an application for a yellow card exemption, or they have applied for renewal of their yellow card 30 days prior to expiry but the application has not been decided at the time of the expiry.

Further, the bill ensures that existing exemptions from screening continue to apply for sole traders; expands identification requirements to ensure that sole traders have their identities verified by a prescribed person, which is a justice of the peace, commissioner for declarations, lawyer or police officer; requires sole traders to disclose any changes in criminal history to the chief executive of the department; and clarifies how relevant offence and penalty provisions apply to sole traders.

I would like to thank the committee chair, the member for Thuringowa, and my parliamentary colleagues who were on the committee with me. We worked tirelessly on reviewing this legislation. I would also like to echo the words of the member for Caloundra to thank the secretariat for their work on this as well as their work on current and upcoming committee work. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (3.43 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill. The Greens support the bill and the broader objectives of creating national information-sharing systems for worker screening. As

members have done before me, I want to take a moment as a member of the committee to thank my fellow committee members. I want to give a special thanks to the committee secretariat for the tireless work they do behind the scenes, not just on this bill. Obviously, we are well aware of the very significant work they are doing at the moment in relation to other legislation. I want to thank all submitters and witnesses who assisted the committee, as well as departmental representatives who made themselves available to assist at a number of points along the way.

I also thank the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland for their input. In response to questions about the application of the screening scheme to remote Indigenous communities, they noted that they had not had time to engage with remote, regional and rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. There has been some discussion in recent years about the way the blue card scheme can disproportionately affect some of the most remote communities in the state. Unfortunately, the committee has not had the benefit of evidence about potential unintended consequences of this new scheme for our most remote communities. As for the blue card scheme, the Greens and I urge the government to make sure that access to clearance under the scheme is not made unduly difficult for these communities, while maintaining high standards in order to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities from abuse.

More broadly, in respect of the NDIS, this rollout is one of the most important issues that people are bringing to me in my work as a local member. The original promise of the NDIS of greater choice and control and a better life for people with disabilities is, as I think we would all agree, playing out differently in different places. We hold some concerns about the marketisation and privatisation of disability support, and it is absolutely critical that governments everywhere live up to that original promise.


It is very encouraging to have heard representations from the department that nobody currently receiving state support will lose out, even if they do not meet eligibility criteria for the NDIS, but people are quite fairly anxious about what this new system means. I would suggest there could be better investment in communication from government to give people the information they need, particularly in light of the complexity of this transition and the significance of the change that is underway for these support recipients. A particular niche is those people who do not satisfy NDIS criteria but have not yet made claims—who do not face concerns or issues as a consequence of disability.

I have had people come to me about several schemes currently funded by the state government that are subject to uncertainty and this is having a real impact on the people who rely on those services. First, one constituent contacted my office with concerns that funding for the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme would expire once the NDIS commences.

The second one relates to the School Transport Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities funded by the state Department of Education. One constituent who contacted us passed on a letter from the Townsend School Bus Service at Morayfield which provides a state government funded bus for students at the special school. That letter noted that, despite many meetings with the government, they had not been able to get certainty about who would take responsibility for funding this important service. Providers of community mental health support—which are currently funded by Queensland Health—are facing uncertainty as their funding is rolled over on short-term funding extensions, while the situation under NDIS remains unclear.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Maiwar, I would just bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BERKMAN: The simple point is that these are all part of a broader suite of issues that are giving people some anxiety about how we will transition into NDIS and ensure that those services remain available. Let us face it: a lot of people are facing long delays in getting registered and there are months-long delays in the planning process for creating packages. We have to be honest that this is in large measure to do with a desperate lack of funding at a federal level. I commend the bill to the House; it is good work. I thank the committee for the work they have put into it.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. This bill will achieve its objectives by enabling Queenslanders to exchange expanded criminal history information with other worker-screening units in other states and territories for the purpose of the National Disability Insurance Scheme worker screening. This will be achieved by expanding the existing framework that is in place under the Police Service Administration Act and will allow the sharing of expanded criminal history information.

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening and the NDIS have been developed to support the implementation of a nationally consistent approach to worker screening. Under the NDIS the administration of worker screening and criminal history monitoring will remain the primary responsibility of the states and territories with consistent policies and principles as agreed to and will be adopted in each jurisdiction through appropriate legislation, policy and practices.

On 9 December 2016 the Council of Australian Government agreed to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. This framework will apply in Queensland at full implementation of the NDIS. Under the framework all jurisdictions have agreed to a nationally consistent approach to worker screening including the assessment of an expanded range of criminal history information. The full implementation in Queensland of the NDIS does not commence until 1 July 2019. However, legislative amendments are required during the transition to enable Queensland to meet its information-sharing obligations for worker screening with other jurisdictions as they have already commenced full implementation of the NDIS worker screening.

The bill will amend the Police Service Administration Act to allow the same consistent information to be shared by Queensland police with other worker-screening units in other jurisdictions. It will allow the Queensland Police Service to share expanded criminal history information such as spent convictions, pending charges and non-conviction charge information which otherwise would not be shared. The bill will achieve this by ensuring that sole traders operating as NDIS providers in Queensland during the transition to full implementation of the NDIS must undergo criminal history screening and have a positive notice and a yellow card.

The bill does this by clarifying sole traders; requiring a sole trader to have a yellow card before they can commence providing disability services, unless they have a current blue card that is not suspended and they have made application for a yellow card exemption, or they have applied for the renewal of the yellow card 30 days prior to expiry; ensuring that the current exemptions apply to sole traders; expanding identification requirements; expanding the disclosure requirements; and clarifying offence and penalty provisions. These changes will ensure that screening takes place regardless of whether a person is self-employed in the delivery of disability services or is engaged by a service provider. This bill will ensure consistency and safeguards for people with disabilities and some of our most vulnerable people in Queensland.

I would also like to thank the other committee members and the committee secretariat. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (3.52 pm): I rise to contribute to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. I support the bill, which will enable Queenslanders to participate in the national information-sharing obligations for NDIS worker screening and, secondly, clarify beyond doubt the screening requirements for sole traders operating as NDIS service providers during the transition period.

Although the full scheme operation of NDIS does not commence in Queensland until 1 July 2019, in the electorate of Gregory NDIS providers such as Yumba Bimbi Support Services and Emerald BUSHkids Queensland are already under the NDIS umbrella as a part of the transition. It is worth noting that the LNP government signed an agreement to join the NDIS in May 2013, and we did that having inherited the lowest spending per capita of any state on disability services.

Mr Nicholls: And funded it.

Mr MILLAR: We also funded it; I take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. Country Queenslanders have long held a concern that their ability to benefit from the potential of the NDIS would be constrained by the capacity of our communities to deliver a range of services required.

For instance, Yumba Bimbi—and I do declare in this House that my wife is a board member of Yumba Bimbi, a very well coordinated organisation providing essential services—is the only organisation west of the coast that provides respite accommodation for the disabled and their families across Central and Western Queensland. It began life as a community run not-for-profit organisation with great support from members of the public across Central and Western Queensland and also from Kestrel coalmine. To my mind, it was vital that Yumba Bimbi be retained under the NDIS because it is the community's organisation and to ensure the continuation of service. When it comes to western and regional Queensland we have seen other large service providers come and go.

We have observed that every time there are savings to be made, the first thing that goes is services to the bush. It is said that people can travel to Rockhampton. That seems to be the assumption. That is a minimum of seven hours for someone in Longreach. It is just not feasible. To pick up their

family and travel all the way to the coast from Longreach is a big task for many families. I know families who do have to go to Rockhampton for some services and it takes three or four days. If they are living in South-East Queensland it would take them a day.

BUSHkids Queensland—and I also want to acknowledge Charlie and Kaye Wilson, who are big supporters of BUSHkids and they do a fantastic job—perhaps better known to members as the Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme, has long recognised the difficulties faced by disabled people in country Queensland and the need to deliver services to them. Their early intervention services are well received, and I have seen this firsthand when I have been there. They do a fantastic job and have a dedicated staff. The services range from speech pathology to child psychology. They receive widespread community support through the Friends of Emerald BUSHkids in Queensland. They truly do a fantastic job.

I ask any member of the House and certainly the minister to please come and visit BUSHkids in Emerald when they get a chance, just to catch up with the staff and see their dedication to doing a top job. They do it so well and it is so appreciated. Honourable members only have to see a mum and dad who need this service. Right now they are stretched because of the drought. Obviously things are not going too well in regional Queensland. To have these services and to provide those skill sets in regional Queensland is so important. Not only will this allow them some breathing space to cope with the drought and obviously the current situation in the bush; it will provide the essential services for these kids, for their children. They do such a great job.

Transport under the NDIS has emerged as an area with special challenges for rural and regional Queensland. As honourable members would understand, we do not have public transport in Central and Western Queensland like we have public transport here in Brisbane. We do rely on the caring efforts of our taxi services. I must make special mention of Cecilia and Ben Hooper from Emerald Taxis. They do a fantastic job in providing transport to get people to these services. They are a fantastic family in Central Queensland. Not only do they have a taxi service, which is a great service; they do so much for the community. They give up their time and they are pleased to do so in order to be a part of the community. I want to make special mention of Ben and Cecilia Hooper of Emerald Taxis. They do a fantastic job.

Even with such champion efforts, sole traders will be essential to delivering NDIS services across country Queensland. This bill will make it clear what screening sole traders will require to become NDIS providers. The screening is vital for the safety of NDIS users. I must ask the minister to ensure processing is carried out promptly. We had difficulties with backlogs of blue card applications at the start of the school year, which has impacted our childcare centres in the past. It also does impact our sporting groups in terms of people participating in them. There has been a backlog and we need to make sure that those blue cards are promptly processed so those people can get their blue cards very quickly and are able to participate, whether that be in providing special services such as what we are talking about here this afternoon or providing for the continuation of services such as sporting groups. It is important we get that fixed up. The tardy screening and backlogs of applications will undo the good intentions of all parties to the NDIS.

Finally, the NDIS is going to be important. It is going to be incredibly important for people in Western and Central Queensland and regional Queensland. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I wish to raise another issue—and it does relate to this bill. Special needs of children in regional Queensland is an issue.

I became involved because as the local member I called a special needs meeting in Emerald. I thought that only two or three people would come, but over 25 mothers turned up with children with special needs. There were a lot of tears in the room that day. One of the biggest problems is that they cannot connect to support groups in regional Queensland as quickly as you can down here on the coast or in South-East Queensland. They feel isolated and sometimes lonely. They have beautiful children who have a range of difficulties. I thank God that my children are healthy.

As the member for Gregory, I want to make sure that I get them all the support that is available. What we are doing here is important, but we also need to cater for children with special needs in regional and rural Queensland, because those kids want to live there. The families want to stay there because their families are there, but sometimes they are forced to go to the coast to access services. I call on the Labor government to look at the issue of children with special needs and provide the special things that those children need. I commend this bill to the House.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.00 pm): I want to spend a couple of minutes speaking to specific sections of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Workers Screening) Amendment Bill,

particularly in relation to screening provisions and information sharing. A primary role of government is to safeguard the welfare of its most vulnerable. It was former United States vice-president and senator for Minnesota, Hubert Humphrey, who said it best in 1977—

The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.

We use more sophisticated language these days to describe citizens of this state who live with a disability, but the responsibilities of government have not lessened at all since 1977 when Hubert Humphrey made that speech. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services for this bill, which is a significant contribution to an across-government approach to ensure that Queenslanders can live with dignity and that all Queenslanders can find a safe, secure and sustainable place to call home. I thank and congratulate the Minister.


This bill seeks to strengthen and standardise the processes of criminal history checks for those people who work with Queenslanders with a disability. This bill goes to the heart of that. It is appropriate to ensure that we have additional protections in place for Queenslanders who, for whatever reason, may be less able to protect themselves or advocate for themselves.

As the Minister for Housing in Queensland, I am acutely aware of the risks borne by many Queenslanders when staff who are supposed to be caring for them or providing services are not properly qualified or screened. I particularly want to make reference to the more than 8,000 Queenslanders who live in more than 270 residential services across this state. Many of them are elderly and many have a disability. They may live in a residential service because they need additional support to live independently such as having their meals provided for them or having their room cleaned.

Through the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act and regulations, I have ensured that residential service providers operate in a way that protects the safety, autonomy and dignity of individuals. Those operators must undertake criminal history checks of the staff working in those services. The reforms in the residential services act and the reforms that the Minister for Communities and Disability Services introduced build on and reinforce our government's commitment to ensure that no Queenslanders fall through the cracks or are at risk of harm, because when Queenslanders do fall through the cracks and experience harm it means that we collectively in this place have let them down. I think this bill goes a long way to making sure that we will not. This bill will ensure that the same levels of safety, autonomy and dignity are met for Queenslanders with a disability as everybody else. This is the basic standard that those responsible for the welfare of others ought to meet.

Fundamental to this, as we have heard from speakers and the minister, is the ability to share and crosscheck that data across jurisdictions. By enabling this data sharing beyond convictions to include spent convictions, pending charges et cetera, we can ensure that those who have engaged in inappropriate conduct interstate are not in a position to be responsible for those who need care in Queensland.

As Minister for Digital Technology, I want to congratulate the Minister for Communities and Disability Services for establishing and enabling this information exchange. It is very much aligned to our ambition to ensure a greater degree of responsiveness as a state government. It is a significant reform in the context of disability services in Queensland, but I think it is something that Queenslanders expect governments to do. I congratulate and thank the minister. Through these sorts of reforms every Queenslanders has a greater opportunity to ultimately fulfil their potential and live free from fear and abuse. For those reasons I commend the bill.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.05 pm): I too support the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Workers Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to start by acknowledging the good work of the minister and thanking her for not only her work on this bill but also all the work she does for people with disability in this state. I would like to acknowledge the good work of the committee and the committee members. I probably will not go as far as they went in congratulating themselves, but they certainly did good work on this bill. I would like to acknowledge all those people who made a submission on the bill.

I asked for an opportunity to speak on this bill because, having worked with people with intellectual disabilities, I know just how important this bill is. Twenty years or so ago I worked as the manager of staff and volunteers who worked with people with disabilities at an organisation that was then called Q-Rapid and is now called Life Stream. Q-Rapid was an organisation that provided sport and recreational support for adults and children with intellectual disabilities. The objectives of the organisation were to empower people to the point where they could engage as independently as possible in sport and recreational activities. We had staff and volunteers who were engaged in a range

of situations from being in people's homes, taking them away on trips overnight and supporting them in the community. There was a whole range of situations where you had a volunteer or staff supporting someone.

In those days we did our best to screen both our staff and volunteers, and I believe that we did a very good job because we were always driven by a very deep concern and care for the participants in our programs, but essentially we operated under our own rules. I know that managers back then—and I am sure managers these days—would welcome the national standards as an incredibly positive step forward brought about by the NDIS. The national quality and safety framework that has caused the changes which are the subject of this bill is something that everybody should welcome and support.


I have seen the positive benefits of national quality frameworks rolled out in the environment of Queensland Health. It has made a massive difference to the way we operate in healthcare settings, and I can see how that will occur too in a disability framework. Effectively, in health care now we have a lingua franca where health professionals of different types in different states and different cities, different hospitals and different environments are talking to each other about the same issues. We have the same priorities when it comes to delivering quality care to patients. These frameworks now drive our practice and, most importantly, they are delivering better outcomes for the patients in our care. I certainly believe these quality and safety frameworks in disability will have the same impact for people with disabilities.

I want to draw on the experience I gained from my time at Q-Rapid and other organisations that I have worked with or volunteered for in terms of the different levels of capacity of people with intellectual disabilities. I am really careful about generalising about people with disabilities. I worked with people who had very high needs, who had very low communication skills, who had quite significant behavioural challenges and who needed high levels of personal care. I also worked with people who had jobs and partners, who had religious beliefs and political beliefs and who had favourite football teams—all of the things that make my life and the lives of other people in this chamber meaningful and worthwhile.

I do not want to generalise about people with disabilities or suggest that people with disabilities are automatically vulnerable and need protection. However, regardless of whether a person has a disability or not, if someone requires care from another person for a short or long period of time, they are potentially vulnerable.

Carers have huge ethical obligations to act in the interests of the people they care for, regardless of whether they are in a paid or a voluntary capacity. I am certainly pleased that I have an organisation like Carers Queensland in my electorate that supports the work of carers in our community. While I support this legislation because it provides guidance for all employers of carers who provide NDIS services, it will provide additional protections. When the service and practices are standardised, everyone knows what should be happening, and everyone can see when what should be happening is not happening. That will be a really positive thing, because all employers of people who are going to provide services in the NDIS, including those sole traders, will know just what the standards are.

The NDIS, as many have mentioned, is a huge step forward. It is also a huge experiment. I know from my studies in health economics that this is a model that has been advocated many times in many different parts of the world, but Australia is, to my knowledge, the first place that has attempted to go down this path. It certainly is something that is being watched right around the world. As someone who joined the Every Australian Counts campaign to bring this in, I am of the view that when this works it will certainly empower people with disabilities. It is important that we get this right. Everyone in our community needs to have confidence that the NDIS will provide high standards of care and services to people with disabilities. This legislation will ensure that we can all have confidence that people working with people requiring NDIS services will be properly screened and will be delivering safe and good quality care. For that reason, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. I thank my fellow members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I take this opportunity on behalf of our committee to thank those who made written submissions on the bill, those who briefed the committee and all those who appeared before the committee in relation to this bill. I particularly thank our committee secretariat and Hansard for their work on this bill.

This bill is necessary to ensure we are ready to support other states in their worker-screening processes as they implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme. As we move to support our most vulnerable in the community with better choices of services, we must also ensure they are protected—protected in this instance from people who, through past behaviours or offences, pose a significant risk and are not suitable to provide services to these vulnerable people in our community.

The first objective of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill is to amend the Police Service Administration Act 1990 to enable Queensland to participate in national information-sharing obligations for the National Disability Insurance Scheme worker screening under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This sharing of information is important as we safeguard our most vulnerable citizens right across Australia as the important National Disability Insurance Scheme is rolled out across the country.

People with disabilities are among our most vulnerable citizens, and this scheme to provide them with choices in relation to their care and providers could also attract undesirable people into the service-providing industry for people with disabilities. It has the potential to leave already vulnerable people open to exploitation by those among us who may seek to do harm or gain financial benefit inappropriately. One of the safeguards against this is the proposed worker-screening program provided for by this amendment bill.

Whilst we must ensure ongoing scrutiny of the scheme and protection of those involved, this measure is just one step that can at least eliminate people from providing services who have shown by past behaviour that they are a risk. In that regard, it is right, therefore, that Queensland amends our laws to allow us to share information with other jurisdictions about the behaviour and previous criminal history of applicants to be service providers under the scheme. This amendment allows expanded criminal history information such as spent convictions, pending charges and non-conviction charge information which would otherwise not be shared.

Although full scheme operation of the NDIS does not commence in Queensland until 1 July 2019, these amendments are required during transition to enable Queensland to share information with worker-screening units in each state and territory so they can carry out holistic and consistent NDIS worker-screening checks as their jurisdiction transitions to full scheme NDIS and commences the new NDIS worker-screening processes under the IGA. This could occur from as early as 1 July 2018 in New South Wales and South Australia.

The second amendment as part of this bill is an amendment to the Disability Services Act 2006. This clarifies beyond doubt screening requirements for sole traders during the transition period until full scheme implementation of the NDIS in Queensland. It includes amendments to confirm the safeguards that apply under the Disability Services Act 2006 during the transition period. Queensland's existing quality and safeguards system under the Disability Services Act 2006 applies to NDIS registered providers operating in Queensland to provide specialist disability support services during the transition to NDIS.


Sole traders are individuals who are NDIS registered providers and who personally provide disability services to NDIS participants. While the provisions of the Disability Services Act 2006 require sole traders to be screened, the amendments proposed by this bill clarify the operation of the provisions under the act to ensure they clearly operate in relation to the particular circumstances of a sole trader.

The bill clarifies that screening of sole traders is required under the Disability Services Act 2006. It also provides that, in making an application, a sole trader must have their identity verified by a prescribed person such as a justice of the peace, commissioner for declarations, lawyer or police officer. The bill also amends the disclosure requirements under the act to explicitly require a sole trader to disclose any changes in criminal history to the chief executive of the department. This approach to identity verification and disclosure requirements is necessary because a sole trader is operating independently and does not have the same employment relationship that other workers and volunteers have with service provider organisations.

There are a few things to note on the history of the NDIS. In 2012 the then LNP government inherited the lowest spending per capita of any state on disability services. In May 2013 the state LNP government signed an agreement with the Gillard government to implement the NDIS in Queensland and the LNP also announced an \$868 million commitment as part of the NDIS implementation. In the 2014-15 state budget, \$1.46 billion was put towards disability services in Queensland which was a record budget at the time.

This bill is not controversial. It makes sense and, as such, the bill is supported by this side of the chamber. While the intention of this legislation is sound, it can be an example where eventually we, the legislators, might work together across the jurisdictions to consolidate national police checks into one system to suit a range of occupations and service providers. Indeed, the disqualifying offences for a working with children check blue card are almost identical to those legislated to exclude a person from obtaining a yellow card under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

I look forward in the future to working to ensure that the systems we put in place do not unnecessarily inhibit those who would provide valuable services to the community by overregulation or particularly duplication or onerous processes. We need to find a good balance between protecting our most vulnerable whilst ensuring timely and professional delivery of service within the budgets available. Our responsibilities in this parliament, however, are to ensure that our obligations under the national agreement are met in time for implementation in the other states. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018 and commend the minister and the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring that Queensland has a robust quality and safeguards system in place as we transition to the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

I hold an annual event in my electorate called the Hayden Oration and this year—just a month ago—I had former health minister Neal Blewett speak at the event. Neal was the health minister at the time of the rollout of Medicare and he spoke about all of the issues involved in rolling out Medicare—something we all take for granted now. When I think about the NDIS, I think about Medicare. The NDIS to me is probably the biggest reform we have had nationally since Medicare. It was really interesting hearing him talk about all of the hurdles that they had to overcome in order to rollout Medicare—something that we all enjoy and appreciate and rely on today—and I think it is the same with the NDIS.

These amendments are just one step towards a successful rollout of the NDIS. People with disability deserve nothing less than to have reassurance that they will feel safe in the care of others and be treated with dignity and respect. While Queensland already has strong safeguards in place with the yellow card system, the full implementation of the NDIS in Queensland requires a nationally consistent approach to worker screening which Queensland supports under COAG's intergovernmental agreement.

The first part of this bill enables the sharing of expanded criminal history information by Queensland police with other states and territories to ensure holistic risk assessments can be undertaken. The bill expands the suite of criminal history information shared across jurisdictions to include convictions, spent convictions, pending charges and non-conviction charges and this will enable NDIS screening units to make more accurate and informed decisions when identifying individuals who may pose a risk of harm to people with disability.

The second part of the bill clarifies that sole traders are required to undergo criminal history screening under the yellow card system and requires them to have yellow cards before they can commence providing disability services. Sole traders, as we have heard, will also be required to have their identity verified by a prescribed person such as a justice of the peace, commissioner for declarations, lawyer or police officer.

The bill is important for many of my constituents in Ipswich who live with disability and who are receiving disability support services under the NDIS. It is worth pointing out that the percentage of people in Ipswich living with a profound or severe disability requiring assistance is 7.2 per cent, higher than the state average of 5.2 per cent. Having said that, Ipswich has a fantastic community network of disability service providers who are dedicated and committed to their work—organisations like Focal led by Mickael Blanc and ALARA with Judy Dickson and their teams. They do an extraordinary job in my electorate.


Ipswich was also one of the first regions to rollout the NDIS and, while it has not been without its problems, a nationally consistent safeguards system can only provide benefits for NDIS recipients who are some of the most vulnerable members of our communities and are more likely to be victims of violence, neglect, abuse, exploitation and crime.

In supporting this bill, we are prioritising the safety of people with disabilities and building a culture of zero tolerance for abuse and violence in the disability service sector. However, I do wish to point out that we cannot forget about the many NDIS service providers across the state that are already delivering a high standard of care to people with disabilities, and I particularly applaud the extraordinary work being done by service providers in Ipswich who work tirelessly to provide quality support to people with disability and who are passionate about ensuring all of their clients are treated with dignity and respect and have access to a range of services that help them to enjoy a quality of life equal to those without disability.

As mentioned, Queensland already has a strong safeguards system in place but there are additional benefits that this bill will introduce and I believe most disability service providers across Queensland will welcome these additional safeguards for the reasons that they will strengthen the

sector's reputation and quality assurance. For instance, disability service workers at organisations in my electorate like ALARA and Focal will be pleased to know that the bill supports the portability of NDIS worker-screening checks which means that once a worker has been screened they will not have to be screened again if they move to another jurisdiction or employer. For those service providers that are proud of upholding a workplace culture of zero tolerance of abuse, the bill will eliminate opportunities for individuals to make multiple attempts to gain a clearance, ensuring that people who have been knocked back for a clearance in one jurisdiction cannot obtain a clearance in any other jurisdiction.

The bill also acknowledges the emerging number of sole traders operating in the NDIS market and clarifies without a doubt that during the NDIS transition period sole traders must undergo a criminal history screening similar to all other NDIS service providers. Sole traders will also be subject to a no card, no start policy to ensure that they cannot provide disability services unless they have a yellow card or have a current exemption notice. People living with disability have every right to feel safe and be respected and I wholly support a disability services sector that puts the priority on their safety and reduces the risk of harm. I want to thank the minister and the Premier for the work they have done to bring this bill to the parliament and for strengthening Queensland's quality and safeguards framework in preparation of the NDIS rollout. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. Toowoomba was one of the first sites to rollout the NDIS from 1 January 2017 and there is no doubt that this has been an extraordinarily significant reform for disability services right throughout Australia. There have been some teething problems in my electorate and also federally and it has been heartening to be able to work with people—with mums and dads, with children who are suffering from disabilities—to help them. It has been one of the most rewarding parts of my job over the last 18 months to be able to work collaboratively with people with disabilities and also to be able to make a contribution to getting them the services that they so desperately need and deserve.

Locally in the south-west region there was talk of over 1,000 jobs being created from the NDIS. It is also clear from the past 18 months that we are now seeing a greater focus on people having meaningful opportunities to get not only the services they need in a tailored fashion but also employment that they may not have otherwise received. In that respect, the people of the electorate of Toowoomba South, Toowoomba and the region are fortunate to have some extraordinary disability services and support networks.

I refer to Warrina Services, the CEO, Lyndel Bunter, and her team. There is also my local Endeavour Foundation branch in Toowoomba and the supported employment services that they offer. The young men and women who go to the Endeavour Foundation on Ramsay Street in my electorate have opportunities for employment that they would not otherwise have had but for the extraordinary service that the Endeavour Foundation offers. Many of the people there are in supported employment at Withcott Seedlings, or are involved in meaningful jobs relating to confidential document destruction or in areas where they can use their skills and have meaningful employment.

There are other extraordinary disability support service providers in my region. I refer to YellowBridge and the CEO, Penny Hamilton, and the CFO, Adrian Bonica. Jodie Collins is the general manager of disability services at YellowBridge and she does an extraordinary job in making sure that people who need support get that support. The YellowBridge board makes an enormous contribution to disability services in Toowoomba. I refer to the chair, Carolyn Brown, and the extraordinary directors, Geoffrey Jordan, Cameron Stevenson and Tim McGowan. They are making their time free so that they are able to support people who have a disability and who are seeking the support they need. My area also has a whole range of other local support services, such as UnitingCare, Blue Care, Breakaway, Multicap and Quality Lifestyle Support.

Disability service support providers in the Toowoomba region—and this is why this bill is so important—are always looking for quality staff who are dedicated and focused on the task. These providers show that innovation is the key. YellowBridge, in providing meaningful jobs for people with disabilities, has opened a social enterprise called Collectables, which is a boutique op shop. Over the years, it has been amazing to take some of my colleagues to the Collectables social enterprise so that they can see people getting supported employment opportunities and also providing an opportunity for the community to give back to the good work of YellowBridge. Again, I commend the work of Penny Hamilton, the CEO, in particular and the chair, Carolyn Brown.

Although it is important that NDIS funding be spread across the state, people in regional and country areas, such as Toowoomba and Western Queensland, want locals delivering local support services.

Ms Leahy interjected.


Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Warrego. People in South-West Queensland do not want large organisations coming into their areas and dominating small service providers. In those areas sole traders, or larger enterprises within small regional communities and larger regional communities such as Toowoomba, want to be able to provide the services on the ground and not be overwhelmed by larger enterprises. Although those larger enterprises are trying to do the right thing, it is important that local providers give local support to local people.

There are some extraordinary small local disability support providers in Toowoomba, such as BigDog. Steven Paull does an amazing job there with Jeremy Scamp. They work very closely with the community to make sure that they are delivering local support on the ground. Steven Paull has coordinated the local disability community by producing a magazine called *What's Up in Disability*. It is compulsory reading for everybody in community leadership positions because it publishes local stories and details local services. That magazine is produced regularly. It is a credit to Steven and the team as this magazine is of great benefit to the disability community and anybody else in community leadership in Toowoomba as they seek to connect people with the services they need.

I would like to mention the Toowoomba Business Disability Awards, which will be held next week. I congratulate Heather on her efforts in coordinating the Toowoomba Business Disability Awards. These awards are unique in that they seek to recognise disability support providers that employ, support and provide opportunities to people in the disability community. It is often the case that people are seeking employment, seeking to get the help they need, and there are very generous businesses in Toowoomba that want to help them and go out of their way to help them. I note the major sponsorship of Kim Stokes for these awards. At the opening of these awards, Kim spoke movingly about what they mean for the disability community and, by identifying these key employers, the opportunities they provide for the disability community.

The awards next week will be interesting. Mat Rogers and Chloe Maxwell will be the guest speakers. Prue MacSween will be the emcee, so the event should be quite entertaining and potentially controversial. I would like to acknowledge the other sponsors of the awards. Jason and Michelle Toombs of Renew Psychology and Rehabilitation work very closely with the disability community. It is great that they are sponsoring the awards. The other sponsors are McConachie Stedman; Classic Recruitment, with Joy Mingay; and Carers Queensland.

It would not be appropriate to speak about these awards without acknowledging the co-founders. Paul Wilson started these awards. He has a daughter with Down syndrome. I could not find a more passionate advocate for disability services in my region. Six or seven years ago Paul decided that the awards were necessary. I honour Paul's contribution. The other co-founder is David Wallis. It has been a testament to their efforts over the years that these awards have become such a success. It will be wonderful to share the evening with them. Last year, the guest speaker at the awards was Tim Ferguson, whom we all know well. He gave an extraordinary and moving contribution about his battle with MS. The event will be a wonderful evening. I look forward to honouring those businesses and the disability community that rely so much upon the opportunities they provide.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. The NDIS means more choice and control for people with disability. It is about how they receive reasonable and necessary supports to make sure that they can live their life to the fullest. Each jurisdiction in Australia will transition to the full scheme implementation of the NDIS in accordance with individual agreements at different stages. Queensland has started this transition and it is imperative that we ensure that a robust quality and safeguard system is in place. This bill prepares Queensland for the transition to the NDIS.

We know the great hopes and aspirations of those with a disability in our communities of the success of the NDIS and the services that it will deliver. We need to ensure that we are establishing the framework that provides for the success of the NDIS and protects some of the most vulnerable in our community. We know how important it is to ensure that we have the right safeguards in place. That means making sure that service providers are providing personnel and volunteers who are best placed for the most vulnerable—people who have the right skill set to support people with a disability.

During the transition, the National Disability Insurance Agency identified that, nationally, there has been an increase in service providers under the NDIS identifying as sole traders and requesting registration to deliver services as part of the participant's plan.

With recipients of the NDIS having greater choice over service, we will continue to see a greater number of service providers enter the market and a more diversified workforce. It is for this reason that we have to make sure we have the right safeguards in place. Queensland currently has an operational worker-screening system for people working or volunteering with people with a disability, the yellow card system, and this yellow card system is broadly comparable to the working with children blue card system.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework was agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in December 2016 and the framework will apply in Queensland following full scheme operation. Under the framework, states and territories will remain responsible for operating the worker-screening unit in accordance with the nationally agreed approach. To ensure the success of the NDIS rollout it is important that we have consistent standards across the country for workers in the field of disability and hence the necessity for this bill.

The intergovernmental agreement for nationally consistent worker screening for the NDIS has been developed. It includes obligations for jurisdictions to share expanded criminal history information to allow the fullest risk assessments to be undertaken in each jurisdiction with a close eye to detail. It is this process particularly that is at the heart of ensuring the protection of those most vulnerable receiving services under the NDIS. This information sharing is necessary to support our other states, New South Wales and South Australia, when the NDIS worker-screening operations commence in those jurisdictions. Consultation and collaboration of all states and territories will be important in the success of the NDIS and has been part of the process in delivering this framework. The Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening largely aligns with Queensland's current approach to worker screening with some changes which are supported in the context of establishing a nationally consistent system.

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening will support portability of NDIS worker-screening checks by ensuring that once screened a worker will be able to move from state to state seamlessly and employer to employer without having to be rescreened. It will eliminate the opportunity for people to make multiple attempts to gain clearance, which provides protection for our most vulnerable by ensuring that people with adverse records in one jurisdiction cannot obtain clearance to work for services under the NDIS. We have heard some pretty terrible stories of where the wrong people working with people with a disability can have really terrible outcomes.

The framework also supports the national daily monitoring of criminal histories so that we are actually keeping track and that it is not a static document for workers in their screening and their clearance. It will also reduce barriers to information sharing across the states. The NDIS transforms the way services are accessed for people with a disability in our communities. We need to make sure that we get it right and that means making sure we have the best possible checks and balances in place for those people providing services.

There are a range of amazing service providers in the Redlands and I would like to thank them for all of the work that they do. They are tireless workers in caring for people with disability and I know that they are looking forward to embracing the opportunity the NDIS scheme will bring. I would also like to acknowledge the great work of Minister Coralee O'Rourke. She has done a fantastic job in bringing this legislation to the House. This is important legislation to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable in our community as we see the rollout of one of the most significant changes to disability services. It will assist Queenslanders to live with dignity. It is a cornerstone piece of legislation. I commend this bill to the House.



Hon. CJO'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (4.43 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to today's debate of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. Queensland has one of the most robust systems in place to ensure quality and safeguards for people with disability accessing services which I am committed to maintaining. This bill represents an important step to ensure our robust quality and safeguarding framework is in place, both during transition and once full scheme implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme commences in Queensland.

I start by saying how pleased I am with the heartfelt, thoughtful and bipartisan debate here today. I would like to address some of the issues raised by members during the debate on the bill. The member for Caloundra raised a question about whether there will be fees payable for the NDIS worker-screening check. The answer to that question is that there will be fees payable, just as there are fees payable under the current yellow card system. Those fees will be considered and set before we commence operation of the check at full scheme commencement. Likewise, work is currently underway to inform

estimates of application volumes. The member for Caloundra also raised matters relating to the NDIS implementation and the QAO audit. While outside the bill, I am confident that we are addressing the QAO recommendations fully with a number of recommendations already delivered and the remainder well advanced in their progress.

Ultimately the rollout of the NDIS is the responsibility of the Commonwealth government. Yesterday I spoke with the new Commonwealth minister, Paul Fletcher, about prioritising NDIA staff in Queensland and flagging other relevant issues. I am hoping that the Commonwealth will work alongside us for the best outcomes for the NDIS in Queensland. From a state perspective I am pleased that 100 per cent of existing clients who have chosen to enter the NDIS are in the scheme in areas that have fully transitioned.

The department has worked tirelessly with the Commonwealth to make sure that in areas that have fully transitioned the register of needs is now down to zero. We have invested \$19.4 million over four years in NDIS readiness initiatives. By spending this money we are making sure that people with disabilities, their families and carers understand what they need to do to get the most out of the scheme. We are also making sure that existing and new service providers understand what they need to do and we are building Queensland's workforce in the disability sector. If the member would like a briefing note at any time I am happy to request the department to provide him and his colleagues with one.

The member for Maiwar raised issues in relation to screening in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. My department continues to provide advice to individuals about how to comply with Queensland's quality and safeguarding requirements as needed. As part of the contract with National Disability Services, or NDS, supports are available to assist providers seeking registration approval during the transition period. If a need is identified providers can be referred on a case-by-case basis to NDS to access additional supports. This includes for providers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The National Disability Insurance Agency is also working to make sure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities are supported during the transition to the NDIS through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Strategy. The strategy is a statement of the commitment to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in delivering the NDIS across Australia. The strategy is informed by the NDIA's ongoing interaction and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their families, carers, communities and supporting organisations to clearly understand and respond to issues affecting access to the NDIS.

My department will continue to work with the NDIA to make sure that Queensland's transition to the NDIS meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability. However, I also acknowledge that there are broader issues related to worker-screening systems that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. The Palaszczuk government will continue to identify and consider these issues as we continue to prepare for full scheme operation.

The member for Maiwar also raised concerns in relation to a range of issues regarding the NDIS, including access to school transport services and other services under the NDIS. I would invite the member to make a time to meet with me and discuss the concerns that his constituents have raised. This government is committed to ensuring a smooth transition to the NDIS and ensuring access to services.

The member for Gregory noted the importance of applications being processed in a timely manner. I could not agree with the member for Gregory more. My department continues to work to ensure applications are processed as quickly as possible. I would also like to concur with the member for Gregory's comments in relation to BUSHkids. I have personally been to visit BUSHkids in Rockhampton and they do some amazing things.

Again I thank the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for its consideration of the bill and recommendation that it be passed. I thank the stakeholders who contributed to the committee process. I also thank honourable members for contributing to the debate. In particular, I would like to thank the member for Moggill for his strong support of the bill. I am pleased to be part of a government that continues to prioritise and ensure that Queensland has one of the strongest quality and safeguarding systems for people with disability in Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 40, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (4.49 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (4.49 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 4 September (see p. 2207).



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.50 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and speak in the address-in-reply debate. Firstly, I pass on to His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, my best wishes and also, on behalf of the parliament, my apologies that it has taken 10 months for us to get towards the completion of the address-in-reply. I hope that he receives it before the end of his term, which is mooted to be in the middle of next year. It may actually be his successor, Margaret McMurdo, who will receive the address-in-reply.

It is hard to believe that 14 years ago, on 13 March, I stood in this House to give my first speech. In 2004, the first thing I said was, 'I am truly honoured to represent the residents of Surfers Paradise in this House.' To this day I still feel extremely humbled by this experience and by having the confidence of my constituents on the Gold Coast. My constituents are my family, friends, neighbours, former patients and fellow proud locals. I thank them for once again placing their trust in me to advocate for our wonderful area.

I take this opportunity to thank my wife, Stacey, and my three children, Chloe, Bronte and Piers, for their support over the years. I also thank the volunteers who assisted me during the election. I thank the members of my state electoral council committee, including my chair, Wendy Coe; secretary, Juval Stephens; treasurer, Halina Hedditch; and my office staff, Aniela and Nikki. From doing roadsides and putting up corflutes to assisting voters at our pre-poll and polling booths, my volunteers did a wonderful job.

I will briefly say how concerning it is that Labor was selective and did not bother to campaign in the electorate of Surfers Paradise, among other electorates on the Gold Coast. Last term we saw Labor members stand in this House and talk about how they supposedly care about the Gold Coast. We certainly saw their true colours shine during the election as they seemed to care only about the seats they thought they could win. Labor members continue to make flying visits to my electorate to take selfies and engage with the media, but they did not bother to turn up on election day.

Many of my constituents who are elderly or have mobility issues had difficulty getting to a pre-poll or polling booth during the election. Bizarrely, the Electoral Commission of Queensland did not even allocate one polling or pre-polling booth in Surfers Paradise—in the electorate of Surfers Paradise. Many people live in high-rise buildings in Surfers because everything is easily accessible. It is all well and good to say that people can catch the tram, the light rail or other modes of public transport, but the fact is that many people with mobility issues found that to be very difficult. Most people just caught a taxi. I even dropped off postal vote applications to some constituents who, on their receipt previously, had thrown them out only to realise that there was no polling booth in their suburb. As such, I am asking the ECQ to ensure that there is a polling booth and a pre-polling booth in the suburb of Surfers Paradise in 2020.

I am proud to have been brought up on the Gold Coast. I raised my children, ran a business and my wife and I bought our first home right in the heart of the city. Gold Coasters do not believe in luck; we make our own luck. The community is made up of many go-getters. We are self-sufficient and we are hard workers. Gold Coast locals just want government to get on with its job so that we can get our kids to school, gain sustainable employment and have access to services where we need them.

When I was first elected, I spoke about how I was sick and tired of the Gold Coast coming second to Brisbane under a Labor government. As a dentist, former business owner and president of the local chamber of commerce, I was frustrated that, whilst our city was facing growing pains, Labor was neglecting the Gold Coast. To this day we see history repeating itself. Whether it is under Anna Bligh or the current premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, Labor governments fail to understand our city. They ripped 13,000 jobs from our city by using over \$13 million of taxpayers' money to ensure a \$3 billion project does not go ahead. They stalled that process for three years. They have watered down the anti-gang laws that the LNP enacted in government and they stripped our area of police resources. They failed to match the LNP's plan for a second M1 and improvements to ramps.

Today they are still playing politics with the M1, despite the federal government's \$1 billion commitment to the project. There is no Supreme Court at the coast. There are no replacement facilities for the Gold Coast show, the trots and the greyhounds. We still do not have a tunnel at the Gold Coast Turf Club or the training track improvements that were promised some years ago.

I said it in 2004 and I am saying it now: Labor just does not get the Gold Coast. When Labor thinks about the Gold Coast, they seem to just think of the glitter strip and coastal areas. They do not know the intricacies of our city. Behind the glitter strip are fantastic tight-knit communities of families, young people and seniors. Local community jumps at the opportunity to give a helping hand to those in need. Many of those people volunteered for the Commonwealth Games. Those communities reside in places such as Poinciana Boulevard, Broadbeach Waters, where Stacey and I bought our first home; at Clear Island Waters where we built our family home; and at Isle of Capri where my office is located. Those are places where residents are happy to bring up their children, invite their grandchildren and have a great relationship with their neighbours.

I bring to the attention of the House an issue that has threatened that serenity—that is, party houses. We are hearing of late-night parties, slashed tyres, and lewd and threatening behaviour in suburbs. That is all happening within earshot and before the eyes of young children. I had a briefing from Gold Coast City Council officers that was informative and I thank them for their time. Since the enactment of the city plan in 2014, zero applications have been received for party houses. That is right: none. However, over the past few months, I have received a surge of calls and emails about party houses in my electorate.

I acknowledge the work of the member for Mermaid Beach. I have taken over an area that was in his electorate prior to the redistribution, which is why I am now receiving that surge of calls. This area has many houses that are being used as party houses, although under the city plan they are supposedly designated as short-term accommodation. Basically, that surge in calls tells us two things: one, that potential applicants know that party houses are generally not welcomed by our community; and, two, that owners of party houses are flouting the law by saying that they are short-term accommodation but are operating them as party houses.

I table the City of Gold Coast document that outlines the criteria for a house to be classified as a party house. This is the same criteria complainants are required to prove that a house fits into if they want to shut down a party house that is operating under the facade of being short-term accommodation.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'City of Gold Coast Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 4 (Party houses) 2018' [1294].

I table an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* dated 1 May 2018, which highlights the frustration we all face in trying to understand the difference between 'short-term accommodation' and 'party house'. The statistics in the article are misleading because no-one is applying to operate a party house.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 May 2018, titled 'Holiday home app explosion sparks suburban war: Lair BNB' [1295].

At the end of the day, we just want quiet safe neighbourhoods. One resident tells me that his street has truly lost its community feel, with his long-term neighbours selling or considering selling their properties. In his email, my constituent said—

I will now list below for you the main properties that consistently affect our lives here on Rio Vista and Meredith Drive.

I have listed the 'Bliss Holiday Homes' list on the Gold Coast for you: Bliss on Monaco (2 separate units), Bliss on Water, Bliss @ Surfers Reflections, Bliss & Tranquillity, Bliss on Water View, Bliss on Merrimac, Bliss @ Broadbeach, Bliss @ Mermaid Waters, Bliss on the Quay, Bliss with a View, Bliss on the Water Front, Bliss on The Cove, Bliss @ Sunset, Bliss on Blue Waters, Bliss on Weatherly, Bliss on Rio Vista, Bliss on Paradise.

In fact, on its website, Bliss Holiday Homes, a short-term accommodation provider, has said that its accommodation can accommodate up to 12 people comfortably. As the member for Mermaid Beach says, that is a business; that is not a home. Twelve people in a home within a residential area—how ridiculous. Their website does not even list the exact address so people do not know where it is.

Like many of my constituents, I take a walk down the street to see where all the noise is coming from. These party houses, many of which are located on the water, do not just impact the street on which they are located; the noise emanates over the water impacting streets and streets of residents. Residents are grateful to have police support in shutting down parties at these homes, but they are sick of having to call them every weekend as new groups of people arrive in their street. Gold Coasters want to reclaim their suburbs. I call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to enact legislation to address the issue of party houses once and for all.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

MOTION

Domestic and Family Violence, Public Service Leave Provisions



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Palaszczuk Labor government's policy to give 10 extra days of taxpayer funded leave per year to perpetrators of domestic and family violence; and
2. calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to scrap its absurd policy that perversely rewards perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

This is a motion that should never, ever have had to come before this House. Domestic and family violence is a horrific and horrendous scourge in our community. Under this Labor government we have seen a police officer release personal details of a victim to her offender. Under this Labor government we have seen a minister who has failed to properly implement new parole alert laws for domestic violence victims months after they passed into law. Now we have seen this government go one step further.

Those opposite in the Labor Party think it is acceptable and appropriate to give 10 extra days of taxpayer funded leave—that is, 10 days on top of normal holiday leave—to domestic violence perpetrators. They are giving it to the people who are committing these heinous crimes on others in this great state. I put it to you, Mr Speaker, and this House that not one person in their right mind would think this is acceptable. Not one person should think that giving domestic violence perpetrators 10 days of taxpayer funded leave to rehabilitate is a good idea.

This leave is offensive to the victims. It is offensive to the most vulnerable members of our community. It is offensive to the men, women and children who are fleeing domestic violence.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite interject and say, 'How else do they get rehabilitated?' In their own time—that is how. This leave is offensive. This leave is offensive to Queensland taxpayers whose money is being wasted giving domestic violence offenders and perpetrators leave. This leave is meant to be in place for domestic violence victims to attend court, to attend counselling or to move house due to a domestic violence situation.


Ms Grace: Support it federally. Go and write to your mates.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. The interjection that I am hearing from the Minister for Industrial Relations is disgraceful. We are talking about protecting our most vulnerable men, women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence. There is not one person in Queensland who should not stand up for the fact that we should be doing everything we can to get rid of the scourge of domestic violence across this great state. I will continue to stand here and fight on behalf of those good people. To think that this state of Queensland under a Labor government gives these people 10 extra days leave is reprehensible.

This is an arrogant, out-of-touch government that had to be dragged kicking and screaming to vote for tougher new domestic violence laws. This arrogant and out-of-touch government voted no four times for the LNP's tough DVs laws while three mothers of murdered DV victims looked on sobbing from the gallery. Where were the Labor members? They voted against those laws four times. That is

what the Labor Party's record is on domestic violence victims in this state. The LNP will stand up for domestic violence victims in this great state. We will not pay for an extra 10 days leave for perpetrators. I urge everyone in this House to vote against this leave allowed by this Labor government.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.05 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. I do so because it is based on an inherent untruth. In doing so I note that the motion signals the formal end of any pretence of a bipartisan approach in Queensland in our fight to end domestic and family violence. Using phrases like 'reward perpetrators', implying that we have set up a specific policy to direct taxpayer funds to perpetrators, taking part of an initiative out of context to score political points—tell me that that does not trivialise the fight of our lives which is stopping the vicious cycle of partner-on-partner violence which is seeing one to two women a week in Australia being killed and changing the story for the one in six women and one in 17 men over the age of 15 who have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner.

Tell me that this motion tonight is not a cheap political stunt. Tell me that the LNP can never stoop low enough if they think there is an opportunity to score a point. In the last sittings the member for Caloundra had a go at me for suggesting that they did not support a bipartisan approach to ending DFV. He was in high dudgeon that I suggested such a thing. Tonight he should hang his head in shame.

DV is a scourge. The Palaszczuk Labor government has zero tolerance for it. We have been fierce in our determination to implement the *Not now, not ever* report. Of its 121 recommendations which were for government, 92 have been completed and the remainder are well underway. Some of the key recommendations focused on the importance of the workplace in addressing domestic and family violence. The Queensland government has taken this responsibility very seriously. We need to be best practice ourselves. It is why Queensland led the way in Australia in terms of providing special leave for victims of domestic and family violence. It is why Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has been unstoppable in her lobbying at the national level for all other states and territories to implement the same arrangements.

One of the other key recommendations referred to the need for resources to support both victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Please resume your seat, Minister. Member for Caloundra, member for Kawana, Minister for Education and Leader of the Opposition, I have had enough. I want to hear the minister's contribution. You will cease your interjections.

Ms FARMER: Holding perpetrators accountable for their violence and providing them with the opportunities to change their behaviour is critical to ending domestic and family violence and keeping victims safe. The COAG National Summit on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children in 2016 recognised—and this was agreed to by all states and the Commonwealth—that workplace responses to support perpetrators seeking to change behaviour should be extended. Recognised leaders in the field of domestic and family response—DV Connect and Australia's CEO Challenge—advocate that without addressing the behaviour of those who use or may use violence the cycle of domestic violence will not be broken.

So we come to what happens in the Queensland Public Service as the state leading the way in providing domestic and family violence leave and employee support. The Public Service directive allows this leave to be granted at the discretion of the CEO. Its absolute focus is on supporting victims. Mostly, that is about direct support and leave entitlement for that person. Sometimes it is about allowing leave for those who use violence because changing perpetrator behaviour changes the outcome for the victims and survivors.


Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you were warned earlier today about not using members' correct titles. I will not tolerate that in this House. That goes for all members. I will start issuing warnings under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: It is this government's clear expectation that if leave is granted to perpetrators at the discretion of the CEO it would be under quite specific circumstances—that it be granted only when the employee can provide evidence that they are undertaking an authorised or recognised perpetrator change program—and that they can provide evidence that they did in fact undertake that program in

the specified period—and that special leave only be granted when no other option is available to that employee to undertake the program. This does not change the fact that any Queensland government employee convicted of an indictable offence faces disciplinary action.

If we are to break the cycle of violence, we must address the issue of the perpetrator. We are about using every bit of our strength and resources to end domestic and family violence, and we will fight in whatever way the evidence and the experts tell us is the best way to achieve that. To say that I am disappointed that the LNP should distort this issue and abrogate any responsibility for an informed debate—well, disgust is a better word. It is no wonder Queenslanders find them unelectable.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to speak for the motion as put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango. I have spent the last 30 years serving as a police officer in this state—25 of those 30 years were a generation of inept Labor governments in charge of our justice system. I worked in an organisation full of frustrated officers watching a government water down laws, fail to protect the community and oversee a revolving door justice system that sees continual increases in crime including increases in domestic and family violence—a generation of failure to meet community expectations of justice in this state.

The great men and women of the Queensland Police Service, however, continue valiantly to swim against the tide of government neglect. There is no coincidence that 30 years on we have five ex-police officers in parliament on the LNP side drawn into politics in part to fight for victims of crime, to fight for victims of domestic violence and to restore community confidence in our justice system. The *Not now, not ever* report states—

Immediate action will be achieved by Government taking a leading role as an employer, by making the public service a place where victims are supported with dedicated leave provisions, flexible working arrangements for victims and comprehensive human resource policies in the public service.

Recommendation 33 states—


The Queensland Government amends the Industrial Relations Act to create a new category of leave for the public sector for victims of domestic and family violence that may be taken for any purpose related to the violence ...

What do Labor do? For some inexplicable reason they extend that recommendation to include violent offenders and reward them with 10 days holiday. It is not the first time we have seen this Labor government take report recommendations and totally disregard them or extend them to suit their own political purposes, but they have seriously jumped the shark with this howler. We have again just one more example of this government's ridiculous, out-of-touch, offender focused, victim-ignoring decisions and policy that absolutely erodes community confidence.

If the government think it is a good idea to reward serious violent offenders with 10 days holiday per year then they are once again proving how out of touch they are. We spoke this morning about consulting the community, about surveys. Why do the government not run one of their famous community consultations on this one instead of on hospital names? Why do they not run a public survey to see whether the Queensland public think it is fair enough for public servants, paid by them, to violently assault their partners, family members or children and get 10 days paid leave? Why do they not see what the community thinks of that one? Will they do that? No, of course they will not. Why? They will not do that because they know how ridiculous and embarrassing this policy is. This policy not only does not pass the pub test but also fails it miserably. We had the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence say in parliament yesterday—

I think we can be certain that, in instances where perpetrators are seeking leave to address their behaviours, that leave would in all likelihood be granted.

Where is the accountability here? Rehabilitation of offenders is important. You will not get me arguing that, Mr Speaker. It is important. There are programs for all types of offending behaviour and these programs are important. When you have personal issues to address related to your offending, it is ridiculous to require the Queensland taxpayer to not only fund your program but also fund your wage to attend. What is next? What leftist offender focused policy will this government come up with next? Will it be 10 days paid leave for drink drivers to get their alcohol management under control? Will it be 10 days paid leave for sex offenders to address their behaviour? Where does this madness end? I tell you where it should end, Mr Speaker—right here, right now by members of this parliament supporting this motion. When is it appropriate for violent offenders to have a paid holiday on the people of Queensland? Mr Speaker, I will tell you when it is appropriate—not now, not ever!

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.16 pm): I rise to oppose the motion, but then I hardly have to speak because even those opposite found what the member for Nicklin was saying was a bit of a joke—and it is a joke. It is cheap, political pointscoring.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Come in spinners!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I want a robust debate but the debate should be through those members on their feet and those who are responding to them, not to out shout every other member in this House.

Ms GRACE: I could not be more proud of the record of the Palaszczuk Labor government in supporting the victims of domestic and family violence and working to bring an end to this terrible blight on our society. I certainly will not be lectured to by those opposite on this subject.

The Palaszczuk government came into office with a clear and principled position of supporting an entitlement of 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave for all employees—and we have acted on that. As Minister for Industrial Relations, I was proud that Queensland then led the way by being the first state to put this entitlement into law as part of a raft of significant new protections for workers in the state jurisdiction under the Industrial Relations Act 2016—legislation that those opposite voted against. Here they are wanting to protect the victims and they voted against paid domestic violence leave. They opposed it. Isn't it ironic that that they are in here today making out that they are for the victim? It is unbelievable. No, I take that back—it is disgraceful.

In doing so, we delivered on the recommendation of the bipartisan *Not now, not ever* report by Dame Quentin Bryce for a 10 days paid leave entitlement for victims of domestic and family violence. As I said when introducing that legislation, just as our workplace laws support workers with leave entitlements in circumstances where they are sick or when their family are sick or when they lose a loved one, those workers experiencing domestic and family violence need and deserve the same type of help to support them in those most desperate of times.

The entitlement in the Industrial Relations Act, however, only extends to workers in the state industrial relations jurisdiction. The federal government need to step up and amend the Fair Work Act to make 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave available to all workers in Queensland and across the country, but they have done nothing. Instead, they now propose belatedly an entitlement of five days unpaid leave—and it simply does not go far enough. We can do better than this, as a community and as a nation.

The report from Dame Quentin Bryce emphasised the importance of a paid leave entitlement to ensure that those affected by DFV are given—

An opposition member: For victims.

Ms GRACE: Then support the paid leave—which you didn't. I take that interjection from the member for Caloundra.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Caloundra and I ask that he support 10 days paid leave. Those affected by domestic and family violence need practical economic support if they are absent from work or need time to seek other forms of support for themselves and their family. If those opposite are serious about helping victims of domestic and family violence, they should get on the phone to their mates in Canberra and make this a priority.

I have some further points to make in regard to this motion which I am not supporting. While our absolute focus and priority is on the victims of domestic and family violence, the sad reality but the reality nonetheless is that in order to do our very best to help the victims of domestic and family violence we also may need initiatives in place for perpetrators so that we start to break the cycle of violence. That is what the experts tell us. That is what the victims tell us. They just want the violence to stop, and to do that we need to use every tool at our disposal.

That is why the COAG domestic violence summit in October 2016 suggested the extension of workplace responses to support perpetrators seeking to change their behaviour. As an employer of choice we listen to the experts—not those opposite—and, under the very strict guidelines outlined by the Minister for Women, if providing some form of leave to just one perpetrator means that one less woman is subject to this violence and breaks the DV cycle then that is a good outcome. For example, as Jacque Lachmund from Australia's CEO Challenge said today, 'If providing paid leave to those who use power and control in their relationships prevents further harm, then that is a success.' That is what the experts are saying. As DVConnect says, 'This is a proactive way of holding those who use violence

accountable for their actions in a way that best supports their victims.' These are terribly difficult, distressing issues to deal with. My heart goes out to those victims, but these are cheap political headlines that do nothing to end the cycle of domestic and family violence.

(Time expired)



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (5.22 pm): It is unfortunate timing that in National Child Protection Week it has come to light that public servant perpetrators of domestic and family violence are eligible for 10 days of domestic and family violence leave. This motion calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to scrap this policy that rewards perpetrators of family and domestic violence. What this government should be doing is supporting the partners and children of these vile perpetrators, not giving the perpetrators the opportunity to take two weeks off.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr BENNETT: You are speaking soon, member for Gladstone. No-one in their right mind would think that giving wife-beaters 10 days of taxpayer funded leave to rehabilitate is anything but a bad idea. Victims—whether they are partners or children—need greater protection and offenders need to be held accountable. We need to empower victims to leave violent relationships and force perpetrators to break the cycle of violence that is tearing communities, families and children's futures apart.

Sadly, rates of domestic violence are still increasing. In the Queensland Police Service annual statistical review, breaches of domestic and family violence protection orders have increased by nine per cent. A total of over 25,000 breach offences were reported to police—an increase of almost 11 per cent from the previous year. All regions except for the northern region reported increases. Brisbane is up by 10 per cent and the central region is up 17 per cent. The Brisbane region recorded the lowest rate of breaches in Queensland while the northern region recorded the highest.

Given the state of domestic and family violence in Queensland, it is further distressing to hear that GPS trackers are continuing to be ineffective under this government. All GPS trackers are currently stored in Brisbane, meaning it can take three whole days to transfer a GPS bracelet to the Gold Coast. One worries how long it will take to get these bracelets to perpetrators located much further away in Queensland's north. These trackers also have failings such as being reliant on the 3G mobile network and being reliant on offenders charging their bracelets for two hours a day, and it is not even a condition of bail.


The greatest issue that has been revealed is that only nine bracelets have been fitted across the state, meaning that victims of domestic and family violence are not even being given the small benefit of this expensive and ineffective system. Rather than spending untold amounts on ineffective trackers and giving domestic and family violence perpetrators paid leave, the Palaszczuk Labor government should be getting on with the job and delivering the *Not now, not ever* report. The *Not now, not ever* report stemmed from a task force, as we all know, in 2014 which appointed former governor-general Dame Quentin Bryce to lead the groundbreaking reforms. Both sides of politics were represented on that task force as well as the crossbench. What is clear is that the *Not now, not ever* report does not recommend that perpetrators of DV receive up to 10 days of taxpayer funded leave each year.

In government the LNP introduced the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. We funded new initiatives that provided safety upgrades to homes of victims. Under the LNP \$49 million was committed over five years to be invested in specialist domestic and family violence services to better meet the safety and support needs of children and their families and to strengthen links across domestic violence, child protection and family support services.

While Labor likes to talk about domestic violence, the LNP provides real support and real action to tackle this issue. No-one can understand how those opposite can defend this insidious policy position. This issue impacts far too many. As I said earlier, it is National Child Protection Week and the impact of domestic and family violence on children is an issue that is not to be overlooked. According to the latest statistics on child safety, nearly 6,000 children were subject to substantiation over the year, an increase of 148 kids. Sadly, the vast majority of this increase has come from a steep growth in substantiated cases from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Much more needs to be done to keep Queensland kids safe. Much more needs to be done to keep victims of domestic and family violence safe, and much more needs to be done to crack down on perpetrators of family and domestic violence. I am calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government and those making their contributions tonight to make domestic and family violence public servant perpetrators ineligible for domestic and family violence leave and to take more action to protect the victims of domestic and family violence.

The contributions from those opposite tonight have been really disturbing. How can they honestly stand up in this place and make a plea that giving 10 days paid leave under any guise is acceptable to the community? The community expects a lot more from this Labor government and the LNP would be providing that support.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved tonight by the opposition leader. That probably comes as no surprise. An incredible amount of work has been done in this state to bring domestic and family violence out of the shadows, and we all know that. Talking about this violence, this scourge on our communities, is no longer a taboo subject. We only need to look at the Premier's recent bystander campaign to see how much more willing people are to tackle the issue front on and say 'enough'. Stopping victims of abuse from being beaten, from being strangled and from being killed is surely a cause that members from all walks of political life can get behind. Sadly, we may no longer be able to say that there is bipartisan support in this chamber to fight domestic and family violence in Queensland.

In talking about domestic and family violence issues, the member for Mudgeeraba loves to call it Quentin Bryce's report 'the LNP's *Not now, not ever* report' as if somehow the LNP owns all the answers when it comes to domestic and family violence. Yet we saw in government how it actually treats the issue of domestic and family violence. They cut \$48,000 from the Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service. They cut \$38,000 from the Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service. They cut \$33,000 from the Centre Against Sexual Violence and they cut \$40,000 from DVConnect, which is one of the main sources people use to ring in about domestic and family violence.

In Wide Bay, the shadow minister's own region, the LNP cut more than \$8,000 in funding from EDON Place women's shelter and more than \$16,000 from the Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence and Resource Service. At the last election in the dying days of the campaign when they hoped that nobody would notice their costings revealed they planned to slash another \$4½ million from existing domestic and family violence services if they won the election. Shame! This is their record on domestic and family violence in Queensland.

In just the last sitting week the member for Caloundra accused the government of abandoning the bipartisan approach to domestic and family violence because he did not like the tone of the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I have listened to her speak quite a few times and I have never been surprised by her tone. He said it with a straight face—it was a straight face—despite the fact that he was present at the minister's estimates hearing where the opposition asked not one question about domestic and family violence. That tells us that they are happy with what we are doing with that service here in Queensland.


The member for Mudgeeraba has spent the last three years sniping at this government about our \$328 million investment to implement the *Not now, not ever* recommendations, and she continues to do that well into this term as well. Now the opposition has started to abandon the findings of the *Not now, not ever* report. While heavily and appropriately focused on victims, the *Not now, not ever* report also made it clear that we cannot end domestic and family violence without dealing with the behaviour of perpetrators. We cannot just continue to throw them into jail and hope they will get better while they are in there. Page 13 of the report says—

Any integrated service response must include programs to address perpetrator behaviour and hold perpetrators to account.

That is what we are doing with this. They need the help, not the jail system.

Because the LNP think there is a cheap shot to be had over domestic violence leave, that finding is no longer supported by the opposition. They do not support it. Under the LNP's motion today, if a domestic violence perpetrator or potential perpetrator was to approach their manager and ask for leave to attend a perpetrator program so they could change their own behaviour, the government would say to them, 'Tough luck. Go and sort it out yourself.' The opposition want that door—the door which could mean perpetrators getting support to stop their violent behaviours—slammed shut with a sign that says, 'Not on my time, champion.'

The opposition should be ashamed of themselves. If we can do anything to stop domestic and family violence from happening then we should. That includes giving victims of violence every possible support to escape from and recover from that violence. That means investing in specialist domestic violence courts that make sure those victims are protected. That means making strangulation a specific offence, which we have done here in Queensland.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the private member's motion moved by the member for Nanango, and in doing so I also call on the Labor government to scrap its absurd policy that perversely rewards perpetrators of domestic and family violence. The Palaszczuk

Labor government has extended taxpayer funded leave by 10 extra days per year to perpetrators of domestic and family violence. If those opposite think it is acceptable to use hardworking taxpayer money to fund leave for these perpetrators, what on earth will be next? The *Not now, not ever* report is a product of the LNP's domestic violence task force. I have read the recommendations made by the report. Nowhere does it say that perpetrators should be entitled to this leave.

I am a former police officer of 23 years and also an extremely proud White Ribbon ambassador. Yesterday I found comments made by the Premier during question time extremely disrespectful and downright ignorant. In response to a question without notice, the Premier said—

I am very proud of the men on the government side who have signed up to be champions of the prevention of domestic and family violence and the White Ribbon cause.

She then continued and said—

I would like to see all male members of this House sign up to that as well.

Mr Speaker, if you look around this room on any given day, you will see that I am the only member of parliament who wears an ambassador's white ribbon daily to champion this cause—every day. So much for bipartisanship from the Premier on this important matter.


Domestic and family violence is something I take extremely seriously and something I hold very close to my heart. Domestic and family violence should not be about us as members of parliament; it should be above politics. In my electorate in Bundaberg, domestic and family violence is a major concern and something I am extremely aware of. My community, which chose me to be their representative in this House, counts on me to support them, to be their voice and to fight to provide Bundaberg with what we need and deserve—and that is exactly what I will do.

I am standing here today in support of Bundaberg. Bundaberg needs a second domestic and family violence liaison officer. Bundaberg needs help to combat domestic violence, and Bundaberg residents and their families who are victims of DV need support, but the Labor government just continue to do what they do best—reward the perpetrators with 10 days leave. This Labor government policy is just another arrogant and out-of-touch move from those opposite and, quite frankly, it is unbelievable. Our fantastic Bundy police officers, local staff and volunteers of local community groups like EDON Place work tirelessly, selflessly and proactively to protect the victims of DV within our community. They are the ones who help victims get back on their feet. They do their absolute best with the minimal government support they are provided. They get on with it, and our community would be undeniably lost without them.

One domestic and family violence liaison officer for the Bundaberg region is not enough. As an ex-police officer, I know firsthand how important it is to have sufficient staffing to assist with combatting domestic violence in our community. To get the ball rolling, back in March I asked the police minister a question on notice to gain clarity on the government's plans in relation to their election promise to appoint a second DVLO for the Wide Bay region, but the minister's response displayed a complete lack of urgency, simply advising the appointment would occur at some stage this financial year. Five months later, we are still yet to hear where that officer will be stationed and when they will start.

Our current Bundaberg domestic violence liaison officer, Sergeant Ken Hendrie, started in this role over 10 years ago and the number of domestic incidents being reported has massively increased in that decade. The workload and pressure on our DVLO continues to grow as the awareness of the issue improves, but staffing has not changed. A second officer will help our region immensely, but clearly the government would prefer to focus on the prizes given to those who have ruined the lives of so many.

In the Wide Bay-Burnett district in 2016-17, there were 715 domestic and family violence applications made and 1,644 breaches of domestic and family violence orders were reported. Something needs to give. Change needs to happen, and abolishing this ludicrous policy under discussion this evening would be a start. Without fail, each and every week, my office gets phone calls and visits from residents dealing with domestic violence. It is heartbreaking. The current Labor government has its priorities wrong. The LNP is the only party that will provide real action and real support for domestic violence victims and their families and will not reward domestic violence perpetrators. That is why I support this private member's motion before us this evening.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.36 pm): One of my proudest moments as a member of parliament was the first debate we had in this place following the release of the *Not now, not ever* report and the subsequent legislation. The level of bipartisanship was high and uplifting. Sadly, at that time, the community was being confronted by the very public murder of two women. As we all know, that number of women are murdered each week. After a very respectful debate, as a parliament we attended

a memorial in Queens Park. I was inspired by that and I decided to work with my community to hold a local memorial service. Over 500 people gathered on a cold night at Easts junior leagues club to mourn the victims of domestic violence and to state clearly that as a community we say not now, not ever to domestic violence.

Prior to the service, I contacted the former member for Greenslopes, Ian Kaye, to invite him to participate. He had been a member of the *Not now, not ever* task force—no doubt motivated by the situations he had to deal with in his career as a police officer. I believed, and I still believe, that it is important that we respond to these issues in a bipartisan manner. Ian agreed and was generous enough to come to the event and lend his support. Ian Kaye demonstrated an approach to bipartisanship on this issue that we should all seek to emulate. I am disappointed that the LNP has brought a motion like this into this place. I think they need to go back and read the report. I hope we can continue to respond to domestic violence in a bipartisan manner.

In my reading of the report, it is clear that the committee gave great consideration to perpetrators. They focused very much on holding them to account and changing their behaviour. Following that memorial service, local residents, business owners, public servants and community organisations continued to meet to discuss how to locally respond to domestic and family violence. The group continues to meet under the banner of the Greenslopes Domestic Violence Prevention Network. The focus of this group is on changing culture and attitudes to domestic violence.

In the executive summary of the report in the section titled 'Culture and attitudes', there are two statements that I want to read now. The first statement says—

The starting point must be a comprehensive communication strategy to educate ... the community. This needs to be long term and future focused, and emphasise the seriousness of domestic and family violence, the community's intolerance of domestic violence, and the services available to victims and perpetrators.

The second statement says—

Much of the focus in this Report and elsewhere is placed on victims, but cultural change needs to happen to stop perpetrators from using violence and coercive control in their relationships. Any integrated service response must include programs to address perpetrator behaviour and hold perpetrators to account.

Those are key words: 'long-term and future focused' and 'services available to victims and perpetrators'. The politically easy thing to do is to point at perpetrators and blame them. The hard thing to do, the approach that certainly does not come naturally, is to look at perpetrators and determine what can be done to change their behaviour. That is what the report calls on us to do.

This does not mean excusing their behaviour or penalising the behaviour. It means that if we want to protect the victims of domestic violence, if we really want to stop domestic violence, we have to put time and effort into changing the behaviour of perpetrators. The report gives clear directions on how to respond to perpetrators. Let's look at recommendation No. 16. It states—

The Queensland Government leads and promotes sustained, inter-generational communication in the community about the seriousness of domestic and family violence, the community's intolerance of domestic and family violence, and the services available to victims and perpetrators.

Let's look at another recommendation. It states—

The Queensland Government identifies and implements strategies to increase perpetrators' participation in interventions, including a pilot on mandatory attendance, with the evaluation of the pilot to inform future decisions about broader use of mandatory perpetrator interventions.

I would also like the House to reflect on recommendation No. 86. This asks the Queensland government to provide—

... flexibility to service providers to offer the necessary crisis accommodation required for the situation, whether that be access to a domestic and family violence refuge or brokerage funding for the perpetrator to stay in short term accommodation

We could scream hysterically about assistance being given to perpetrators, or we could actually look at why this was recommended. If perpetrators are not separated and provided with assistance for short-term and crisis accommodation then we face the very real situation where victims take perpetrators back into their home and, thus, expose themselves to further violence.

I call on all members of this House—in fact, I implore them—to move back to a point of bipartisanship on this issue. I believe that is what my community wants on this issue. I believe that we need to go back to the *Not now, not ever* report, continue to act in a bipartisan way and not respond in this manner. We need to look at what the people in our communities are telling us they want us to do, and that is to act in a bipartisan way and to implement the *Not now, not ever* report so that we can stop domestic violence.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.41 pm): In listening to the contributions from Labor members it is clear that they are not sorry for what is a complete distortion of the *Not now, not ever* report. In fact, it is not just a distortion but a blatant untruth. This report did not endorse 10 days paid leave for perpetrators of domestic violence in the public sector. This report did not recommend that the taxpayers fund the paid leave of violent offenders, of domestic violence perpetrators. That is why we are saying enough of this.

Victims need to have support. Victims are the ones who should be our main focus. It is an absolute disgrace that this Labor government is failing to listen. In failing to see that there is a problem with funding 10 days paid holiday for perpetrators from taxpayers' funds, they are, in fact, aiding and abetting the denial that can be the very thing that fuels this problem of domestic violence. The victims are the victims, not the perpetrators.

We had perpetrator programs. People need to take responsibility. Instead, what we have heard from this government is that they are trying to make it easy for perpetrators to gain taxpayer funding and giving equal status to perpetrators and victims, and that is wrong. That is where the government is in denial—complete denial—about what this report actually recommended.

The *Not now, not ever* task force under Dame Quentin Bryce, a former governor-general, was commenced by the LNP and, yes, there was bipartisan support for that because we all do believe in attacking domestic violence and supporting the victims. However, we do not want to see a mistruth perpetrated that this report was supporting taxpayers paying for holiday leave for domestic violence perpetrators.

I want to talk about this issue of giving equal standing to victims and the perpetrators in the public sector and why this is so wrong. There may be some perpetrators who work for the public sector and who get paid leave, yet the victim may not work for the public sector and so they do not get paid leave. The government is treating the victims and the perpetrators as though they are on an equal footing. However, it is not an equal footing because the victims are the ones who deserve the support. That is why we supported this process of the *Not now, not ever* report and also why we as a government under the LNP introduced the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012. We funded new initiatives that provided safety upgrades to homes of victims because that was what needed to happen. We established a domestic violence task force that produced the *Not now, not ever* report. Under the LNP, \$49 million was committed over five years to be invested in specialist domestic and family violence services to better meet the safety and the support needs of children and their families and to strengthen those links.

We have heard from members of parliament on the LNP team who are former police officers. More than any, they know what it means to see the tragedy of domestic violence in very recent times as they have had to go out there and support men, women and children facing this scourge in our community. We have heard how they have rightly railed against this government for weakening their stance by elevating perpetrators into this confected state of paid holiday leave. They have said there is not the support going forward to ensure that these programs supporting victims are truly upheld.

I want to also quote from Hetty Johnston, who has been out there so bravely speaking with respect to protecting children. She said—

“We don't know what they're doing—

that is, this government—

and that's all on taxpayer money and that's unaccountable and just dangerous.”

“I mean of course they're perpetrators of domestic violence, let's just call it for what it is—what are we apologising for this now.

I wish this government would apologise for this dud policy. It is the wrong policy because they are letting victims down by giving perpetrators paid holiday leave when this was not the recommendation of the report.

(Time expired)



Ms SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak against the Leader of the Opposition's motion this evening. The Queensland government is committed to putting an end to domestic and family violence. So committed am I to addressing the levels of domestic violence that I co-hosted a bipartisan event with the member for Bonney today and so I am disappointed that the LNP is putting forward a motion that seeks to undermine the achievements of a safer workplace and a safer society for women. It is a cheap political shot over a very important—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the level of interjections from members to my left as opposed to those to my right during the debate has been considerably different. I know this is an issue that you are very passionate about. However, I ask you to cease your interjections so I can hear the member's contribution.

Ms SCANLON: The bipartisan *Not now, not ever* task force report identified a need to support both victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence. Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy seeks for Queensland's workplaces and work forces to challenge the attitudes on violence and effectively support people affected while also ensuring perpetrators stop using violence and are held to account.


With 65 per cent of Queenslanders in the labour force, all workplaces have a significant role to play in promoting cultural change and responding to employees using violence. As one of Queensland's largest employers, we have an ability to bring cultural change in the workforce and in our society, which is why we need to break the cycle of behaviour in our community. That is why the Palaszczuk government has taken a leadership role nationally in this area. We are leading by example.

Many organisations have domestic and family violence protection policies and initiatives that support employees who are experiencing violence. However, workplaces both nationally and internationally are still grappling with how to respond appropriately to employees who use or may use violence and abuse in their personal relationships. Both victims and perpetrators can be present within every workplace, whether it be government departments, a large mining company, a small NGO or even a parliament. They can be our colleagues or our friends. Isolating and demonising them will not stop the violence. Recognised leaders in the field of domestic and family violence response such as DVConnect and Australia's CEO Challenge advocate that without addressing the behaviour of those who use or may use violence the cycle of domestic violence will not be broken.

If providing paid leave to those who use power and control in their relationships prevents further harm and facilitates access to treatment, then it is a policy that both sides of the House should support. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for all employees. Everyone has the right to feel safe and supported in the workplace. This includes victims, those using violence, bystanders, carers, and those assisting people who have experienced domestic and family violence. Ensuring the safety of those impacted by domestic and family violence is of paramount importance. It affects their wellbeing, attendance, productivity and performance.

There is also a need to ensure that the person who has used, or is using, violence is provided access to paid leave in order to access support services, counselling and programs to address their behaviour; however, our focus is on the victim. Special leave should be provided to perpetrators of domestic and family violence in very specific circumstances, as already outlined by the minister. Experts such as DVConnect report that there are two red flags for the escalation of violence: the loss of an income or employment and the loss of housing. If someone who has used violence remains employed while engaging with services to take accountability for violence, this could in fact act as a protective factor for the victim.

Providing resources to those who use violence is an important and often vital piece of the overall response to keeping victims safe. This is a proactive way of holding those who use violence accountable for their actions in a way that best supports their victims and helps break the cycle of violence. Holding employees accountable for their behaviour is fundamental in a variety of contexts. Any Queensland government employee convicted of an indictable offence would be subject to disciplinary action. The safety and wellbeing of victims of domestic violence and supporting those experiencing and fleeing violence are our paramount concerns. The government's policy on domestic and family violence leave is a progressive and comprehensive approach to ending violence whereby employees who experience violence are safe and supported.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. There have been some very powerful arguments from this side of the House, but I particularly want to make reference to the points made by the member for Maroochydore to bring some perspective to this debate tonight.

There is not one person on this side of the House who does not agree with the *Not now, not ever* report. We agree with every recommendation that has been made and we have supported it. What we will not support is some ideological addition that this Labor government has brought in to reward the abhorrent behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence. What is wrong with this mob? Why are they always out of step with public sentiment? Why do they always favour perpetrators rather than the victims of crime? What they are advocating for is nothing more than wife bashers' leave. They are supporting those who do the wrong thing by women by giving them taxpayer funded paid leave.

Yesterday when the Premier was asked this question, I thought she would quickly realise they had made a mistake. I thought that she would go away, come back this morning, make a statement and say, 'We have made a mistake and we are reversing that decision.' Not only have they defended this; they have doubled down and advocated for this further. The Minister for Industrial Relations said that not only should it happen in Queensland but it should be spread right across the nation. Everybody in the Public Service in this country should get extra paid leave to attend courses and do whatever else the courts might recommend.

Yesterday the Premier also hid behind the courts and said that they have no choice. The courts make orders to say that perpetrators have to attend courses and do other things to change their behaviour. They said nothing about giving them extra paid leave to do those courses. We agree they should do those courses, but they should do them in their own time and in their own recreation leave or long service leave. I think it is more appropriate that they have nil pay. This government constantly gets their priorities wrong. Again I ask: why do they always favour perpetrators rather than the victims of crime? We see this time and time again with a whole range of policies.

A few weeks ago, the same minister responsible for this particular abhorrent policy proudly announced \$17 million to help young offenders get through the bail system. That is \$17 million to help them with their bail applications; \$17 million to make sure they adhere to their bail conditions. This is the same government that says breach of bail is not an offence. Go and ask the people of North Queensland and Far North Queensland what they think about a policy like that. What are we doing for the victims? What are we doing for the people who have had their houses broken into, their cars stolen or who have been terrorised on the streets? No, this government constantly looks at what we should do for the perpetrators. 'We need to love them.' 'We need to understand them.' What about the victims?

If I go back to my old housing portfolio, there are people in public housing who terrorise their neighbours and wreck their houses. What does this government do? This government supports them and makes excuses for them rather than worrying about the victims next door. Time and time again we see their ideology drive them to these crazy left-leaning policies. I am also a proud White Ribbon ambassador, and I would never accept that our side of parliament would do anything that would not be seen to be against domestic violence. There are some policies that are just truly ridiculous, and this is one of them. We are going to campaign in every one of your electorates. We are going to put DLs out and advise them that you voted—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MANDER: You voted for—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MANDER: You voted for paid leave for wife bashers—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Mr MANDER:—and I will never forget that.



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.56 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. The bipartisan *Not now, not ever* task force report identified a need for resources to support both victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence. We took the advice of recognised leaders in the field of domestic and family violence response such as DVConnect and Australia's CEO Challenge, who advocate that without addressing the behaviour of those who use or may use violence, the cycle of domestic violence will not be broken. It is widely recognised that in order to end the scourge of domestic violence in our communities we should use every tool at our disposal. This means taking a comprehensive approach to ending violence, whereby employees who experience violence are safe and supported and where employees who use or may use violence can change their behaviour.

I was very disappointed to hear the member for Everton say that he supports all of the *Not now, not ever* report—but he does not. I was also very sad to hear the member for Burnett say that this initiative is not in the *Not now, not ever* report. In fact, it is recommendation 39. Queensland is the first Australian jurisdiction to include paid domestic and family violence dedicated leave entitlements in industrial relations legislation. These apply to state and local government employees and extend to people caring for anyone experiencing domestic and family violence.

Domestic violence is an increasing scourge. It should not occur. There is no excuse. There should be no tolerance. There should be consequences and innocents should be protected. It is the same for sexual violence, alcohol fuelled violence, bullying—any violence, full stop. There should be

no politics in violence prevention. If there is a button to push to prevent violence, just push it. You all know my background. You all know why I am here. I have lived it, championed against it, treated it, healed it and provided support to those affected by it. I revisit people, victims and faces every single day—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, the reason I ask for comments to come through the chair is that it gets personal. I am asking the House to come to order and members to cease the direct commentary across the chamber.

Dr LYNHAM: As I said, I have lived it, I have championed against it, I have treated it, I have healed it and I have provided support to those affected by it. I revisit people, victims and faces every single day. I do not forget. I cannot forget. Sometimes I do not sleep. The images that haunt my mind I would want to share with no-one, but what I live is still nothing compared to what victims must live with every day of their lives. When they look into a mirror they are reminded of the past—that time, place and person. I would give all to reverse that damage, but here I can only prevent future harm. That is precious and should be grasped with both hands. That is why this initiative is so important.

This leave, although sparsely rationed, will be available for counselling to provide support to change behaviour, at the perfect time for intervention. It is discretionary, for special circumstances only, if there is no other leave available. This leave will be used for the purposes of addressing this violent, reprehensible behaviour. It will be used to attempt, with other measures, hopefully, to be successful in preventing it from ever happening again. It is prevention of future harm and, as such, this has my full support and indeed should have your support.

My advice for preparing this speech today was to attack those opposite for trying to score political points around such a sensitive issue, but I will not. Instead, I simply ask you to let this simple preventative tool pass. I hope you do not resort to future politics where there is absolutely no necessity for any.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, it would help if you put your comments through the chair also.

Dr LYNHAM: I call on those opposite to simply stand proud and support measures that prevent the scourge of any violence—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. You have been a repeat offender in terms of interjections during this debate. I have tolerated it long enough. Minister for Education, you are skating on thin ice as well.

Dr LYNHAM: I ask all members present to simply stand proud and support measures that prevent the scourge of any violence in each of our communities including this one. That is all I ask of everyone tonight.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 40:

LNP, 36—Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 48:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Resolved in the negative.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 2327.



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.08 pm), continuing: Another issue which has plagued residents who live on the water is ‘tinnie hoons’. In an area where we live, work and play around the water, it is important to ensure that our waterways are safe. Time and again we see in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* articles about tinnie hoons and the dangers they are posing to themselves, other people who use the waterways and residents. I congratulate the police on their recent concentrated efforts in trying to stamp out tinnie hoons in our area. We cannot just rely on police to be johnny-on-the-spot to catch these tinnie hoons.

I table a table from the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's *Speed Limits and Behaviour Management Strategy 2018-2020* which shows the confusing and convoluted way water management issues are dealt with by a multitude of agencies.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, from the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, titled ‘Appendix A: Who’s in the Blue’ [\[1297\]](#).

The table shows how 68 responsibilities are spread across 11 different agencies. No wonder constituents are confused about who to contact about safety issues on the water! Whilst noise and damage to properties are among the issues brought up with me by constituents, their No. 1 concern is that someone is going to get hurt—or worse—on our waterways. In the interests of time, I table a document sent to me outlining a Gold Coast resident’s concerns about safety on the waterways.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled ‘Excerpts from correspondence regarding speeding on waterways’ [\[1296\]](#).

He outlines a lack of cohesion when it comes to speed limits, with speed limits varying over a stretch of water. He also mentions how the Broadwater has not been dredged or maintained over the past few years under Labor. That in itself is a safety hazard. We need clearer rules, education and enforcement.

I am sure that by now many have noticed an overarching theme of my speech—that is, safety. Safety has been the theme of many of my speeches here in the parliament, particularly when it comes to my community in Surfers Paradise. I stand united with my community to make sure our area is the best and safest area to raise our children, go to work and visit on a holiday.

Just as I did, many Gold Coast residents grew up on the coast and returned to raise our own children there. Whilst the Gold Coast has become the sixth largest city in the country, we do not want to lose that safe community feel. That is why together with the Gold Coast LNP team and residents I have been fighting to retain and enforce strong laws that drove bikies and their dodgy associates out of our city.

Under the former Bligh-Beattie Labor governments we saw a number of law and order issues arise, but the government of the day denied that we had a law and order crisis on the Gold Coast. In 2012-13 we saw bokie brawls spill on to our streets in Broadbeach and Robina Town Centre—both hotspots for residents to gather—and that is why the former LNP government did something about it. We shut down their clubhouses, many of which were in suburbs. We cracked down on dodgy businesses like massage parlours, tattoo parlours, tow truck operators and locksmiths who were operating as a front for many gangs. I note that it took the LNP to bring in a private member’s bill for the Labor government to take action on dodgy tow truck operators.

We also introduced a comprehensive plan to address the issue of drugs. We made sure bikies knew they were not welcome in our state because as locals we put our residents first. That is why I am so frustrated to see all this work being undone by a Labor government that just does not understand the Gold Coast and the truly horrific times residents went through whilst bikies publicly proclaimed that they owned our streets. Labor weakened our bokie laws, it watered down Task Force Maxima and it even preferenced a bokie in Pine Rivers ahead of the LNP during the election which just goes to show that it would go to any length to win an election.

Under Labor’s legislation, there has been one person successfully prosecuted for habitually consorting since March 2017 because they have to be warned and then consort on two more occasions with convicted offenders, and even then they may be charged. Consorting warnings have increased from 230 in 2016-17 to 570 in 2017-18, but only one person has been successfully prosecuted. Seriously? This is making things impossible for our hardworking police. I table an article which highlights the absurdity of Labor’s laws.

Tabled paper. Media article, undated, titled ‘Txt & u r 4 it. LOLS—Consorting laws target bokie messages’ [\[1298\]](#).

In fact, since Labor formed government in 2015 we have seen the same issues that were a precursor for many of these bikie brawls rearing their ugly heads again. Bikies are becoming more and more brazen and we are seeing more articles in the paper about bikie infighting. On Instagram they are glorifying their unexplained wealth and lifestyle. These are not the kinds of people we want our young people, many of whom are social media users, to admire and aspire to lead similar lives. I table a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article involving two Gold Coast bikie associates—Ben Geppert and Allaina Vader—and their disparaging of infringement notices for threatening behaviour in or near a licensed premises following being charged by Whitsunday Island Local Area Command after a trip to Hamilton Island.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 20 March 2018, titled 'Glamorous Gold Coast sisters caught up in boyfriends' massive fallout' [1299].

This year we also saw reports of a Comanchero associate attempting to break into the home of his ex-girlfriend and threatening her with a knife. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from news.com.au online, dated 26 February 2018, titled 'Knife-wielding man shot dead by Queensland police' [1300].

According to the article, the offender was not affected by the Taser and followed police down the street where he later unfortunately was fatally shot. I want to talk about this because according to the article—

... Mr Scorsese had a criminal record and had spent time in jail last year for two vicious assaults.

In 2016 he attacked a Gold Coast bus driver—

this was on Orchid Avenue in the heart of my electorate—

who he dragged out of the bus and hit several times.

... that year he was charged with assaulting paramedics and police who came to help him, after stabbing himself and crashing his car at Broadbeach Waters.

Broadbeach Waters is also in my electorate. This kind of disregard for the law, our emergency service workers and community safety is what we have been seeing in my electorate. Many offenders are associated with or are a member of gangs. In fact, there are still 700 patched outlaw motorcycle gang members according to police records.

There is no doubt that crime is a major issue on the Gold Coast and Labor needs to stop being in denial about these issues, as it was under the former Bligh government. Sadly, last term we saw Labor remove one-third of our police officers from Surfers Paradise. As a result, a number of constituents have called my office saying that whilst our police officers are doing a great job they are concerned that they are not able to be as responsive as they once were due to a lack of resources. One of my constituents wrote to me saying—

We had a serious vehicle accident in front of our house which I felt was a case of dangerous driving. I therefore contacted our local police station.

I was advised that they would get there when they could given there was only 4 constables on and everyone's work was backed up. It did sound like they were pressed for time!

I was surprised that Surfers Paradise police station in the middle of January on a Sunday was so lightly staffed given it's the busiest time of the year in Surfers and this is arguably the biggest tourist spot on the eastern seaboard?

This was at Commodore Drive in Paradise Waters, about five minutes from central Surfers Paradise. On top of this, we continue to see no action from the Palaszczuk Labor government which expects police to be Johnny-on-the-spot to catch people riding motorised scooters on footpaths despite having limited resources. I have seen too many near misses and I am afraid that we might see someone seriously hurt as a result. So far all we have seen is an inadequate response from the minister and absolutely no difference in the number of motorised scooters we are seeing speeding dangerously on our footpaths and on the very wide esplanade that fronts Surfers Paradise that I believe is unique throughout Queensland in terms of tourists who need no licences to ride these, endangering locals and visitors, many of whom are elderly, in the area of Main Beach who can be walking on the esplanade. I table the minister's response.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 June 2017, from the former minister for main roads, road safety and ports and minister for energy, biofuels and water supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, regarding use of electronic scooters on footpaths [1301].

I once again call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to provide more resources for our police on the Gold Coast who work so hard to keep our communities safe.

During my time in this House I have worked with communities across Queensland to deliver some really worthwhile projects, particularly in the space of education. From independent public schools to the Education Accord, it was so rewarding to see Queensland students benefit from these initiatives. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the staff, students and school community of two schools within my electorate—in fact, I only have two schools in my electorate following the redistribution which is a bit frustrating being a former education minister—Surfers Paradise State School and St Vincent's Primary School, and they are doing fantastic work. I also backed the 2018 Commonwealth Games as opposition leader in 2009, knowing what a positive impact a major event would have on our city.

The most memorable projects for me have been the smaller, local achievements like working with the community to save the Broadbeach Bowls Club from being shut down due to land tax issues which of course became a key Commonwealth Games venue; standing shoulder to shoulder with my constituent Kevin Carney, who has a vision impairment, to lobby for a safer crossing at the Ross Street-Ashmore Road intersection; and planning and funding \$160 million of roadworks for the coast in January 2015. Whilst it was delayed by Labor when it came to office, I am glad to see that they have now been completed at the Royal Pines, the six-laning of Bundall Road, and the Gooding Drive roundabout and Palm Meadows Drive intersection.

These are the reasons I love my job representing my community so much. I was proud to show off our city, community and culture at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in April. It is no secret that Surfers Paradise is the jewel in the crown of the Gold Coast and I look forward to continuing my job to make sure it is the best place to live, work, play and raise a family in Queensland.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (6.19 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, the Jagera and Turrbal people, and pay my respects to the traditional owners from my own Waterford community, the Jagera and Yugambah language organisation, and elders, past and present. I am extremely humbled that the people of the Waterford electorate have again put their trust in me. As everyone would know, election campaigns are possible only with the dedication of volunteers. To all of my amazing volunteers, I thank them for the countless hours they worked.

It was a fantastic team of lifelong Labor campaigners, who can never resist a good fight, and first-time volunteers who signed on because they shared Labor's values of equality, fairness and a commitment to social justice. Leeane Smith—one of my dedicated doorknockers—became involved for the very first time in an election campaign because she believed in those Labor values. As I foster carer and a proud Indigenous woman, she is passionate about equality and knows the importance of front-line services. Charlie Bennett was another local who made the decision to get involved for the first time. As a carer for his lovely wife, Jenny, who suffers from MS, Charlie advocates for carers and supporting disadvantaged people in my local community.

I would also like to thank my incredible union family from right across the union movement, but particularly Rohan Webb and Ann-Marie Allan from the AMWU. I would also like to thank the Labor Party's first woman state secretary, Julie-Ann Campbell, who is doing a fantastic job.

To those who work tirelessly in organisations such as Maurice Blackburn, Slater and Gordon, Access—and especially CEO Gail Kerr—the Kingston East Neighbourhood Group, the Centre Against Sexual Violence and Jeta Gardens, I say thank you. I am grateful for the unwavering support of dear friends such as Susan McGrady, Kate Luke, Jason Spencer, Jessica Lee, Chloe Shorten and, of course, my incredible family.

My mum, Christine, is the most determined volunteer at prepoll and my biggest champion. My dad mowed the lawns and kept things running at home in my absence. My sister, Erin, took on the unenviable job of booth roster coordinator. Her husband, Charles, gave up his tickets to the Ashes to help on election day. My incredible adopted parents and friends, Fran Van Gilst and Pepe Munoz, helped me so much. Of course, I thank my partner, Matt, for all of his support.

Finally, I would like to thank my incredibly talented campaign manager, Chantelle Tibbotts. Her support over the past several years has been invaluable. I cannot thank Chantelle enough.

When I was elected in 2015 I made a commitment to the residents of Waterford to fight for the issues that matter: jobs, health, education, transport and the environment. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together in my first term. As the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I was part of achieving the biggest investment in Child Safety staff in over a decade, with \$200 million in funding, and incredible systemic reforms in the area of domestic and family violence.

I am pleased to have received support and advice from people who work tirelessly for my community, such as Bronwen Sheehan, Bryan Smith, Lindsay Wegner, Natalie Lewis, Karyn Walsh, Nicolle Edwards, Quentin Bryce and Kay McGrath. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible work and long hours of my hardworking staff: Cynthia Kennedy, Shane Bevis, Monica Irvine, Ron Goodman, Inga Williams, Kelly Daniels, Will Curtis, Steph Kameric, Chanelle Ashfield Smith, Caitlyn Ramos, Charli Fouhy, Olivia Amsden, Alice Gilliver, Josh Lucy and Liz Irvine. I am really proud of what we have achieved.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved in Waterford: an upgraded emergency department, 41 new staff and 11 beds at Logan Hospital; 127 new nurses for Logan; a school hall at Marsden State High School; the Scrubby Creek cycleway; a much needed upgrade of the Beenleigh Courthouse and a domestic and family violence court; a new school hall at Mabel Park State High School; and the new pint-sized bus, Poncho, which provides much needed transport for the Woodlands community. That is why the city of Logan voted overwhelmingly for Labor, including in the new seat of Macalister, which takes in part of my old electorate and which is now ably represented by my very good friend Melissa McMahon.

In Bethania, owing to the passion of residents, we have delivered several new bus stops and \$650,000 for a new emergency vehicle crossing at Bethania station. It was these achievements that motivated residents such as Amy Throssell from Regal Waters retirement village to get involved in her first campaign at the age of 87.

Last year's devastating floods also exposed Logan's incredible community spirit. The stories of resilience have continued to inspire me and affirm my pride in representing the incredible community of Waterford. My neighbours showed that Logan spirit when, as the floodwater rose, they were at my house doing what they could to save my animals and belongings while I was at the disaster centre. I will always be grateful to them for their assistance. I thank Karl, Larissa, John and Linda.

Labor has also returned community based midwifery in Logan through the Jajumbora community hub in Waterford West. Back in 2014, the member for Logan and I campaigned for this. Those important community midwifery services had been slashed by the LNP and it was an incredibly proud day when we stood at Waterford West to reopen one of three new community midwifery centres.

Another key contributor to my campaign was Des Hardman, our stellar candidate in Forde. As the head of medical imaging at Logan Hospital, Des has been a strong campaigner against the federal government's \$6 million cut from Logan Hospital.

Mr Power: That's why we're backing him.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the member for Logan. This \$6 million cut by the federal government represents over 9,000 visits to the emergency department, or almost 15,000 outpatients visits. The federal LNP government has also cut almost \$5 million from schools in the Waterford electorate. I will always fight against these cuts.

In terms of my portfolio of Training and Skills Development, the federal LNP is ripping \$70 million from Queensland's training budget. That is 7,000 apprentices and trainees whose training is at risk. The Queensland Labor government understands how critical training is to grow our economy and to ensure that we meet the needs of children today and in the future. That is why, last week, it was fantastic to launch our Free TAFE campaign, which gives year 12 graduates the opportunity to enrol in over 160 priority courses at no cost. To ensure that we have quality training facilities, we are delivering \$85 million over three years to upgrade campuses from Cairns to the Gold Coast, including at my local TAFE at Meadowbrook.

I am proud to continue the fantastic Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. In Logan alone, more than 3,200 people have been assisted, with almost 2,000 securing a job because of the program. One participant from Waterford, who recently completed a Certificate II in Business, has used his new skills to start up a business with his wife in providing transport to and from the airport in the Logan community. I was really pleased to meet him while he was completing his Skilling Queenslanders for Work course at the Kingston East Neighbourhood Centre, which is a fantastic partner in our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.


In my first speech in this House I spoke about Rachel, a young woman I met at the Loganlea train station, who was pleased to see that Labor was talking about addressing youth unemployment because so many of her friends and her sister could not find work. I am proud that Labor is continuing to address this issue through its investment in training and skills programs and backing jobs through our Back to Work program, which has already supported more than 16,000 people into jobs across Queensland. Incredibly, once again, at the last election the LNP in its costing documents cut funding to Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Small businesses are the engine room of our economy. We are supporting them to grow through more than \$8.2 million in grants provided to over 1,500 small businesses. Recipients expect to take on 2,995 new employees because of the funding that we are providing.

Labor is continuing to deliver for the Logan community, investing \$281 million in the Logan Hospital, increasing beds by a whopping 40 per cent and providing a much needed new maternity ward. It has been a pleasure to meet many times with the nurses and midwives at Logan Hospital who tell me how much needed a new maternity ward is. It was a pleasure to be there with all of the members of Logan and the Premier to announce this much needed funding.

We will also provide an \$18 million accessibility upgrade for Loganlea train station, something that local Waterford resident and youth parliament member Kathryn Lyons had advocated for for such a long time. Being so close to Logan Hospital it is absolutely imperative that we have a disability upgrade at that station.

As the re-elected member for Waterford, I recommit to everyone in my electorate to continue to fight for you. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to achieving many great things for our community in the future.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.29 pm): In commencing my remarks in the address-in-reply, I congratulate the Speaker on his appointment as Speaker in this 56th Parliament in the 159th year of our great state of Queensland. I take this opportunity to affirm my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, the head of the Commonwealth and our head of state. Above all else, I express my sincere thanks to the electors of the Scenic Rim electorate for placing their faith in me to represent them in this parliament.

As all of us know, it is a huge honour to be elected to this place by the residents of our respective electorates. It is a huge honour to be elected for the third time. I pledge to them that I will do all that I can to represent them both on individual issues—it is most fulfilling to go into bat for people on individual issues that you can help them with—and also on matters that are of statewide and national significance. I reflect that in 2012 in my maiden speech in this place I pledged that I would listen to their concerns and do my best to represent them and that I would keep coming back ‘like a pitbull terrier attaches itself to the trousers of an intruder’ to ensure that people’s voices are heard both in this place and in the government halls. I will continue to do that throughout this parliament.

The Scenic Rim electorate is newly named. It encompasses most of the old electorate of Beaudesert. It is an honour to be the first member for Scenic Rim. I used to say that the Beaudesert electorate was the heart and soul of Queensland and to experience much of what Queensland has to offer one only needed a tour of that electorate because we have the national parks along the border with New South Wales, we have the rich fertile agricultural plains of the Fassifern and the Beaudesert regions, we have both country and urban living, but we are only an hour from Brisbane. The heart and soul of Queensland is the Scenic Rim electorate. It stretches from Cedar Grove and Willowbank in the northern parts to Beechmont and Cunningham’s Gap in the south.

Mr Boothman: Beautiful Beechmont!

Mr KRAUSE: Beechmont is a beautiful spot. I know the member for Theodore is well acquainted with it. It also stretches from Tamborine Mountain in the east to Grandchester in the west. We border Ipswich, Logan, the Gold Coast and, of course, New South Wales. It is a very expansive electorate, covering some 5,000 or 6,000 square kilometres of country and urban living. I thank the electors of Scenic Rim for putting their faith in me as their representative.

I also put on record my thanks and appreciation to the member for Clayfield as the Leader of the Opposition in the 55th Parliament. This debate is the appropriate time to reflect on the election result. The member for Clayfield put his heart and soul into the campaign. I do not think anyone can fault his work ethic as the opposition leader and the effort and soul that he put into that job. I congratulate him for that. I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, on their election to their roles. I look forward to the entirety of this parliament serving under that leadership until the next election in October 2020, when the LNP will be victorious and will move to the other side of this House in government.

Government members interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: It is interesting what gets reactions in this place. I thank also members of my campaign team in the Scenic Rim, especially LNP members and the many, many supporters who helped with our campaign. I will mention some of them, but no doubt I will miss some and for that I

apologise: Matt Enright, Ian Pocock, Matt Wilkie, Susan Shay, Kate Seymour, Alice Warby, Sheila Venz, Lloyd Venz, Rod Venz, Greg Birkbeck, Marilyn Yarrow, Glen Abbott, David Krause, my brother, Tony Dingle, Joy Drescher, Kaitlin Bell and Jayden Somerville. There were many more: all the booth workers and volunteers who manned the over 40 booths that were across the Scenic Rim electorate and the three or four prepolling places that needed to be manned as well.

I thank the people who assisted me in other ways throughout the campaign: Andrew Bibb and the late Bob Harper, who passed away during the campaign, as members may recall from a condolence motion we had here on the first sitting day of this parliament. He passed away during the campaign but up until a few weeks before the campaign was able to offer advice in that respect. People do not get elected or re-elected to this place without great staff. I thank the electorate officers who have worked in my office over several years for all their dedication to the electorate.

I would like to thank my wife, Kit, for her support. We certainly could not serve the electorate without the support of our husbands or wives or partners. All members recognise that. Thank you, Kit, for your support and for the dedication to our electorate and this job. I thank also my three sons, who are seven, four and two, for their forbearance in the role that I play. To my parents, parents-in-law and all family members, thank you for that as well.

The Scenic Rim electorate represents the heart and soul of Queensland but the heart of that electorate remains with agriculture. Whether it is beef, horticulture, dairy or poultry—whatever it may be—agriculture remains the heart and soul of the electorate. There is a significant equine industry as well. When it comes to agriculture we have some significant headwinds at the moment. We have heard a lot said about the drought. The drought is impacting many parts of Queensland and New South Wales. It is also impacting the Scenic Rim electorate and those industries that rely on rain to fall to make a living. They do not know when it is going to rain or when it is going to flood so it makes it very difficult to plan for the future.

Electricity prices are such an issue for agricultural producers, especially dairy farmers at this time who need to run their irrigators sometimes for 24 hours a day. Over the last 10 years we have seen a consistent climb in electricity prices for our producers at a time when prices they receive for their produce are unpredictable, in some cases falling. Dairy farmers have not seen a significant price increase—probably not even a small price increase—in seven or eight years, since the \$1 a litre milk wars started brought on by Coles and continued by Woolworths—the two major retailers in our country. When you have electricity prices and network charges that continue to skyrocket through the roof, it makes it incredibly difficult in a time of drought—any time, in fact—for those producers to make a living.

A serious hot-button issue in the Scenic Rim electorate is investment in our roads—in particular, our state roads, but I acknowledge that many people in our part of the world also rely on the council road network and the amount of investment that goes into that is also of concern to them. There are concerns about the state of the Mount Lindesay Highway, both north of Beaudesert heading out of the electorate and south heading towards New South Wales. There are concerns about the Cunningham Highway at Willowbank—one of the newer areas of the Scenic Rim electorate that was taken out of the Lockyer electorate—especially around the Amberley interchange. A significant upgrade is required to the highway in that area to deal with the growth in the defence industries around Amberley.

Beaudesert-Nerang Road is a main road out of Beaudesert, heading towards the Gold Coast. In particular, the gravel stretch of road at Wonglepong must be one of the worst stretches of the state road network in all of Queensland. Not only is it gravel; it floods after just a moderate rain event, trapping some residents behind a flash flood. In dry times, the gravel part of the road is terribly corrugated most of the time. For several years now, the community and I have been calling for that part of the road to be sealed. In fact, locals have been campaigning for that since 1989. That campaign has been going on for 30 years.

Harpers Crossing is a bridge crossing on the Mount Alford Road, south of Boonah. It is a dangerous narrow bridge with a give-way sign on one side. I know there have been many near misses when people either fail to give way or, because of the shape of the road, simply cannot see people coming. That needs to be addressed as well. Boonah-Rathdowney Road is shocking in certain parts. It requires significant remedial action.

A very common complaint from motorists who use Beaudesert-Boonah Road and Ipswich-Boonah Road all the time is that they become trapped behind slower agricultural vehicles or slower tourist vehicles. Recently on a committee investigation, I had the opportunity to travel from Cairns to Port Douglas. I noticed that on that road there are signs that say 'Please be considerate to motorists

behind you,' or something to that effect. The message is that, if you are in a slow vehicle, be considerate, pull over and let people pass. We should have some of those signs on Ipswich-Boonah Road and Beaudesert-Boonah Road, because that is a real issue for people who use those roads every day. I have asked for this in the past, but the department has not been forthcoming in delivering notifying devices or signs to encourage people to do that. A passing lane would be the ultimate solution, but it would be helpful if people were reminded to be more mindful of vehicles behind them.

Police resources are a key issue for the Scenic Rim electorate, particularly in Beaudesert where the station, which was built in 1980, is unable to house properly the police officers we have right now let alone allow for growth in the future. A lot of residential development is going on in that area. Today a councillor from the Scenic Rim Regional Council relayed to me an experience she had when she was involved in the process for the recruitment of a local police officer. She told me that the interview process for a police officer could not take place in the Beaudesert Police Station because there was simply not enough room for the meeting to take place. It was held in the Scenic Rim Regional Council offices.

It is completely unreasonable for a community to put up with a police station that is clearly not fit for purpose and has not been for several years. Last year the budget papers had funding of \$100,000 and this year the budget papers again have funding of \$100,000. The suspicion—and it is a very prominent suspicion in our community—is that this is going to be put on the never-never again. It has been done before. We know the money is in the budget, but we need the money this year to build the station. We need to get on with it. The minister has said that they are going to build it. Why does it keep getting put back when it has been due for so long?

Another issue that I have spoken about on several occasions involves police vehicles. Tamborine Mountain and Canungra police stations have two vehicles each and they share one vehicle. Those two stations have 16 officers. In the floods last year, we had the bizarre situation when one of the officers stationed at Canungra had to ask a member of the community to borrow a four-wheel-drive vehicle to go out to a property that needed to be evacuated due to a landslip danger. The police simply do not have the resources or the equipment to do their job properly.

The Rosewood Police Station is in the electorate of Ipswich West, but it looks after the part of Ipswich City that I represent. There is a need for more officers to deal with rural theft issues and the increase in crime in some parts of that area. We have not seen anything forthcoming from this government in relation to police in that area.

When it comes to vegetation management, in our electorate regrowth is a big issue. Restrictions on managing regrowth can mean that valuable agricultural land is taken out of productivity. It is taken out of production when it is left to sit for a number of years, which can happen due to family reasons or for other reasons. Land can fall idle for some time. We have rich alluvial soil. We have very productive plains that have been feeding Brisbane, South-East Queensland, the rest of the state, Australia and overseas for up to 100 years. However, that is being put under threat by the restrictions placed on the management of regrowth, which get tighter and tighter with each Labor government that is re-elected. That is a big concern for the farmers who grow crops to feed Queenslanders in this state.

A government member interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: There is no mulga in Beaudesert, Minister. I am not talking about mulga. I am talking about other restrictions that will take productive land. You people love to go on that land and have your pictures taken with our farmers—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Through the chair, please, member for Scenic Rim.

Mr KRAUSE:—because we are so close to Brisbane, but you do not support farmers. You put laws in place that make it hard—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for Scenic Rim.

Mr KRAUSE:—for farmers to do their job. It is great to get cuddly photos with our dairy farmers, beef producers and carrot growers, but when it comes to actually doing something through legislation all Labor does is make it harder for farmers. I know there is no mulga there, but I do not know if the minister knows that there is no mulga there. Certainly, there are other issues with those laws.

The LNP has a proud record in delivering better health services for Queensland and especially for the Beaudesert region. We restored maternity, emergency and procedural services to the Beaudesert Hospital. Recently, the 900th baby—it may even be more—was born at the Beaudesert Hospital as a result of the policies put in place by Lawrence Springborg and Campbell Newman when in government. We have a dedication to rural maternity services that members opposite will never have,


because they do not understand what it means to have birthing and other services available in rural and regional areas. We need to grow on that and bring in more facilities, such as CT scanners and other enhanced radiography services to Beaudesert Hospital. The facility in Boonah is a smaller hospital, but there is capacity to increase the amount of funding and beds for that hospital so that it can serve its community better.

Social services, family services, domestic violence services, legal and other services such as drug, addiction and alcohol services need to be enhanced in our region so that the Scenic Rim is treated not just as an outpost of Logan, the Gold Coast or Ipswich but as a region in its own right. We must recognise that the rural communities in the Scenic Rim have needs that cannot be serviced by one-day-a-week outreach from Ipswich, Logan or the Gold Coast. Our communities need people on the ground to deliver those services.

In the last sitting two weeks ago, we dealt with the issue of the Ipswich City Council. As I represent part of the Ipswich City Council area, I want to place on the record my thanks to the electors in that part of Ipswich city for putting their faith in me. Now that they are without local government representatives, I offer my office and my support on any local issues that they have. I am pleased to be able to offer that and to have opened a line of dialogue with the administrator at Ipswich city.

I will again touch on the issue of dairy farmers. At the moment, the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation is running a petition to ask Woolworths, Coles and other retailers to add an additional 10 cents to each litre of milk they sell in their supermarkets. I have spoken previously about the curse of \$1 a litre milk. It is a curse, because for seven years that price has not gone up. That means that dairy farmers have not had an increase in their farm-gate income.

I would ask all members, and particularly government members, to get behind the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation in their push for a proposed drought levy of 10 cents a litre to be added to the dollar a litre milk prices in Coles and Woolworths to support not only Scenic Rim dairy farmers but the whole Queensland dairy industry in this time of drought. If we do not have the Queensland dairy industry it will lead to massive job losses in our regions and the loss of fresh drinking milk in the future.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.49 pm): It is a great honour to be a member of this parliament and to have the faith of the people at an election. That is something that all of us should cherish every day that we are in this job. It is something that I cherish. I thank the electors of Miller for putting their faith in me this term. I give you my absolute commitment that I will give this job and am giving this job 100 per cent.

I am honoured to be the first member for Miller. It is a new seat after the redistribution. I represented Yeerongpilly in the previous term. I followed on from very eminent members Matt Foley and Simon Finn. I acknowledge my predecessor Carl Judge who was a very decent person and did his best. The seat is named after Emma Miller—a suffragette who was a fierce fighter for equal rights for women. I am very proud to be in a government that has virtually equal numbers of women both in caucus and in cabinet. I think Emma Miller would look at this government with a lot of pride not just in its make-up but also in its achievements in terms of its fight for equal rights in our community in Queensland.

Why have we been re-elected? I think we have been re-elected because we have been a good government, kept our election promises and kept the faith of Queenslanders. We have had the strongest employment growth in the country over the last 12 months. Over 160,000 jobs have been created. Confidence is coming back after strong, steady leadership from this government. That is after an 11-year high unemployment rate under the previous government. Growth in Queensland was down to 0.8 per cent under the previous government but has returned to consistently healthy figures under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

One thing this government always does is treat Queenslanders with respect. We present them with proper arguments. We give them the information they need. We are not an arrogant government. We will continue that approach. That is obviously why the people had faith in us at the last election. One of the reasons we were re-elected is that, with five million Queenslanders now, growth has returned to this state post the global financial crisis and we need infrastructure. In my portfolio, which is an important economic portfolio, getting infrastructure right is critical to the rest of the economy.

Over the last 3½ years we have seen funding for four M1 upgrades. We have seen the Gateway Arterial North project started and almost completed. We have seen the Bruce Highway project continue. The upgrade at Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway—the big growth area on the Sunshine Coast—is underway. It has been done environmentally sensitively whilst looking after local business.

In terms of Riverway Drive in Townsville—I am sorry to see the member for Thuringowa is not here; he has missed his opportunity—the member has been a great advocate. That is a great project nearing completion.

There is funding for the Mackay Ring Road. Mount Lindesay Highway is finally getting funds because of the work of the member for Logan. There was nothing under the previous government. The Smithfield bypass is at the design stage because the member for Barron River stood up and delivered for his electorate. That is a very popular project.

Construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing started under our government. There is work being done on the Ipswich Motorway. Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 has been enormous. We saw the duplication of the Coomera to Helensvale rail line in time for the Commonwealth Games. There were \$330 million worth of road upgrades on the Gold Coast.

We have seen cycling infrastructure prioritised again. That is an important part of a balanced transport network. We have seen fifty-fifty programs with local governments. We get so much done across Queensland under that program. Hundreds of cycleways have been built. That means getting traffic off our roads and a healthier community. It is not gold plating as the previous LNP minister said. It is an essential part of a balanced transport network. In Brisbane where we have separated cycleways, people switch modes and we have more capacity on the road network.

We have the longest electric vehicle superhighway in one state anywhere in the world under the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have also seen the Cross River Rail project under the Deputy Premier's leadership really ramp up this year. That will be a transformative project. Not just public transport but the whole transport network in South-East Queensland depends on that project. It is a project that is opposed by the LNP to this day. They do not understand transport and transport infrastructure.

The E10 OK campaign is creating a biofuels industry in Queensland. We have seen huge increases in the use of E10. We are expanding that base to develop that industry. That campaign is something I am very proud of as the former minister. It is a very successful campaign. We have seen usage not far off doubling under this government as access has improved and people's understanding of it has improved because of that education campaign.

As the energy minister in our first term of government, I am very proud of the renewable energy boom that has occurred under this government. Not a single large scale renewable project was started under the previous government. It is an astonishing thing at a time of worldwide energy transformation. I coined the phrase 'turning the sunshine state into the solar state'. That is what we are doing. There are 24-plus projects underway. The 50 per cent renewable target is driving that. We will hit a 21 per cent renewable energy mix next year under this government which is acting on climate change, acting on jobs, acting on the technical change that is a reality. That is something those opposite need to get their heads around.

We launched the Powering Queensland Plan to increase security across the national energy market after the South Australian blackout caused by a once-in-50-year storm took out their transmission towers. We have started CleanCo, a renewable energy generator that diversifies the number of publicly owned generators but also drives more renewable investment in this state.

After the 43 per cent increases in power prices under the LNP we are starting to see power prices come down. Part of our Powering Queensland Plan that I launched in June last year was the \$770 million commitment to cover the solar bonus cost. Again, we are thinking about consumers and backing them in as a government. We directed Stanwell to maximise volume to help price. We established the Queensland Energy Security Taskforce to help with energy security.

This is probably the first proper opportunity I have had to pay tribute to Terry Effenev, a great energy industry leader, who died earlier this year all too early. It is a real tragedy. He is someone who had incredible respect right across all groups in the energy sector and in politics. He is a great loss to this state. It was an honour to work with him. He contributed so much to Queensland.

We fired up Swanbank E gas generator, mothballed under the Newman government, increasing energy security and increasing the diversity of energy sources in Queensland. We also launched the Powering North Queensland Plan. We are coordinating all the renewable projects happening in North Queensland into a renewable energy hub. We had Sun Metals solar farm start. This is a solar farm powering a zinc refinery manufacturing plant without batteries. There are 330 sunny days a year. A third of the power for industrial production is coming from the solar farm. Get your heads around that if you still have concerns about renewables. That is a fantastic project.

The Powering North Queensland Plan brings together a range of those projects, like Kidston stage 1 and stage 2 and solar plus peak hydro. At the Kennedy Energy Park there is night wind, day solar and a battery combination. At Forsayth there is the Infigen wind farm. We are bringing transmission together and bringing in the renewable energy boom that is happening not just in Queensland but in North Queensland.

Queensland has been leading, and continues to lead, energy policy in this country. In my time as energy minister and now Dr Lynham as energy minister, we have had three prime ministers, we have had three energy ministers and we have had no energy policy whatsoever from them. It is left to the states like Queensland and Victoria who understand the new energy market to lead the way. All we get from Canberra is division, dysfunction and chaos, and we are getting more and more of it as more and more leaks happen.

We have seen prices start to fall in Queensland for the first time in quite some time. Last year we had a modest increase of about three per cent, while other states that have privatised power were looking at 19 per cent increases. What is the key to that? The key to good energy policy is to keep power assets in public hands. You can only trust Labor with that in Queensland—and that is what we are doing.

There are other reasons, I believe, why this government has a second term. We are in tune with the electorate on social reform. It is 2018, people. Listen up! People are wanting the governments to reflect their social values, and this government did so. We acted on domestic violence. We saved Minjerribah, or North Stradbroke Island, from sandmining, and that will phase out next year. We understand how important that environmental jewel is. We dealt with the age of consent discrepancy for the LGBTIQ community.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Everton Electorate, Planning Scheme



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.00 pm): My appeal tonight is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. In December 2017, the Moreton Bay Regional Council submitted a request to amend their local planning scheme. It is now nine months later, and the residents of Warner, Albany Creek and Eatons Hill are no wiser as to whether those changes will be approved and whether they will have a significant impact on their quality of life.

My constituents have a number of concerns, particularly those who are in the Warner Investigation Area and also those who live at Albany Creek and are worried about the connection road between Greensill Road and Leitchs Road. Part of these amendments include roads that will go through private properties. There is concern about the impact that will have on wildlife, particularly koalas. There is also concern about density and the lack of infrastructure. Generally, they are worried that the proposals by the Moreton Bay Regional Council are not consistent with the character of these beautiful suburbs.


My constituents who will be impacted or potentially impacted by these developments feel like their lives are on hold. So far the community has put together five petitions. Constituents have written directly to the minister. I have written directly to the minister. The current vacuum with regard to the lack of information is leading to speculation and it is also leading to rumours.

There have been reports that the member for Pine Rivers knows what the decision will be and has made some statements to a community group. There is speculation that the editor of the local newspaper knows what the decision is going to be. There is also speculation that there has been feedback given to Moreton Bay Regional Council and that they have been given some instructions. The problem is that my constituents do not know.

I ask the minister tonight to give clarity to this situation. Please listen to their concerns. We are hoping that the decision will be prompt and that it will be a positive one that will take into account the concerns of my community.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Woodridge, I would like to acknowledge in the gallery the student leaders, teachers, principals and members from the P&Cs of the following schools: Marsden State High School, Kingston College, Mabel Park State High School, Browns Plains State High School and St Francis College. It is almost like a rollcall tonight. They all belong in the electorate of Woodridge. Speaking of Woodridge, I now call the member for Woodridge.

Woodridge Electorate, Secondary Schools

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (7.04 pm): One of the very great privileges of my role as a state member for Woodridge is the opportunity that it gives me to visit many of our great local schools. Tonight the tables are turned as representatives of six schools that educate students from the Woodridge electorate visit me here at Parliament House. I am delighted to welcome to the people's house principals, deputy principals, parents and students from Mabel Park State High School, Marsden State High School, Browns Plains State High School, Woodridge State High School, St Francis College and Kingston College who are in the gallery tonight.

I never cease to be impressed by the outstanding work of the dedicated principals, teachers and staff who guide the next generation of Woodridge students through their school years. I am equally impressed by the outstanding achievements of school students in the Woodridge electorate.

Mabel Park State High School continues to live up to its reputation as a trailblazer in vocational education, delivering courses as diverse as health care, hospitality, tourism, digital media and engineering. Last year, Mabel Park High began an innovative certificate course in drone piloting. This Queensland first will help deliver new economy jobs to local Woodridge students.

Kingston College has gone from strength to strength over the past year through its partnerships with universities, government, business and industry to deliver future oriented education options. As the only Logan school accredited as a Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy school, Kingston College students have the opportunity to participate in STEM programs and robotics subjects which connect them to future careers in the mining industry in Queensland.

Marsden State High School students are renowned for their passion, pride and persistence on the sporting field, in the arts and in the classroom. Marsden High is a nursery of sporting excellence, with former students including Maroons and Kangaroos Rugby League champion Cameron Smith and dual international Israel Folau. Just this week, year 12 student Tesi Niu, who has already been snapped up by the mighty Brisbane Broncos, was named in the Australian schoolboys Rugby League team to tour Great Britain later this year. Hopefully more sporting champions will start their careers in activities held in the school's newly opened \$5.8 million multipurpose centre of excellence, which was funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government.


Browns Plains State High School recently celebrated their success in the 2018 Stretton Maths Team Challenge. The school entered 40 of their top mathematics students and both the junior and senior teams won third place—a fantastic achievement.

I am also pleased to welcome representatives of St Francis College, Crestmead. Last year I had the pleasure of launching their new health hub. Health hubs have been established at both Mabel Park State High School and St Francis College. Replica hospital wards teach students the basics of health care and open their eyes to future careers in the health industry.

I am delighted that Woodridge State High School's Change Makers Project was recently recognised as a finalist in the Queensland Multicultural Awards. The Woodridge State High School band Sounds of Unity—the best and most appropriately named band in Logan—have just returned from the national RockFest competition in Canberra.

Whether it be on the sporting field, in academic pursuits, in vocational training, in artistic endeavours and in strong and positive community leadership, Woodridge secondary schools are the best in Queensland.

Prostate Cancer

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.07 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, prostate cancer awareness, as you would be well aware, is something that most, if not all, MPs in this House are more than happy to promote. Today on the steps of Parliament House we saw a great example of that—members coming together for a common cause in a true display of bipartisanship. I was one of those MPs to proudly show off my red socks, as supplied by your good self, member for Townsville. I commend you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and the Townsville Sunrise Rotary Club on your work in this space.

Back home in my own electorate I continue to do my bit as well, recently joining locals and visitors alike just off the coast of Cape Gloucester for the annual Rendezvous, hosted by the Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club, which, thanks to the generosity of members and supporters, raised no less than \$81,000 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. For the symbolic 'Hold Hands Across the Blue' moment, I was delighted once again to jump on board the *Norseman* alongside the mayor and other

dignitaries including the highly respected and distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC, who reminded everyone—men and women—to take home that message of getting checked which is so important.


Thanks to the philanthropic Paul Darrouzet and his team from Abell Point Marina again for their wonderful support. This year we also welcomed aboard a new sponsor in Gold Coast City Marina. However, none of this would have been possible without the incredible enthusiasm of Ken and Rhonda Thackeray, who as a team are the backbone of the SICYC and the reason why I became a 'Shagger', like so many people in our community.

I commend everyone who participated including so many locals from our region—Kevin 'KC' Collins, Gary and Tiana Fry, Diana and Stewart Scarborough, Marlene Leith, Gary Lacey, Dominique Noire, Alex and Val Dawson, Laurie and Glynnis Mayer, John and Kay Hodgson, Mick Macfarlane, John McKay, Cherry Ambrose, Dave and Kim Kennedy, Colin and Kerry Bell and Brian and Kay Bond, who have special status because—guess what?—they have never missed a Rendezvous and they deserve special praise indeed.

They and many others deserve a huge pat on the back for being part of this wonderful weekend in paradise in the fight against prostate cancer, which I might add over the past decade has raised a massive \$678,000 for the foundation, underlining just how big this event is. When it first started in 2009, there were just 34 people on the books of 'Shaggers'. It has now ballooned to 6,350 people spanning no less than 17 countries, and a good slice of them were on hand off Cape Gloucester just last month on those 109 tenders—a magnificent sight it was. As I have said a number of times—I am always proud to talk up my part of the world—this is for a good cause. You do not have to have a boat to be a 'Shagger', but in my part of the world it sure does help.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Whitsunday, it is also worth noting that the member for Caloundra was a co-sponsor in the Red Sock Campaign.

Broadway Hotel, Fire

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (7.10 pm): Sadly, last weekend the historic and heritage-listed Broadway Hotel in my electorate of South Brisbane was gutted by fire for the third time in just nine years. The first fire was in July 2010 and the second was in October last year. The Broadway Hotel is an iconic and much loved pub for many of us who grew up in Brisbane. This pub—this building—really was part of the fabric of our city. Built for Brisbane publican Michael McKenna in 1890, the Broadway served Brisbane for more than 120 years. The Premier and I were recalling our time spent there when we were much younger than we are today.

Ms Jones: We have all been there.


Ms TRAD: I take that interjection. We have all been there. It is part of the history, the beauty and the memory of the Broadway Hotel. It was, and still is, a beautiful unique building that tells a story of Brisbane's past. Now I want it to be part of our future. I have to say, though, it is incredibly upsetting that our heritage-listed buildings are frequently burnt to the ground, left to deteriorate into a state of disrepair and then mysteriously burnt overnight.

Like many locals, I am absolutely tired of seeing this happen. We do not know the exact cause of the fire and I hope that the investigators get to the bottom of it, but regardless of the cause we must not allow this heritage building to be completely wiped out and erased from our community. I want to bring back the Broadway Hotel and restore it to its former glory. Just as it was built to take advantage of the tramway in the late 1890s, with the opening of the new Gabba Cross River Rail station just down the road the Broadway has the opportunity for a new lease of life, particularly when considering the significant amount of residential development happening within a stone's throw of the pub's location.

That is why I have started a petition that calls for supporters to bring back the Broadway. It has already attracted almost 700 signatures in a matter of days calling on the Brisbane City Council, in its role as planning authority and development assessment manager, to ensure that no development approvals are granted for this site unless the proposed development includes the full restoration and reconstruction of the heritage-listed site.

The petition also calls on the Brisbane City Council to urgently amend its local planning scheme to ensure that reconstruction and restoration of the Broadway Hotel is a clear and mandatory requirement for any future development of the site. I am 100 per cent committed to working with the local community with council to achieve this outcome. All politics aside, I think we can agree that we cannot allow our historic buildings to continue to be destroyed. Let us get together, let us start now by making sure we can bring the Broadway Hotel back.

Blackall, Sesquicentenary

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.13 pm): This year marks 150 years since the town of Blackall was founded. Last week I was delighted to join in at least part of the nine days of celebrations staged to mark this historic birthday. B150 included the renowned Shockwave youth festival, a Blackall Rugby League reunion—we won our first grand final in 30 years this year; well done to the Magpies—markets and special events for all ages, billycart races, a colour run and a visit by chef Matt Golinski. Many here would know Matt Golinski, a man of great strength. He came out and played a role in our famous celebrations.

Despite the drought and tough times, people were able to put aside their worries and commemorate the courage and vision of the early settlers who founded such a far-flung township so successfully. It was fantastic to see the town full of people. There were those with personal ties to Blackall coming to celebrate, locals turning out in force, tourists and visitors joining us.


I congratulate Mayor Andrew Martin, councillors from the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council and many community volunteers who worked so hard to make B150 an outstanding celebration. With my family originating from the Blackall-Tambo area, I am a strong advocate for this area—be it roads, wild dog fencing, drought assistance, education or health. It is a place of special meaning to me and a place of special meaning to many people across Queensland.

We saw our first ram sale in the district for 20 years. Stellar prices were achieved, with an average price of \$1,400 a ram and some rams hitting over the \$2,000 mark. That is an amazing achievement for a place that is in drought, but it goes to show that people are getting back into sheep. Let us get those cluster fences up and going. Let us get people back into sheep, because the country around Blackall, Tambo and all of that Mitchell grass country is aimed for wool growing and we have fantastic people out there to achieve that.

I was also able to attend the first cattle sale in the new saleyards. These new saleyards are unique to Queensland. They are both EU certified and organic certified. In fact, they are the only yards in Queensland that are, and there are only two organic certified yards in the world. One is in Blackall and the other is in Alice Springs.

Anyone who has visited Blackall knows how attractive and historic the Blackall township is and how gorgeous the landscapes are. The certified saleyards will ensure producers in Blackall and surrounding districts can target high-end markets globally and we will continue to do that. We need to maximise this opportunity. I am calling on the state government to improve the road infrastructure in Western Queensland starting with the sealing of—you guessed it—the Blackall Jericho Road. I will continue to bang on about that. We need to get that sealed. It is only another 30 kilometres. Well done to the Blackall community on a great celebration!

4074 Family Fun Day; R U OK?

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.16 pm): Last Saturday I participated in the 4074 Family Fun Day burger-eating competition to raise funds for drought relief in Charleville. How could I say no when Milton Dick, the federal member for Oxley, double dared me to eat the double patty so I had to give it a go. Spoiler alert, I lost. While I was preparing for the challenge of a lifetime, I had a chat with a local resident and a good friend who was participating in the blokes round. His name is Dave Ross.

Mr Purdie: Hear, hear!

Ms PUGH: Hear, hear indeed! He joked, as he often does, that if he won the competition I would have to mention him in parliament tonight. He lost too, but that is not why I am talking about Dave tonight. I met Dave when my parents moved to the electorate last year. I posted on our local Facebook page 4074 Community & Beyond that my parents are moving to the area and could everybody please be nice and make them welcome. Dave went one better and posted up some rules for the area to help my parents assimilate. He poked fun at the quirky things about 4074 like the fact that we have heaps of snakes—or nope ropes as we call them—swimming deer, sharks, rabbits, foxes, roos and heaps of bats. We think they are from Moggill.

It was funny, it was good natured and they were larger than life like Dave himself. I started following Dave's adventures online. He had decided to climb Mount Everest and he made it to base camp before his team turned back due to adverse weather. He came back and hosted a community event to tell us all about his trek. I went along last year expecting a light-hearted tale of adventure and

folly, but Dave surprised us all. Dave shared that the whole journey had been an effort to deal with his serious and ongoing depression. In fact, Dave disclosed that he had suicidal thoughts and had set himself the challenge of climbing Everest to challenge himself and keep the black dog at bay.

We are coming into R U OK? Week and I want to commend Dave for starting the conversation in our community around men's mental health. In men aged 18 to 45 in Australia, suicide is the number one cause of death. Organisations like Mates in Construction know this and they are working to prevent it with support for men working in construction.

This is a personal issue for me. This week is the anniversary of the day that my uncle took his life leaving behind two beautiful boys, now men, and a family who miss him very much. Last Friday I found myself at his grave while attending the funeral of a friend's father and I read the epitaph on his gravestone. It said, 'Steven. He tried his best and lost his way.' Too many of our young men are losing their way. We as a community need to make them see, as Dave did, that there is another way and we need to make sure we listen when they say, 'Hey, I'm not okay.'

Mirani Electorate, Bamboo Projects



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (7.19 pm): The member for Mount Ommaney and the member for Maroochydore have spoken very seriously about suicide over the last two days. Charities play a vital role in society and in our individual communities. Often run by volunteers, they offer assistance to those who are most vulnerable in our communities and those who may have nowhere else to turn.

Bamboo Projects is a charity which uses outdoor therapies to help people with mental illness, suicidal ideation and physical disabilities and anyone who is socially, emotionally and relationally isolated. They have been running community activities for three years, using fishing and hiking activities to build connection, establish relationships, walk life with people who are struggling and offer realistic strategies and ideas to manage their mental health and interpersonal relationships more successfully.

They also hold community events once a month where people can attend and utilise free jumping castles, face painting, fishing lessons, barbecues or just have a chat. One of their most recent events had over 400 people in attendance. These events target low-income earners who may not typically be able to access events such as these. By removing the cost barrier to attending, it provides an open and welcoming event for anyone to attend. Attendees know that the Bamboo Projects staff care because there is no financial gain and they are there for the pure purpose of serving the community.

Many of their participants report that they are socially isolated, lonely, using prescription and non-prescription substances to cope or struggling with suicidal thoughts. Over the last year, they have seen participants form friendships with each other and Bamboo Projects staff, develop new skills, improve their mental health, report reduction in suicidal thoughts, improve their physical health, stop using illegal drugs and gain employment. In fact, some participants have returned to the workforce for the first time in years after working with Bamboo Projects.

There are gaps in the system which do not allow for current funding to such a cause as it is not a clinical service, but that is the point of difference of Bamboo Projects and their key to success. Being outdoors allows for a more comfortable environment than an office space, and they have found that people open up much quicker about their concerns. They are offered strategies and tools to assist them with moving forward in their life. These strategies have proven successful through the mental health battles that the founders of Bamboo Projects have been through themselves.

Dr Shannon Morton is one of the board members of Bamboo Projects Education. She provides a professional point of view when it comes to making decisions for the charity and is a source of advice when they need extra expertise. Dr Shannon Morton is qualified to treat all mental health and behavioural disorders. She is a qualified psychiatrist with a subspecialty in children and adolescents.

(Time expired)

Mackay Electorate, Australian South Sea Islanders



Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (7.22 pm): I had the pleasure of attending the Mackay Australian South Sea islander recognition morning tea and family day on 25 August. The *Queensland Multicultural Policy: Our story, our future* includes a statement of recognition for the Australian South Sea islanders' unique history. The theme of the celebrations this year was 'Embracing our South Sea islander women: through the generations'. Starrett Veve, the president of the Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association, MADASSIA, awarded five strong community women with recognition.

The Sportsperson Award was bestowed on Hayley Elston for her outstanding achievement in hockey. She started out at a young age representing her school and then was selected to represent Mackay. Hayley will be representing Queensland at the national titles later this year in Hobart. Hayley is on her way to reaching her goal to represent Australia in women's hockey.

The Academic Achievement Award recipient was Betty Penola. She is leading the way in her community by showing that a university level of education is achievable. She is a fantastic role model for the Australian South Sea islander youth in our community. Betty is achieving high grades through her dedication and hard work. She is opening education doors for those who will follow in her footsteps.


The Trainee Award was awarded to Andersyn Landt. She progressed through a Work for the Dole program then a Back to Work program at MADASSIA. She has astounded everyone with her natural ability with administration and the initiative she used to research and navigate to find the correct information needed by MADASSIA to implement a policies and procedures manual for a Job Active Program. She is a great asset to MADASSIA.

The Cultural Award went to Elizabeth Warren, a very well known Mackay local who is always bringing her Australian South Sea islander culture to the forefront of her community work. She has always tried to include the Australian South Sea islander culture and history into programs and events. Her efforts to embed her culture into the Mackay community make Mackay culturally a richer community.

The Community Award was accepted by Erryn Tomarra, who is always going the extra mile, giving guidance and advice where she can to many organisations and individuals. Erryn's role as a CAMMS officer is vital for the Australian South Sea islander community in Mackay and throughout the state.

The Foundation Award recognises Pam Viti as an inspiration for the South Sea islander community. Pam's work in the early days of the MADASSIA organisation and the establishment of the Islander Meeting Hut have left a lasting legacy for her community. Pam was also the coordinator for the Lagoons Naming Project, which she is still recognised for 25 years later. She is a strong and elegant leader.

Pumicestone Electorate, Community Events

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (7.25 pm): The statistics are alarming: one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence perpetrated by someone known to them; one in four children are exposed to domestic violence and their exposure to intimate partner violence increases their risk of developing mental health, behavioural and learning difficulties; domestic and family violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children; Indigenous women and girls are 35 times more likely than the wider female population to be hospitalised due to family violence; violence against women is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$21.7 billion a year; and the most chilling statistic is that, over 12 months, on average one woman is killed every week by a current or former partner.

Violence against women must end, and we must all do our part to raise awareness of what is occurring and stand up in solidarity against this sinister form of violence. White Ribbon Day is held on 25 November, and at the heart of this day is primary prevention—stopping violence against women before it happens. I will be doing my part on 25 November when I host the inaugural Pumicestone RAV18—Run Against Violence 2018—and I aim to make this an annual event in the Pumicestone calendar. This will be a day where I ask my community to come together to raise awareness and prevent violence against women, and I know the good people of my electorate will get behind me and do their part. RAV18 will be a family-friendly event with various runs open to men, women, boys and girls of all ages and abilities. I am holding this event at Brennan Park on beautiful Bribie Island. Registration will open from 6 am but we will be kicking off from 7.30 with the start of the 10-kilometre run, followed by staggered starts of the five- and one-kilometre runs or walks.

Every cent raised on the day will go directly to White Ribbon to support the great work they do. I invite all my parliamentary colleagues to join with me at the inaugural event—Pumicestone RAV18—on 25 November and show their support to stopping violence against women before it happens. I look forward to updating the House on this event later in the year.

While I am on my feet, I want to say that September is Dementia Awareness Month. As the patron of the Bribie Island Dementia Support Group, I am proud to say that I have been working with many in our community, and Bribie Island is well on its way to becoming a dementia-friendly community. I encourage all people to do their part and become more aware of dementia so they can show their support of those living in our communities with dementia.

Project Red Socks; Police Resources



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.29 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I start by commending you for your work with Project Red Socks. I thank everyone for wearing them today and supporting Townsville Sunrise Rotary Club with regard to raising awareness about prostate cancer. Well done!

As a former paramedic in emergency services for 25 years, I am intent on delivering for all of our emergency services. I am really glad the police minister is in the chamber tonight because he knows that I am working hard to deliver a new police facility in the Upper Ross, in Thuringowa. It is not good enough that we have a 1991 demountable on Yvette Street and the Kelso Police Beat have 10 or 12 officers working successfully on a trial. We need to deliver new, modern facilities for our police in a growth area in Thuringowa that covers 25,000 people in the suburbs of Condon, Kelso and Rasmussen.

I do commend the minister for the extra 20 police we received last year for the Rapid Action Patrol hub, but we have to do more in terms of landing this new facility. I have been out doorknocking and I have a petition going which I will be tabling in the next sitting week. It is time to deliver decent facilities. We cannot have a dozen officers working out of a 1991 demountable. It just does not work.

I want to give a shout-out to the Upper Ross Community Voice, which is the community consultation group that the local police come and brief. There has been an increased demand for service in this growth area. There is no doubt that by giving them a new police facility, more officers can be responding to crime and patrolling in the local area. We want to see a reduction in crime, so those officers are welcomed.

I look forward to tabling that petition in the parliament and seeing that finally delivered. It has taken too long. We just need to get it done for the people of the Upper Ross. I know they are welcoming it. I have petitions right throughout the community which I will be collecting next week. We are going to land this for the police. Next, I will be working to get a new fire station as well. I will be the member known to have delivered for our fireys, our police and our ambulance—we got the funding for the Kirwan ambulance station last year—our rural fireys and our SES. Our volunteers in emergency services all do a great job in Thuringowa.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Honourable members, on behalf of the member for Caloundra and myself I offer a heartfelt thankyou for your bipartisan support for Project Red Socks and for wearing your red socks in the chamber. Thank you.

The House adjourned at 7.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, 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