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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 6 September 2018

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THURSDAY, 6 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.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Conduct in Chamber

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, given some of the behaviour throughout this week, I thought it necessary to emphasise—and in some cases re-emphasise—some basic rules to all members. I will wait for silence, members.

Members need to rise and call

Whilst the whips oftentimes produce speaking lists, it is emphasised that they are guides only. Standing order 247 provides—

- (1) Members wishing to speak shall rise and address the Speaker.
- (2) If more than one member rises, the Speaker shall call upon the member who, in the Speaker's opinion, rose first.

If members do not rise and address the Speaker, the Speaker is entitled to call any member who has risen and, if no member has risen, to call on the next item of business or the member in charge of the matter under consideration to close the debate, as the case may be.

Referring to members by their correct title

A related issue is that members must refer to other members by their correct title, either their ministerial or parliamentary office or their electorate. Words like 'he' or 'she' tend to indicate when this is not happening.

Addressing the chair

Standing order 247 provides—

Members wishing to speak shall rise and address the Speaker.

This means that members should not address each other directly across the chamber; all statements should be made through the chair. This standing order, among others, is designed to promote civilised debate in the chamber by having statements and questions directed through the chair rather than personally towards other members. As such, reference to another member needs to be in the third person such as 'the minister' or 'the member for'. When a second-person personal pronoun, such as 'you', is used it is indicative that the member is not addressing the House through the Speaker. I thank you for your cooperation in advance, members.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

SPEAKER'S PAPER

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

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon Pitt)—

[1306](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to the United States of America to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures Summit 2018, Columbia University Lecture and meetings on behalf of Trade and Investment Queensland, 29 July-6 August 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Works for Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): It is no secret that drought is having a devastating impact on the economies of many parts of our great state. I am delighted that our hugely popular Works for Queensland program is assisting councils to support not only jobs in regional Queensland—more than 11,500 jobs as reported by councils, and counting—but also infrastructure to help to mitigate the drought. One such project is bore 19, which is part of Roma's 10-year strategy to improve water security. Since completion in June, bore 19 has delivered 201 precious megalitres of water, or 20 per cent of Roma's daily consumption, and 27 local jobs.

Everywhere I visit in regional Queensland, the enthusiasm of local mayors for Works for Queensland is clear. More than \$100 million has been distributed to councils in the latest round of Works for Queensland, with 74 projects completed, another 428 underway and 2,700 local jobs delivered. That is food on the table for the families of local council workers, the families of local tradies and the families of local businesses that supply materials. From basketball court improvements at Joe Kirwan Park in Townsville, playground shading at Bayo Beach park in Torres shire and the upgrade of the Blackall Aquatic Centre to roadworks in Bundaberg, Works for Queensland is making a tangible difference to regional Queensland communities. I want to pay tribute to the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government, who are really driving this program.

That is why in the budget we announced an extension of Works for Queensland to 2020-21 and an additional \$200 million in funding for councils. Combined with previous rounds, that is total funding of \$600 million and potentially more than 10,000 jobs. My government is working closer than ever before with regional councils and shires to deliver the infrastructure and jobs they need. Communities around Queensland are reaping the benefits of Works for Queensland. It is a clear example that councils are working together with us to create jobs right across the state.

Brisbane Festival

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): This Saturday, the Minister for the Arts, Leeanne Enoch, and I will have the pleasure of opening one of Australia's major international arts festivals, the Brisbane Festival. Each year, Brisbane Festival presents a line-up of extraordinary local and international work in a program comprising theatre, dance, music, circus, cabaret and family entertainment. This year, Brisbane Festival will stage 70 shows and deliver almost 600 performances across 17 of the city's theatres and venues. Importantly, the festival helps to support Queensland employment in the arts, with more than 1,000 arts workers and artists, including 300 volunteers, working to deliver this year's event. The festival is a true showcase of Queensland's talented arts companies and artists.

The program features Circa's *En Masse* and The Good Room's *I've Been Meaning to Ask You*. Other homegrown highlights include the world premiere of *Dust* by Townsville based Dancenorth, and singers from the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts will form the Gospel Choir in *Struggle with Glory* at The Tivoli. In another coup for Queensland, Peter Grimes will bring together Opera Queensland and Queensland Symphony Orchestra in a concert starring Australian tenor Stuart Skelton and 140 performers on stage at QPAC.

Our Brisbane River will be the star of a new work that is sure to wow festival audiences every night with a free illumination spectacular, *River of Light*. Created by Oracle Liquid alongside the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company, the work will tell the traditional story of how the Brisbane River was woven into existence. Of course, festival favourites such as the *Courier-Mail* Spiegeltent, Treasury Brisbane Arcadia and Theatre Republic will again pop up to add to the festivities, activate the city with incredible arts experiences and bring communities together. These are just some of the rich arts experiences audiences are set to enjoy.

My government is proud to support this wonderful array of arts and culture that each year delivers local cultural experience and tourism benefits for our state. Of course, the finale of the Brisbane Festival will be marked by Brisbane's favourite and biggest annual public event, Sunsuper Riverfire, on Saturday, 29 September.

Melbourne Cup; Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): I know this House supports our Queensland sporting champions. We will all be cheering for Brisbane's giant-killer John Millman as he faces Novak Djokovic, with the game due to start at 10.15 this morning.

I never tire of cheering for Queensland. That is why I am happy to report that, no matter what happens in this year's Melbourne Cup, the winner will be holding Queensland gold. That is right, gold mined at Mount Rawdon, west of Bundaberg, has been turned into this year's Melbourne Cup. It gets better. Evolution Mining has previously provided gold to make the Melbourne Cup, but that came from their mines in New South Wales. Not only have we managed to infiltrate Melbourne's big race; we have bumped out New South Wales in the process. As we sports fans like to say, that's gold! Geologists, miners, refiners, chemists and jewellers make the Melbourne Cup.

The story of this year's Melbourne Cup gold is the story of Queensland. Our rich resources are helping us set new records for exports. That is money in the pockets for every Queensland family. Who backs Queensland? That is right: we back Queensland. Queensland is a sure bet. That is why we back Queenslanders with our \$105 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund.

I saw it at work in Salisbury with the Minister for State Development, where 180 jobs have been created by local company EGR. Of all the companies in the world Mercedes Benz chose them to make their canopies and covers, and now EGR offers high-skilled, well-paid permanent jobs. They are the 10th company we have attracted to Queensland under the industry attraction fund. They employ 726 people with roles in areas as diverse as carpentry and robotics. We are kicking goals on the sporting field, in our factories and beyond. We are here for Queensland. We will continue to cheer for Queensland, as we always do.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, there is too much background conversation. If you are having a conversation, please take it outside. I would like to hear ministerial statements.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): The Queensland economy is growing strongly under the Palaszczuk government. The latest ABS data shows that Queensland's trend state final demand, a key indicator of domestic activity, rose 0.7 per cent in the June quarter 2018 to be 3.7 per cent higher over the year. This was a stronger result than the three per cent forecast in the budget and the strongest growth in state final demand since 2011-12, when LNG construction was ramping up.

The Palaszczuk government's economic plan, which aims to facilitate strong growth, deliver and facilitate productivity-enhancing infrastructure and respond to business and community needs, is working. In trend terms, general government investment—national, state and local—rose 1.1 per cent in the quarter, reflecting a 0.3 per cent decline in national investment and a 1.6 per cent increase in state and local investment.

Our government has reinvigorated the infrastructure pipeline after it was left bare by the former LNP government. The LNP cut infrastructure spending in every budget. We have acted to reverse the trend with a \$45.8 billion spend on infrastructure over the next four years. This is the biggest spend since the 2011 floods. In this year alone, our infrastructure allocation will directly support 38,000 jobs in the Queensland economy. Queensland spends more on capital infrastructure as a percentage of state final demand than either New South Wales or Victoria.

Together, Queensland businesses and government are investing in Queensland for the future. These SFD figures do not include exports, which are now at record levels and are driving growth in the national GDP. Exports make up a large part of our economy and are critical to Queensland's growth story. To ignore this sector of our economy is only looking at half the story. Queensland's nominal merchandise exports broke through \$74 billion in 2017-18, which is the highest value ever and \$7.6 billion more than the previous year. The value of Queensland's goods exports has more than doubled in the last decade.

The success of the Palaszczuk government's strong focus on creating jobs in Queensland has been highlighted by the latest regional labour force data. As I previously informed the House, the latest ABS data for July shows that a total of 164,500 jobs have been created in Queensland since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected in January 2015. That is equivalent to almost 4,000 new jobs created in our economy each and every month since January 2015.

More recent regional labour force data for July highlights the ongoing benefits of our economic plan, with strong employment growth and improving labour market conditions in many regional areas over the past year. The Gold Coast recorded the largest annual increase in employment, up 20,400 persons; the Sunshine Coast, up 11,000; Logan-Beaudesert, up 10,500; and Brisbane east, up 8,300. Importantly, jobs growth has not been limited to South-East Queensland. Over the year to July an additional 8,200 jobs were created in Townsville; 4,900 jobs in Mackay; and 2,400 jobs in the Darling Downs-Maranoa.

Unemployment rates also continue to improve in key areas of regional Queensland. In Mackay we inherited an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent from the previous LNP government. Boosted by the strong recovery in both coal prices and demand for the region's key exports, the unemployment rate in Mackay was just 3.3 per cent in July 2018. In Cairns we inherited an unemployment rate of 7.9 per cent from the LNP government. With the tourism sector rebounding in the region and driving increased investment in tourism infrastructure, Cairns' unemployment rate was down to 6.6 per cent in July 2018. While the unemployment rate in Townsville remains stubbornly high, there are clear signs that labour market conditions in the region are improving, in line with ongoing improvements in the resources sector. The region's participation rate increased by 4.5 percentage points over the year, with the stronger jobs growth encouraging jobseekers back into Townsville's labour market. A 4.5 per cent increase in the participation rate is an incredible figure.

The Palaszczuk government is proud of its record on jobs and our plan to build a strong, more diversified economy with an economic plan that facilitates strong private sector growth, delivers and facilitates productivity-enhancing infrastructure, responds to business and community needs and, most importantly, creates jobs for Queenslanders across the length and breadth of our state.

Olive Downs Mine

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): Modern economies need steel—steel for our buildings and steel for the bridges, tunnels and railways that the Palaszczuk Labor government is building. Steel is needed for our renewable future to build the wind turbines, solar panels and electric cars of the future. If we want to make steel we need good-quality metallurgical coal, and the best metallurgical coal comes from the mighty Bowen Basin in Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Members, I am not sure what was particularly offensive about those comments. I am wondering what the interjections are all about.

Mr DICK: The best metallurgical coal comes from the mighty Bowen Basin in Queensland. This important sector delivers thousands of jobs and has helped drive our exports to a record \$74 billion in the last financial year. I am pleased to report that metallurgical coal is putting more jobs in the pipeline for regional Queensland.

Pembroke Olive Downs Pty Ltd proposes to develop a new \$1 billion open-cut metallurgical coalmine in the Bowen Basin, and this week the Coordinator-General is inviting stakeholders to have their say on the \$1 billion Olive Downs metallurgical coalmine with the release of the project's environmental impact statement. Once approved and operational, the mine could maintain around 1,000 operational jobs over an 80-year time frame and produce up to 15 million tonnes of coking coal each year. This will ensure that great communities in the Bowen Basin will continue to be critical participants in the global steel production chain for decades to come.

Importantly, this will not be a FIFO mine. The project proponent, Pembroke Resources, will be seeking workers from local towns in the vicinity of the mine like Moranbah, Nebo, Dysart and Middlemount. The project proposal includes coal handling and crushing facilities at the mine's Olive Downs South and Willunga precinct, a rail link to transport coal to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, a water pipeline and a power transmission line. I know that this project is welcomed by the Isaac Regional Council, in particular the Mayor, Councillor Anne Baker.

Working with the council, we will ensure this development occurs sustainably. The Coordinator-General's environmental assessment process provides an integrated and rigorous assessment of major projects. All feedback and comments from agencies and the public are coordinated and considered in one overall assessment of the project's impacts and benefits. The

independent Coordinator-General has reviewed a draft EIS prepared by the proponent and determined that it is satisfactory to release for comment. I encourage all interested stakeholders to make a submission on the draft EIS, which will shortly be available online for public comment until 10 October this year.

Mining Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.48 am): Exploration is the foundation of new discoveries and extending the life of existing resource projects and, most importantly, the thousands of jobs that are tied to these projects. That is why I am pleased to report that the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that exploration is on the up and up here in Queensland. Investment in minerals exploration has increased by 37.5 per cent to over \$280 million in 12 months. This has been particularly strong in exploration for copper up 41 per cent and gold up 21 per cent, over the 12 months to June 2018.

Our petroleum exploration expenditure continues to go from strength to strength. It is also up 7.8 per cent on the previous 12 months, to \$164 million, as Queensland continues to be the destination of choice for petroleum exploration in Australia. While Queensland continues to be positioned as the exploration powerhouse of Australia, other large petroleum-producing states have seen their expenditure go backwards. Nationally, petroleum exploration expenditure experienced a 25 per cent decline—so it is up eight per cent here in Queensland but down 25 per cent nationally. We are doing spectacularly well.

The Palaszczuk government's positive economic policies and our support for exploration through the annual exploration program, geoscience initiatives and financial incentives are important factors supporting exploration here in Queensland. This is laying a firm foundation for the next generation of projects and future jobs growth in the resources sector. Look at what is currently in the pipeline. Thirteen projects are committed, with a combined capital value of more than \$9.4 billion across multiple commodities—metalliferous, coal and gas. A further 42 projects are at feasibility stage, with a combined capital value of more than \$62 billion—again, across multiple commodities.

I will continue to work on all levels to advance opportunities for our mining and energy sector, to maintain Queensland's position as a global mining leader—a powerhouse to the nation and indeed to the world.

Statutory Authorities, Appointments

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.51 am): It is with great pleasure that I can inform the House about appointments for significant statutory positions—positions that play important independent roles in our modern, open Queensland system of government. With the permission of the Governor, I can advise that today I will be seeking the Governor's approval for Mr Scott McDougall to be appointed as the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and Mr Patrick Vidgen as Queensland's Electoral Commissioner.

Scott McDougall is a well-known and respected member of Queensland's legal community. He has dedicated his skills and experience to representing vulnerable Queenslanders as director and principal at Caxton Legal Centre, formerly president of Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services, and a volunteer across the CLC community. Importantly, Mr McDougall has demonstrated that his experience is not limited to representing any given client to the best of his ability but extends to considering the systemic and policy challenges facing Queenslanders, including those challenges relevant to government and public administration. He has contributed as founding director of Elder Abuse Australia, through the QLS access to justice committee, UQ's Pro Bono Centre advisory board and Legal Aid's first nations advisory committee. I wish him every success in the role and look forward to the team at Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland continuing to deliver in their important work.

I am also pleased that acting Electoral Commissioner Pat Vidgen is being recommended for permanent appointment. Pat Vidgen comes with an enviable reputation of delivering at senior levels of government and in corporate roles. Most recently he played a crucial role in the delivery of the successful Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. He has previously held senior roles in government, including in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Public Safety Business Agency. He also has extensive board experience, including South Bank Corporation, Events Queensland and the national counterterrorism committee. He is known as a person of integrity. Of course, that is exactly what we need in what has been a challenging time for staff at the ECQ. I am confident that Mr Vidgen can provide the leadership and stability that can support the ECQ staff and provide the public of

Queensland with the confidence that the Electoral Commission is delivering its important work. I wish him and the staff at ECQ all the best as they continue to provide crucial services in their important independent role.

Respect for independent public institutions is vital to our democratic system. We as members of parliament have a particular responsibility to protect and respect independent institutions. I was disappointed to hear comments on ABC Radio from the member for Traeger that could only be considered as contemptuous of the Electoral Commission. Suggesting interference in the independent redistribution process is not just scandalous; it is also irresponsible. The Queensland Redistribution Commission was an independent body consisting of a respected retired judge, an experienced director-general and the Electoral Commissioner. It engaged in a process that is highly legislated, open and transparent. Members of parliament and members of the community will always have differing opinions or suggestions about how redistributions should land. We know that because there were hundreds or thousands of submissions and comments made at the various stages of what is a very public process.

We are blessed in this state and in this country to have fair and free elections, the peaceful transfer of power at elections, an independent judiciary and a professional public service. As elected members of parliament we should do our part to promote respect and protect these important elements of our modern, fair and open democratic system. The allegations by the member for Traeger are unfounded and he should apologise for such comments.

Wine Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.55 am): Today I am proud to announce that the Queensland wine industry will receive a \$460,000 boost to develop new wine tourism experiences in our state. This is a great win for Queensland and is a direct result of the \$220,000 funding commitment we made in July. In the last couple of weeks the federal government has taken our lead and approved matching funding for this project. This wine tourism initiative will help local producers promote their unique cellar-door experiences to the world. The Queensland Wine Industry Association is also leading the charge. It has also committed \$10,000 towards the project. It will work directly with wine producers to get the project up and running.

The majority of wine producers in this state are small, family owned operations, and they are making a splash internationally.

Ms Grace: Good Italians.

Ms JONES: Correct. Recently Sirromet's 2013 Le Sauvage won best white wine in the world—

Government members: Hear, hear!

Ms JONES: I know: right here in Queensland—world beating.

Mr Dick: I'll drink to that!

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. It was voted on by contributors to tastingbook.com in an online poll. The wine was then tasted by judges in Helsinki and they agreed that this Queensland wine, grown on our very own Granite Belt, is indeed a world-beater. Of course, as the Premier announced earlier, Queensland wine will now be served on Qantas's new 787 Dreamliners. The first of these Dreamliners left Brisbane on Saturday bound for Los Angeles, showcasing great Queensland wine to the world.

Our wine industry is an important asset for our tourism sector moving forward. That is why we are supporting this industry to create more tourism jobs in Queensland.

Teacher Aides

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.56 am): Tomorrow, the first Friday in September, is Teacher Aide Day. I urge all to acknowledge the wonderful work of our teacher aides, who play a crucial role in the education of Queensland students. It is a day to recognise the enormous contribution our teacher aides make to our schools every day.

There are more than 19,000 teacher aides employed in our state schools helping Queensland students get the very best from their education. With continued enrolment growth expected in Queensland state schools, it is more important than ever to recognise the significant role our teacher aides play in our schools. Teacher aides work closely with teachers to provide a wide range of support for all students, often our most vulnerable.

This year the Palaszczuk government has fulfilled our commitment to boost teacher aide hours. We are providing an extra 4,000 teacher aide hours per week. This allows all state schools to have a teacher aide in every prep class for the first time. Our prep teacher aides play a vital role in helping children to develop the basic skills they need for learning. The importance of those early years in a child's education is well documented. Participation in prep improves a child's educational outcomes and is a critical foundation year for schooling. Teacher aides are such a valuable resource for teachers and parents, especially in those early days of prep, when students are transitioning to the school environment for the first time.

Teacher aides work closely with teachers to develop resources, set up and operate equipment, supervise students and participate in activities with the classroom teacher. I congratulate teacher aides across the state for the outstanding contributions and invaluable support they provide to their school communities.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that last week was School Support Staff Recognition Week—a time to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution that all support staff make in our schools. Support staff include our admin officers, janitors, canteen staff, school officers and cleaners, just to name a few.

I am sure we would all agree that these workers are the unsung heroes and the backbone of our school communities. I say congratulations and thank you to our teacher aides and our school support staff for the wonderful work they do. They are highly valued and appreciated by the Palaszczuk government and their school communities.

Counterterrorism

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.59 am): Last week our men and women in blue again showed why they are internationally renowned. Last Wednesday 300 people took part in Exercise Alpha Montana, an active armed offender training scenario on the Gold Coast. Along with members of the Queensland Ambulance Service, 60 police officers tested their skills as the first responders to a simulated armed threat—and threatening it was, with simulated firearms, simulated radio traffic and realistic make-up on actor victims to depict injuries to help train our emergency response teams. The aim of the exercise was to enhance communication and working relationships between key agencies.

The Palaszczuk government is ensuring our emergency services and police have the resources and equipment they need to face any threats against the Queensland public. We have allocated over \$46 million for a world-class use of force, weapons and counterterrorism facility at Wacol. Our new counterterrorism facility will include an indoor firearms range, a scenario village and specialist training areas to increase capability in managing terrorism and other critical incidents. This facility will be co-located with the police driving skills section to enhance training on the growing issue of vehicle attacks such as those recently seen interstate and overseas.

Our government is also funding 85 new counterterrorism specialists to be embedded statewide. There will be a new dedicated counterterrorism police command. This is on top of the over \$16 million in funding over four years to enhance police counterterrorism capability in surveillance, intelligence analysis, online investigation and training. Our government has also passed significant new laws to enhance the ability to respond to a major terrorism or emergency event. Queenslanders from Cairns to Caboolture, Birdsville to Badu Island and everywhere else can rest assured that our state has never been safer. The Palaszczuk government will always support our front line and back the safety of Queenslanders.

Birdsville Races

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.01 am): Every September on the edge of the Simpson Desert the population of the Queensland outback town of Birdsville swells from around 200 to many thousands. Visitors come from far and wide to enjoy the fantastic spectacle of the Birdsville Races, a historic event dating back some 136 years.

This year's carnival was attended by around 6,000 people and for the very first time the two-day race card was broadcast nationally on Sky Racing. Punters from across the country were able to place a bet on the races and in doing so they were supporting Queensland's drought affected farmers. Racing

Queensland committed to donating half its wagering revenue from the two-day meeting to the Queensland Drought Appeal. As the Premier said earlier this week, this has resulted in at least \$50,000 being raised for the Queensland Drought Appeal—a fantastic result for our farmers.

I want to thank Racing Queensland for partnering with Sky Racing and Tabcorp to make this broadcast possible. It is a great win for country racing and for drought affected communities throughout Queensland. I also want to congratulate the husband and wife team, Bevan and Mel Johnson from Miles, who had the Birdsville Cup winner Blue Jest trained to the minute to repel several challengers in an epic finish to the race.

The Birdsville Cup carnival is a great driver of income and visitation to outback Queensland. This first ever national broadcast of the iconic event will further promote Queensland as a home of unique tourism experiences and adventures. Country racing is the lifeblood of many of the communities in outback Queensland and other regional parts of the state. Even in times of drought, racing brings people together in remote towns like few other things do.

The Palaszczuk government is a great supporter of country racing. Our four-year, \$70 million country racing package supports literally dozens of race clubs throughout Queensland, including Birdsville. The 2018 Birdsville Cup will always hold a special place in the history of this great event. It gave Australians from around the nation a chance to support Queensland farmers, and long may that continue.

Women in Sport

 Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.04 am): As members of parliament we are all privileged to meet and hear from Queensland's outstanding women athletes. We heard the No. 1 fan and patron, the Deputy Premier, acknowledging the Sunshine Coast Lightning which secured their second consecutive Super Netball title in only their second season of competition. Just the week before the Premier was cheering on the Queensland Firebirds in what was a nailbiter semifinal.

I want to thank Firebirds Laura Clemesha and Gretel Tippett for being ambassadors in the development of Queensland's first ever Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The Brisbane Roar women's team secured a second W-League premiership last season and I was delighted to have been able to personally congratulate Claire Polkinghorne and the team ahead of the finals. Thank you also to the Roar's Abby Lloyd for also being a sports strategy ambassador.

The members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa are always talking about the Townsville Fire WNBL team which has taken out three of the past four championships. The Brisbane Lions Women's AFL side will be aiming to bring home this coming season's premiership, and thank you again to Sabrina Frederick-Traub for also being one of our sports strategy ambassadors. I know there will be a great turnout from both sides of parliament this weekend when the Brisbane Broncos NRLW side play their first competitive match on Sunday. I also want to acknowledge that both Sam Stosur and Ash Barty will play doubles finals tomorrow in the US Open.

There are many more examples of Queensland women who have achieved great success in their chosen sport—Queensland women like Mackay's Eva Plessing who, after earning three international taekwondo championships, turned her skills to the sport of mountain biking and is now state and national champion; Queenslanders Deborah Acason, Tia-Claire Orr and Alyce Stephenson currently top the national weightlifting standings for their respective weight classes; and Queensland rock climber Tiffany Melius is about to compete in her first world championships in Innsbruck in Austria, and I am sure all members of the House wish her the very best.

The success that I have spoken about today only comes through the opportunity to participate in sport, yet even the most elite players—the ones we see on our TV screens—describe the barriers to participation in sport, especially for women. They talk about issues like unrealistic body image and income inequality being ongoing barriers. I want to thank members from across the chamber for their contributions this week to the development of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy because every Queenslander should have the opportunity to participate and achieve in sport, and we will continue to work to make sport more equal.

In conclusion, I want to take the opportunity to congratulate the World Surf League for today announcing equal prize money for all WSL events, including of course the famous Roxy Pro at Snapper Rocks in our internationally acclaimed world surfing reserve on Queensland's Gold Coast.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Lemke, Mr B

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.07 am): I am proud and relieved to say that 13 QFES personnel deployed to the US and Canada to battle deadly wildfires will be coming home in the next few days. Eleven of them will be returning from California this Saturday. They were amongst 188 fire specialists from across Australia and New Zealand who travelled to the US west coast early last month to assist with the firefighting effort. A further two QFES personnel who are currently in Canada helping firefighters battle a series of infernos in British Columbia are scheduled to return home early next week. As members would expect, the emotions will be running high when they touch down in Brisbane after their five-week stint. QFES has been maintaining very close contact with their agencies overseas to ensure that their families at home have been kept well informed of their activities.

Our firefighters played a vital role in relieving American and Canadian crews who were exhausted after having spent many months battling wildfires on a scale that we can barely imagine. Over the last 37 days they have been working a 14-day-on, two-day-off roster putting in 12-hour shifts every single day for the duration of their stay. They were deployed into several hotspots including the massive Mendocino complex fire where tragically an American firefighter lost their life. That fire is the largest in the US this year. It has burned through more than 185,000 hectares and has destroyed 157 homes and another 123 structures. QFES regularly and proudly participates in international deployments and has developed strong and mutual supportive relationships with partner agencies across the globe. A combined US and Canadian deployment debrief will be held in the coming weeks to consolidate the experience and knowledge learned from the response efforts.

I want to put on the record my admiration for the efforts of all of our QFES staff and volunteers, who have been kept busy in Queensland this bushfire season. I would like to make special mention of the bravery of QFES Brisbane Region Station Officer Brian Lemke, who was honoured this week by the Governor of Queensland, the Hon. Paul de Jersey. Station Officer Lemke received his commendation for brave conduct for his efforts in working with a woman who crews feared was going to jump from a shopping complex roof at North Lakes on the morning of 6 February 2015.

Station Officer Lemke volunteered to approach the woman but, after he climbed onto the roof and offered to help her down, she suddenly refused his requests and began to lean forward. Without hesitation, and despite the risk of falling, Station Officer Lemke grabbed the woman and pulled her back onto the roof. He held her until other emergency service personnel arrived and moved her away from the edge. Station Officer Brian Lemke is yet another tremendous ambassador for the world-class service afforded to all Queenslanders by our dedicated QFES personnel.

National Biodiversity Month

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.10 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on National Biodiversity Month, which is held in September each year and promotes the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity within Queensland and Australia. This government is committed to ensuring the long-term survival of our unique wildlife and ecosystems throughout Queensland through a broad range of programs.

Last November, we celebrated 50 years of turtle research at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre under the leadership of Dr Col Limpus. The continuous data collection for a single threatened species, the loggerhead turtle, is a unique and outstanding achievement recognised by the scientific community worldwide and contributes greatly to management actions that have dramatically reduced the decline and supported the recovery of marine turtle populations.

The Department of Environment and Science is also working with the Wet Tropics Management Authority, local councils, community and NRM groups, and traditional owners to preserve and protect the unique values within the Wet Tropics World Heritage area—an ancient ecosystem that is ranked second among World Heritage sites for its irreplaceable endemic, rare and threatened species. I have been told that there is more biodiversity in one square kilometre of the Daintree than there is in the whole of North America. That is how incredible our biodiversity is in this state.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, along with traditional owners and our Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, are maintaining the amazing diversity of plants, animals and ecosystems found in Queensland's national parks. Many private landholders are also playing a vital role in protecting the state's biodiversity through the Nature Refuges Program.

During National Biodiversity Month, I am also reminded that the Palaszczuk government's nation-leading vegetation management laws will do so much to protect the essential terrestrial habitat of species such as the koala and also the Great Barrier Reef and its amazing marine life and ecosystem. Shamefully, as we have seen proven here, those opposite would tear up legislation and regulation that protects rare plants and ecosystems in Queensland.

National Biodiversity Month reminds us to stop to appreciate the different plants, animals and microorganisms that are unique to Queensland and the terrestrial marine and freshwater ecosystems of which they are a part.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 18 September 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

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

 Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 28 February 2019 on the opportunities to create jobs across Queensland, in particular regional Queensland, and promote existing supply chain capability from the establishment of an Australian space industry.

In undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider:

- (a) the Australian government's establishment of an Australian Space Agency on 1 July 2018;
- (b) the space supply chain, which has been broadly categorised as space systems (including communication satellites), ground systems, applications and ancillary services, and end use (e.g. improved telecommunications, mapping and emergency management);
- (c) the review of space supply chain capability released by the Australian government prior to the agency being announced;
- (d) Queensland's areas of competitive advantage in relation to identified capability which, at a high level, have been identified as communications, earth observations, position, navigation and timing; and
- (e) areas of regional Queensland where supply chain capability exists, particularly in areas of competitive advantage.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: To infinity and beyond.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Parking Fine

 Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.15 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I tabled letters between Minister Jones and Barry Cuttler, a Sunshine Coast pensioner who volunteered at the Commonwealth Games. Because of a lack of parking and in order to get to his shift on time, Barry copped a \$100 parking ticket. Will the Premier explain why she is so out of touch that she will spend \$81,000 on luxury accommodation yet the government will not help Barry with his \$100 parking fine?

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 May 2018, from the Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Mr Don Wilson, to Mr Barry Cuttler regarding infringement notice [1307].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am happy to look into that matter. From the government's point of view, I thank all the thousands of volunteers for the outstanding work that they did for the Commonwealth Games. I also want to thank the chair for his work. He has finished up and the board will also be winding up towards the end of the year.

The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games has clearly put Queensland on the map internationally. As part of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, we ran a comprehensive trade program as well, engaging with hundreds of stakeholders, different countries and investors coming to Queensland. In relation to the Commonwealth Games, it is also the start of the Gold Coast's golden age. Recently, I was on the Gold Coast turning the sod on a brand-new Dorsett Hotel, which is going to be constructed as a direct legacy of the Commonwealth Games.

As part of those Commonwealth Games, we built the infrastructure that the Gold Coast really needed. When those opposite failed to come to the party with the Gold Coast light rail—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier. Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under standing orders for your unnecessary interjections. I remind all members of my statement this morning regarding making your comments through the chair and remembering to speak to members by calling them by their correct titles.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government stepped in and built the second stage of the light rail, which enabled people to travel from Brisbane all the way down to the Gold Coast. I notice that the member for Southport was more than happy to jump on the light rail and take a selfie with me and Malcolm Turnbull. I remember that very clearly. The athletes village is going to be transformed into the health and knowledge precinct of the Gold Coast—a very important legacy of the Commonwealth Games.

We on this side of the House backed the Commonwealth Games. In fact, some of the ministers who now serve in my government also sat around the cabinet table when we made that decision—unlike those opposite who sought legal advice to get out of the Commonwealth Games. They were not standing up for the Gold Coast. They were not backing in the Gold Coast. They did not want the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Rather than criticising the Commonwealth Games, I note that the Leader of the Opposition was there and the shadow minister was there. Many of the members opposite attended events. They were happy to sit there smiling, taking photos, praising the games, then they come in here and attack the Commonwealth Games afterwards. Shame on you—an absolute disgrace!

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Shame on the LNP! The members opposite went along to the events, got their selfies, and then they come in here and criticise. We will back the Gold Coast. We have a great member for Gaven on the Gold Coast. She is getting out and about going to everything that—

(Time expired)

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members. Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, I have called for silence. You are warned under standing orders.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need any commentary, Leader of the Opposition.

Adani

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is also to the Premier. The Palaszczuk government has finally decided to prosecute Adani for pollution, but when the Premier was the transport minister in 2011 Labor sold off Abbot Point coal terminal.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, the question will be heard in silence. Please start your question again, Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will. My second question without notice is to the Premier. The Palaszczuk government has finally decided to prosecute Adani for pollution, but when the Premier was the transport minister in 2011 Labor decided to sell off Abbot Point coal terminal to the Adani group. What is the Premier's response to those who say we would not be in this mess if Labor had not sold off the asset?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will be allowed to answer the question. Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Can I clarify the record in response to the first question? I think the question may have been deliberately misleading. I will write to you, Mr Speaker, on that because we have now looked at the documentation and the fine was not issued by the state government; it was issued by the Gold Coast City Council. We are happy to speak to the mayor about that matter because obviously the LNP do not have a favourable relationship with the mayor. In fact, rumours are that—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have indicated you will be writing to me on the matter. I am happy to receive that correspondence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, the rumour is that the member for Surfers Paradise is looking to become the new mayor of the Gold Coast.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Order!

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Relevance, Mr Speaker. This question was about Adani and the Premier selling off assets.

Mr SPEAKER: I have already dealt with that matter.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Secondly, in relation to the prosecution matter, the Minister for Environment addressed that issue yesterday. As there is a legal matter afoot I will not be commenting on that. Let us be very clear, there is one side of the House that—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms Trad: Have they forgotten Strong Choices?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think so.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I will not tolerate such an outburst. You might feel passionately about an issue. There was no reason for those kinds of interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They seem to forget that the member for Clayfield, who was the Treasurer—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, resume your seat. Member for Maroochydore, I have given three statements this morning about this sort of behaviour in the House. You are warned under standing orders. Members, I will take action today. I will not be putting up with a disorderly House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They seem to forget that the Treasurer then was the member for Clayfield who wanted to sell off all of our power assets in the state. They also seem to forget that the former member for Callide wanted to dump all of the dredge spoil onto the Great Barrier Reef. They seem to forget that. It was my government that took the very clear position that we will not have the dumping of dredge spoil on the Great Barrier Reef. We took that action, not those opposite. They seem to be rewriting history, forgetting that they wanted to sell off our power assets.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The electorate has made their views very clear that they do not like the sale of public assets.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They seem to forget the three years that they sat here with the largest majority that Queensland had ever seen in this state—squandered after one term of arrogance and being out of touch. Next week is the six-year anniversary of the budget of Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, that saw 14,000 public servants cut. There has been no apology. Nothing has been said. We know that the LNP stands for sacking, cutting and selling.

Back to Work Program

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the success of the government's Back to Work program?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. It is always important to talk about our Back to Work program. It is an initiative of my government and one that clearly values people getting into work and getting the jobs that they need to provide food on the table and to look after their families. We look forward to seeing the federal parliament getting back to work next week. We still have not had an apology from the Prime Minister about shutting down the parliament. Any other worker would have had their pay docked. It is an absolute embarrassment that they shut down the federal parliament.

I am very pleased to report that our Back to Work program is doing incredibly well. Since it came in, Wide Bay is the second highest area for getting people back to work, the member for Maryborough might be interested to know, with over 2,745 people getting work. I know how important it is to get people into work in regional Queensland. Our whole Back to Work program is an initiative of my government. After we saw the downturn in regional economies, the impact of Clive Palmer and Queensland Nickel, we saw very importantly that we needed to put in initiatives. This is also backing small business. Fundamentally it is about working with employers who recognise that they can get people into work. I can also report in Far North Queensland 2,869 people are back into work; in North Queensland, 2,394; and in Central Queensland, 1,994.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We know at the last election those opposite wanted to scrap Works for Queensland, they wanted to scrap Back to Work and they wanted to scrap Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Since July 2016 Back to Work has helped nearly 16,000 Queenslanders back into work.

As I said, that six-year anniversary is coming up where the LNP sacked 14,000. Our one initiative alone, Back to Work, has seen nearly 16,000 people get back into work. On this side of the House we will always back jobs. While the LNP here and the LNP federally concentrate on themselves, we will concentrate on people because that is what good, decent, hardworking governments do. We are making sure we look after young people, making sure that they get into work; we are looking after long-term unemployed; and we are not forgetting people with a disability. We will make sure that we look after Queenslanders.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Priorities

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. This Labor government is giving \$100,000 of taxpayers' money to help fat dogs lose weight while at the same time schoolkids are being asked to pay for printing paper and chux wipes to use in the classrooms. Will the Premier explain why this government's priorities are barking mad?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Advance Queensland is once again helping to create the new economy in Queensland. Advance Queensland also contributes to jobs. My understanding is that it is an independent panel that makes these recommendations. There are a whole series of different panels and different categories.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am sorry, but you are being interrupted by a member on your own side. Member for Capalaba, you are warned under standing orders. I am not sure who your interactions were with. Does anyone care to own up?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We do not discriminate when it comes to the awarding of grants because an expert panel works at arm's length. I am advised that—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier. I would like to hear her response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that SwarmFarm Robotics was also a recipient of one of those grants. I understand one of the directors may be Campbell Newman. In fact, I may have been contacted by the former premier, who asked me to open an event for him. There we go. In a spirit of bipartisanship, I might even attend because he backs Advance Queensland. I do not know who Zach Mander is, but apparently he was also awarded a grant.

Ms Jones: He did. It's his son.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Is that your son?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, please resume your seat. Members, again comments are being directed at other members across the chamber and it will not be tolerated. I will start issuing mass warnings if it continues. As I said yesterday, that is when matters in this House become personal.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, we do not discriminate and I am really glad that the member for Everton asked this question, because his son has been a direct recipient of our non-discriminatory policy.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Which government delivers record budgets for education in this state? We do! Labor governments deliver for education, unlike those opposite.

Ms Trad: Every single prep class has a teacher aide.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; we made prep compulsory and every prep class has a teacher aide. We will back Queenslanders who have ideas to create jobs and grow the economy.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing orders. You failed on two fronts then. Member for Kawana and member for Glass House, because of your repeated interjections you are warned under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our start-ups, our precincts and our investment in Fortitude Valley have meant that Queensland has overtaken Victoria as the second strongest state in Australia for start-ups. That has happened in three years under my government as we focus on Advance Queensland and creating jobs and skills for the future. We will continue to back Queenslanders, even if they are the sons and daughters of those opposite.

(Time expired)

Women on Boards

Mrs GILBERT: My question is also to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the government's initiatives to increase the number of women on boards and any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for that question. Of course, recently we held our Women on Boards event. By 2020 we want to see 50 per cent of board membership made up of women. Already we are at around the 46 or 47 per cent mark. I note that a number of women from the electorate of the member for Mackay viewed our Women on Boards event from Mackay. I am pleased to announce that we will be rolling out our Women on Boards initiative across regional Queensland with the next event to be held in Toowoomba, when we govern from that city later this month. In contrast, we need only look at the LNP. This morning on the radio, we heard Julie Bishop, the former foreign affairs minister—

Ms Trad: A former deputy leader.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—talking about the types of bullying and intimidation that is happening in Canberra and that is stopping women from joining the LNP.

I note that the member for Maroochydore recently put up a post for International Women's Day. She was standing next to a portrait of the first female parliamentarian, Irene Longman, who was elected in 1929. Mrs Longman was a conservative member of parliament. We thought we might do a little bit of homework. Mrs Longman was elected in 1929. Presently, there are six female members sitting on the LNP side of this House. That is very good; it is one woman every 17.8 years. That is their record. I wondered how long it would take the LNP members to get to 50 per cent female representation. What year would we be looking at? We did the maths. In the year 2338, we might get 50 per cent female representation in the LNP. Forget Deb 2020; it is LNP 2338. They will add one woman every 18 years. That is their record.

Is it any wonder that Julie Bishop is now speaking about a lack of willingness in the federal and state LNP to get women involved in the party? There is no starker contrast than when we look at this side of the House where 50 per cent of our cabinet are women and nearly 50 per cent of the caucus are women. That is what equality is all about, unlike the opposite side where six LNP members are women. Let us wait for 2338 to see them reach that target of 50 per cent of women in the LNP, and good luck to them.

Serious and Organised Crime

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Premier. Recently, New South Wales Labor's deputy opposition leader said that the LNP government's anti-gang laws had been so effective that they had driven outlaw gangs across the border into New South Wales. Will the Premier now scrap her soft laws, which have seen criminal gangs back in business, putting community safety at risk in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I understand that the member may be misquoting. We will be writing to the Speaker about that as well. I understand that is not exactly what was said.

In relation to serious organised crime, we have the toughest laws in Australia. They are working. We have put in additional police. The laws are working and will continue. As I have said, I have also raised this at COAG to put on the national agenda having nationally consistent laws when it comes to tackling outlaw motorcycle gangs. In Queensland, our laws are working and they are getting results.

I think that the member may have been selectively misquoting. We will check those facts and we may write to you, Mr Speaker.

Economic Growth, Jobs

Mr KING: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise the House how the state government is supporting economic growth and job creation? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative policies?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for the question. I know that he is deeply interested in economic growth and what we are doing to promote it in Queensland, because he understands that economic growth equals jobs; it means decent, secure jobs and decent jobs with decent wages mean a shared prosperity in our economy. That stands in stark contrast with the fact that those opposite are yet to ask an economic question, although I might be misleading the House: yesterday, the member for Surfers Paradise asked an economic question of the Premier, but we are yet to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition ask me a question about the economy.

We are very focused on driving the economy, because we are absolutely committed to seeing our economy grow and diversify, and jobs created across the length and breadth of our state. The recent state final demand figures released by the ABS show that our economic plan is working. Private final demand is up, like public final demand. Household consumption is up. Private investment is up. Business investment is up. Engineering construction is up a whopping 24.2 per cent. The figure for machinery and equipment is up.

We are focused on investment in industry attraction, growing the economy, infrastructure, delivering economic productivity enhancing infrastructure for our state and, importantly, delivering the front-line services that Queenslanders expect from their government. We have come a long way since 2015 when the LNP were in government. I put on the record that the last two quarters of state final demand under the LNP saw our state economy contract. That is right; negative growth was recorded for the LNP for the last two quarters they were in government.

We have done the heavy lifting in terms of growing our economy, diversifying our economy and creating the jobs that Queenslanders need. We are yet to hear a plan from those opposite—a plan that demonstrates that they are committed to Queenslanders: Queenslanders getting a job, Queenslanders getting the health services they need, Queenslanders getting the education that their children deserve. We are yet to hear a plan from them.

We know that they went to the last election promising an infrastructure spend, but they did not detail where the money was coming from. They went to the last election promising to scrap the job-generating programs that the Premier outlined earlier—Works for Queensland, Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Queenslanders can rely on this side of the parliament to deliver the economic growth and jobs they deserve.

(Time expired)

Serious and Organised Crime

Mr CRANDON: My question is to the Premier. When Labor scrapped the LNP's tough antigang laws the Premier said, 'I want more convictions not less—something we haven't seen under the LNP laws.' In light of Labor's laws having had only one successful prosecution and no convictions after hundreds of warnings, does the Premier now accept that Labor's soft laws and Labor's cut to front-line police are leaving Gold Coasters at risk from criminal gangs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Coomera for the question. I think his facts are a bit wrong. Once again we will—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Premier. What is your point of order? The Premier has barely started answering the question.

Mr CRANDON: She has advised that my facts are wrong. My facts are not wrong. Some 886—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. Unless you are taking personal offence to what is being said you cannot debate the matter.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that as of 31 July 2018 some 19 people have been charged with 22 offences under the Summary Offences Act provision 'Wearing or carrying prohibited item in a public place'. Ten people have been charged with 10 offences under section 10C(2) of the Summary Offences Act—being in or on a vehicle wearing a prohibited item. As of 31 July some 47 people have been charged with the circumstance of aggravation. The majority of these related to criminal syndicates trafficking in dangerous drugs. Some 23 of these people have been charged.

We implemented these laws. The police are following the legislation. We have given them the extra resources to do the work. They are having the effect. This was one area that those opposite were never able to do anything about. Their answer was to put people into pink jumpsuits, if members remember. That was the answer of the member for Kawana, the attorney-general of the day.

We have always valued our police. We have given them the pay they need and the resources they require to do their job. We have rolled out body worn cameras. I am advised by the Attorney-General that there have also been 17 convictions for the outlaw motorcycle gang colours offence and one conviction for the consorting offence.

There we are. I think the member for Coomera may want to get his facts right before he comes in here and asks a potentially deliberately misleading question.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the comments made by the Premier in relation to my—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Training and Skills Development, you are warned under the standing orders. I want to hear the point of order.

Mr CRANDON: I take personal offence to the comments made by the Premier in relation to my fact checking. I would ask that she retract them.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, will you withdraw?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Land Forces 2018

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Member. Some colleagues on this side of the House are making it difficult for me to hear your question. I will ask you to start your question again. It will be heard in silence.

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on Queensland's presence at the Land Forces 2018 event? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches to promoting defence industries?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. That is for not being silent while a question is being asked.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question and for his support of defence industries. Today Queensland concludes our presence at the Land Forces 2018 conference in Adelaide. Many attendees recognise the great commitment of the Palaszczuk Labor government to growing our defence industries, including the new federal defence industries minister, Steve Ciobo. In fact, he likes the Palaszczuk government so much he asked to attend the Queensland government breakfast we hosted at the conference. Of course, I said yes because I want more defence jobs in Queensland.

Not being granted a pair by the opposition stopped me from going to the conference and supporting Queensland companies like Buchanan Advanced Composites from the electorate of Toowoomba North, Praesidium Global from the electorate of Caloundra and Craig International Ballistics from the electorate of Bonney. The silly part of all of this is that the member for Burleigh has not been here all week. He is on holidays.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. There is convention in this place about not referencing the absence or otherwise of a member.

Mr Dick: It is a matter of public knowledge.

Mr SPEAKER: Be that as it may, Minister for State Development, there is a convention which is adhered to of not talking about a member's absence from the chamber.

Mr DICK: When I joined the parliament, the convention was to attend parliament to represent your community. The LNP could have had a week off without me. They could not even make that decision.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect, the minister's comments, post you making your ruling, reflect the same thing. He made a similar comment in relation to a member not being present. I ask that he be directed that it is inappropriate in these circumstances, using any language.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear those comments as you heard them. If you feel there is a concerning issue you are welcome to bring the matter up with me at a later time.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. In relation to what we have heard referred to as a convention, I think the reference is to the standing order that states that it is not appropriate to reflect on a member's absence from the chamber. That is a standing order that refers to absence from the chamber at the time of the reflection. I note that the public records, including the *Hansard*, note the absence of the member for Burleigh over the last couple of days. That is a matter of public record. I ask you to consider that in any of your rulings.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. It is convention and a Speaker's ruling and not the standing orders which relate to the matter you are referring to. I am deeming that that is reflecting on the member's absence from the chamber. I ask the Minister for State Development to continue his contribution if he has anything further to add.

Mr DICK: The point is that if they had given me a pair they could have had a week off without me. While the strategic genius of the member of Kawana is hard to top, it is only topped by one person—that is the person who put him into that job and that is the Leader of the Opposition.

This is the Leader of the Opposition who attacked the government on women yesterday. Her deputy was so outraged by the excessive number of women on the Queensland Parole Board. Do members remember that? This is a leader who attacked the government on health care yesterday when she so proudly sat around the CBRC table, on her own admission, and cut 4,000 jobs from the health system and closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre, with catastrophic consequences.

It is the same old LNP—a leader who contracts out social policy to the member for Cleveland, economic policy to the member for Burleigh, parliamentary tactics to the genius member for Kawana, federal leadership choices to Gary Spence and women's policy to the member for Everton. This is an opposition front bench who cannot be bothered doing their work or even turning up and, of course, it is a leader who cannot lead. It is the same old LNP government. Under the member for Nanango, the mob opposite are not even fit to be an opposition.

Adani

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. Almost 18 months after Cyclone Debbie and just days before the reported deadline to act, the government has decided to prosecute Adani. Does the minister deny that the decision to prosecute was made in response to protest pressure?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for his question. It must be very difficult to see a process in place that is actually doing what it is supposed to do without political interference. It must be a difficult concept for the member for Broadwater. Let's be clear: the decision is based on the best available legal advice—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Broadwater, you have asked the question. I would like to hear the answer. I appreciate there may be some provocation. However, you are continuing to refer directly to that member across the chamber.

Ms ENOCH: What we saw yesterday was the Department of Environment and Science, as the regulator, make a decision based on the best available legal advice and the best available scientific advice. That decision was made without political interference because that is the way we protect our environmental protection laws in this state. Unlike the LNP and the Greens, we will not put our laws at risk by having politicians say who gets prosecuted. We saw yesterday the Department of Environment and Science, as the regulator, make this decision within the time frame allocated. On this side of the House, we will protect our environmental laws by ensuring that the regulator is able to do its job.

Gold Coast, Public Transport

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the advantages of different public transport modes on the Gold Coast and what the Palaszczuk government is doing to improve them further?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for her question. The Gold Coast light rail was a star performer at the Commonwealth Games, carrying 1.1 million people and being a permanent legacy for residents on the Gold Coast, linking Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 1 with the heavy rail and the bus interchange at Helensvale. That has been of huge benefit to the local residents. There has been a 33 per cent increase in patronage on the Gold Coast light rail since stage 2 opened—an outstanding star performer.

We are now getting on with the business case, in conjunction with the city council, to look at Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3. We need to see more infrastructure, particularly transport infrastructure, going into the Gold Coast as the population grows in our second largest city. I was very interested to read *Hansard* the other day where the member for Mermaid Beach gave an impassioned speech. I was very interested to hear his impassioned plea on behalf of the local bus network, Mr Deputy Speaker—something I have never heard him speak of before.

Mr SPEAKER: It is 'Mr Speaker', Minister.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I was very interested to read his comments about defending—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need any assistance from you, member for Chatsworth.

Mr BAILEY: He was speaking vehemently in defence of the local bus network on the Gold Coast. He said—

I find it incredibly perplexing that we will be cancelling the now well used public transport medium of buses to make people get off buses and get on the light rail ... What is wrong with a bus trip straight along the highway from Coolangatta to Broadbeach?

...

... the current form of public transport, which provides the bus companies—

the bus companies—

with one of their most regularly used transportation links.

That made we wonder, so I had a look on the Electoral Commission website and, lo and behold, there is a donation to the LNP for \$4,500 from the Surfside bus company on the Gold Coast. I table the documentation.

Tabled paper: Extract from Electoral Commission Queensland web page relating to donor location map [1308].

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: No wonder the opposition are objecting so strongly because the member for Mermaid Beach should have been transparent and honest with the chamber in his defence of buses and his objections about light rail, calling it an infliction, like a disease, on the Gold Coast when in actual fact the local bus company is a donor to the LNP in this state. He did not share that with us. He did not share that with Queenslanders. He did not share that with Gold Coast residents. He has not been honest, open and transparent about his relationship or the LNP's relationship with the Surfside bus company. The LNP needs to start listening to Gold Coast residents, not to their financial political donors. It is a disgraceful effort. They should get behind the light rail instead of trying to stop it.

(Time expired)

CFMEU

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. I refer the minister to recently published footage of three CFMEU thugs forcing their way into the premises of Enco, refusing to submit a site safety induction, using foul language and intimidating workers. This was the first visit by the CFMEU to this business and comes after they recently won a government contract. With the Palaszczuk Labor government's new procurement policy mandating best practice industrial relations as a condition of winning contracts, can all government contractors now inspect a visit from the CFMEU soon?

Mr Hunt: Speaking of donations.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr Lister: It wasn't me.

Mr SPEAKER: It was the member for Nicklin. That is twice I have mistaken you.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, he looks nothing like the member for Southern Downs. Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms Grace: They are all the same, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under the standing orders. I was issuing a ruling.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am not familiar with the particular matter that he refers to. I am also not the industrial relations minister. Questions in respect of exercising right of entry should properly be directed to the Minister for Industrial Relations.

In respect of the Palaszczuk government's decision to put the interests of Queensland workers and Queensland businesses first under our Buy Queensland procurement policy, that is something we are very, very proud of. It is what has delivered record employment growth in this state, particularly in regional Queensland. We made a decision that Queensland businesses should have a preference for Queensland government work to ensure the prosperity of this state. We make no apology for setting a high standard in terms of workplace practices in this state.

It is an expectation of Queensland taxpayers that, if their tax dollars are going to the construction or the purchase of things in our hospitals or schools, the workers providing those services and the workers delivering that construction are safe on the job. We make no apology for supporting businesses that adopt the highest standards in terms of workplace health and safety in this state. We make no apology for making sure that we provide a preference to those companies in Queensland that are Queensland based—that call Queensland home, that employ Queenslanders close to where the goods or services are going to be delivered. This government makes no apology for preferring those businesses that provide secure, decent jobs.

We will not apologise for preparing Queensland businesses that employ people in permanent and secure jobs. We acknowledge that it is a right of workers in this state, just as it is everywhere in this country, to be represented by a trade union. We make no apology for that. The Queensland government Buy Queensland procurement policy is delivering benefits for this state. In fact, since it was announced in Townsville in September last year, 84 per cent of Queensland government contracts have gone to Queensland providers local to that community. That is what is delivering prosperity for this

state. That is what is making sure that people from New South Wales and Victoria are moving to Queensland to invest here, to open their businesses, because they know they have a government that supports small businesses.

We have seen record investment in those businesses in terms of training and skills. We have created an ecosystem where business—small business, big business and medium sized enterprises—can thrive. We make no apology for putting Queenslanders first.

Gold Coast, Tourism Industry

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Many residents of Mount Ommaney love nothing more than a weekend getaway to the Goldie. Will the minister please update the House on the growth of the Gold Coast tourism industry?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Ms JONES: Sorry, I was excited. I am really excited to be here in the parliament talking about the Gold Coast.

Dr Miles: I am glad someone is.

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection.

Dr Miles: You love coming to work.

Ms JONES: I do. I have worked at Maccas; I know that you have to show up. You learn that when you have to start working very young—something not everyone in this parliament would know, but that is another story.

I am really excited to be here talking about the Gold Coast and the growth that we have seen in Gold Coast tourism. International visitor expenditure has grown by 10 per cent in the latest figures, up \$1.3 billion in March. I can confirm that, since the election of the Palaszczuk government, we have seen an increase of half a billion dollars in tourism spend on the Gold Coast under our government's watch. That is because we made a very clear decision that we were going to invest in the Gold Coast.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: I did not hear that.

A government member interjected.

Ms JONES: Well, you could go to Canada. This is due to Labor's record investment in tourism on the Gold Coast. Today I can also confirm that, of the grants I announced yesterday, four of them are going to the Gold Coast to grow Gold Coast events. This includes the 2019 Burleigh Pro Surf Festival, the Gold Coast Film Festival and the 12 Towers Ocean Paddle Race amongst others. Unlike our government, when those opposite sat around the cabinet table—and the Leader of the Opposition proudly talked about how she was there; how she was in the room making the hard decisions on Strong Choices—they cut \$188 million from the tourism budget. That is the record of the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to tourism.

Yesterday as part of our budget we announced that we would invest \$182 million more in tourism to grow jobs across Queensland. Yesterday I said that we had seen a record number of people applying for those grants. Yesterday it was 88; today it is 99. It is going up each and every single day, and they have until Friday to close it.

What has been exposed throughout this week is the failure of the Leader of the Opposition to have any authority over her party. All of the hard decisions have been outsourced to faceless men who run the LNP here in Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition cannot grant a conscience vote, but she can sign holiday forms for her members from parliament. That is the only authority that the Leader of the Opposition has—to give holidays to members of parliament who should be here doing their job.

Katter's Australian Party, Resourcing

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier confirm that the criteria used by her to review and remove KAP resources were based on KAP members acting in a particular way? Will the Premier commit to reviewing the resources of all MPs using the same criteria and remove the resources of any member who does not act in accordance with the Premier's criteria?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to answer the question as you see fit.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for the question. As the member has referred this matter to the CCC—I understand that it is under investigation and consideration—I will not be making any further comment.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Schoolteachers

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister update the House on the status of the government's commitment to employ an additional 3,700 teachers for our Queensland state schools? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. As a past principal, she knows too well how important the number of teachers is in our schools to deliver quality education. The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving Queensland students the best start by delivering on our education commitments. We have already employed an extra 1,000 teachers as part of our four-year commitment to hire an additional 3,700 teachers. Class sizes are improving, as the Premier detailed in the House yesterday, and we are delivering a record education infrastructure budget to keep pace with this employment growth.

There is no confusion about this government's record on teacher employment numbers, but those opposite seem to be a little confused. For more than a decade the Department of Education has used a staffing methodology to determine how many additional teachers a school will need to meet enrolment growth. In 2013—a year where there were more than 9,700 additional students in Queensland schools; a record year in the last nine years; the biggest growth we have seen in one year—there was not one additional teacher employed, not one. We know that teacher numbers need to grow to keep pace with the growth of student enrolments.

The LNP's fiscal repair strategy—a deliberate savings strategy—led to 519 teaching numbers being cut that would have otherwise been employed in 2013. In fact, it resulted in 62 fewer teachers that year with a record number in student growth. They come in here this morning and ask a question about tissues. That is what they come in here about. In anybody's language, this is a fundamental cut in teacher numbers. This strategy led to larger class sizes, additional stress on teachers, increased workloads and fewer teachers in front of our kids.

If it will help put an end to the confusion of those opposite, I am happy to table the brief from my director-general which clearly shows the changes in teacher full-time employee growth between 2010 and 2018.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Briefing Note: the Honourable Grace Grace, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations' [\[1309\]](#).

The deputy director-general at estimates in 2015 said—

As part of the then government's fiscal repair strategy, the department undertook some changes to the staffing allocation methodologies that were in place in the 2012 staffing model for the 2013 school year ... The approximate savings in that particular year were some 519 FTEs ...

We will always stand up for jobs, we will always back jobs, and we will always back growth, not reductions and cuts.

Mr SPEAKER: I want to acknowledge that we have students from Pine Rivers State High School in the gallery at various times during this morning's proceedings. Thank you for visiting the Queensland parliament.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. It has been three days since Minister Bailey was exposed for repeatedly and deliberately disobeying the Premier's direction and using his private email account for ministerial business. Has the Premier taken action to discipline Minister Bailey for his disobedience or is the Premier in office only and not in power?

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Premier, there was no single minister I could see but I could hear multiple people talking during that question. I would ask for silence during questions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have answered this question. As I said earlier in the week, all of these matters were investigated by the CCC. I am not going to enter into any further debate about this matter.

National Partnership Agreements, Trainees and Apprentices

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister outline what the new federal Morrison ministry offers Queensland with regard to national partnerships on training, and will the minister explain how this might impact on Queensland trainees and apprentices?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Cairns for the question. The member for Cairns knows—like all Queenslanders know—that ripping \$70 million out of the Queensland training budget at a time when all the research shows a changing jobs market requires more investment in training and skills is incredibly short-sighted. Let us hope that current PM and former treasurer ScoMo listens to the advocacy of our Premier and rips up their appalling deal for Queensland apprentices and trainees.

After all the chaos we have seen in Canberra over the last few weeks, we have finally seen who our new training minister is. It is Senator Michaelia Cash. After doing such a great job in her previous portfolio, she has been handed the training portfolio. We hope the senator will do a better job than the previous assistant minister for skills, Karen Andrews, a Gold Coaster, a Queensland member who failed to stand up for Queensland apprentices and trainees. We hope the senator from Western Australia will deliver a better deal.

It does not matter what state they come from; the LNP are all the same. This week we have seen the Liberal government in South Australia close seven TAFE campuses—seven. That is thousands of students in South Australia who are left stranded, with nothing from the government about where those students will go. These cuts will hurt regional and rural students in South Australia the hardest. It sounds familiar because this is exactly what the LNP did here in Queensland under Campbell Newman. They sacked thousands of TAFE teachers and they privatised TAFE campuses.

We know that their dislike for TAFE is ideological, but we are hoping Senator Cash might be able to rise above this ideological hatred of TAFE and come out from behind the whiteboard and actually advocate for trainees and apprentices here in Queensland. It is going to take some concentration because she has been a little bit distracted. She has had quite a few questions to answer about her office's involvement in the tip-off to the media about the federal raids. One minute she says she cannot answer questions because there is a police investigation, then she tells the Federal Police she has nothing to add other than what she told the senate committee. Once she gets her facts straight, once she finally escapes from under this AFP investigation and gets across the training brief and is ready to negotiate, we are absolutely ready to get a better deal for Queensland's apprentices and trainees.

Child Protection

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women. On 13 July with the release of the latest child safety quarterly data, the minister claimed, 'Queensland's child safety system continues to show a steady improvement.' However, in the last year alone intakes are up, cases of substantiated harm have increased and the number of children living away from home has also risen. Why did the minister say that the Queensland child safety system is showing steady improvement, when almost every statistic tells an alarmingly different story?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for the question. I continue to feel the love from the opposite side. I have been having a wonderful time this week. I hope my colleagues on this side do not get jealous of me. The reason that I claimed we are showing improvement in our figures is because we are. We have shown the seventh quarter of improvement in child safety figures, and that is something to be celebrated. In fact, in the most urgent cases—that is, the ones that need attention within 24 hours—we have shown our best result since December 2009. That is something to be celebrated. In Child Protection Week, we are showing that we are able to respond to the kids in most urgent need in the best and most effective way since 2009.

We can show that our case loads are now down to 17.4, which means our child safety officers can see more kids. That is despite the increasing complexity of our case loads, with ice and all sorts of other issues like domestic violence impacting on families. That the opposition would even question this is astonishing. This is the party that cut 225 child safety workers out of the system. They announced the Carmody reforms and then, quick as a flash, they cut \$200 million out of their budget. What did they think was going to happen if they took that sort of money and those sorts of resources out of the system? How many kids did they think were going to miss out?

Can I say in Child Protection Week—when we are celebrating our carers, among the many wonderful people who work in this system—that this is the party that cut \$241,000 from Foster Care Queensland. Who even does that? The member for Clayfield complained when we wanted to spend money on increasing the number of foster carers through our foster carer campaign and they did not want it to happen. The LNP cannot come to me in this parliament and complain that we are not doing well in child safety, when they ripped out every capacity we had to do well.

Housing, Indigenous Communities

Ms LUI: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is advocating for social housing tenants in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and whether the minister is aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.15 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 6 September 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 6 September 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill [\[1302\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.15 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[1303\]](#).

Tabled paper: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[1304\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill will amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to modernise waste management in Queensland through the introduction of a waste disposal levy. It also makes minor transitional amendments to the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009.

When the former LNP government recklessly repealed the waste levy in 2012, they made Queensland a cheap place to dump interstate waste and robbed us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry. The short-sighted decision of those opposite made Queensland the only

mainland state in Australia without a waste levy. As a result, since 2012 over 2.3 million tonnes of waste has been trucked across the border into Queensland; international recycling markets have changed drastically and we have been unable to respond with the same agility as other levy states; and our waste and recycling industry has been deprived of investment opportunities.

Even in the face of the LNP's lack of vision, there is a groundswell of community support for alternatives to landfill. Changing how we manage waste in Queensland will create jobs and drive significant economic growth as we make better use of resources and develop new industries. Research indicates that, for every 10,000 tonnes of waste that are sent to landfill, fewer than three jobs are supported, but if that same amount of waste was recycled it would support more than nine jobs.

As I have announced previously, it is the government's intention that the waste levy will come into effect on 4 March 2019. The levy is an avoidable charge, but it will act as a price signal to reduce waste and find more productive and sustainable alternatives than sending waste to landfill. The government has made a clear commitment that, as a result of the waste levy, it will not cost Queenslanders more to put out their wheelie bin. We will deliver on this commitment by offsetting the cost of the levy on municipal solid waste. This can be seen in new section 73D, inserted by clause 6, which makes provision for the state government to provide annual advance payments to local councils which will cover the cost of the waste levy on municipal solid waste.

Municipal solid waste is considered to be leivable waste collected in residential red-top wheelie bins, self-hauled residential waste and kerbside collected bulky waste as well as waste from public litter bins, park maintenance and street sweeping. As a result of this payment, the direct cost of the waste levy will not need to be passed on to households because councils will be provided 105 per cent of the cost of their previous year's tonnage of waste.

In addition, the bill allows for payments in future years to be tied to the way a council uses and describes the advance payments it receives. Importantly, the fact that councils are receiving over and above the cost of their municipal solid waste—105 per cent—means that this is an opportunity for them to invest surplus funds into new and innovative waste strategies. These payments will help councils meet the Local Government Association of Queensland's own target of zero waste to landfill by 2028.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Sorry, Minister. There is far too much audible chatter in the chamber. I have given everyone a few minutes to settle. I expect the minister to be heard in silence. You can please take your conversations outside.

Ms ENOCH: The amendments in the bill will change the way we manage waste in Queensland and this will have both economic and environmental benefits for our state. According to the most recent Australian National Waste Report, Queensland has the second-lowest waste recovery rate of the states and territories. Only the Northern Territory is worse than us. This represents an enormous lost economic opportunity for Queensland. A levy on waste disposal to landfill will provide a long overdue incentive for change.

The 2017 Investigation into the Transport of Waste into Queensland by the Hon. Peter Lyons found that the absence of a waste levy encouraged the movement of waste to Queensland. That is why the first recommendation of the investigation was to implement a general levy on all waste disposed of at landfill. It is important to point out that the levy is, as I have said, an avoidable charge. It will make landfill a less attractive option compared to more productive and job-creating uses of waste.

The waste levy established by this bill is part of a broader suite of initiatives to stimulate jobs and growth in the waste industry. Government and industry are co-designing an overarching waste strategy. This will provide certainty about the state's priorities for waste management, which is crucial to industry's willingness to invest. The levy will also create a funding source for programs to assist local government, business and industry to establish better resource recovery practices, improve overall waste management performance and sustain Queensland's natural environment.

The government has already announced in the 2018-19 budget a \$100 million Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. The waste strategy will help guide further investments, funded by the levy, which will be announced over coming months. In addition, the government is providing \$5 million in grants to councils through the Local Government Levy Ready Grants Program to assist them in undertaking infrastructure works at waste disposal facilities. As a package, the waste levy and associated funding is an important opportunity for local councils to meet their zero waste to landfill targets.

The bill provides for the levy to be paid on waste delivered to waste disposal sites in a levy zone covering local government areas prescribed in regulation. The government has announced that this will cover the more populous local government areas of the state. The rest of the state will comprise the 'non-levy zone'. To ensure that residents in remote parts of the state are not unnecessarily affected, a levy is not payable on waste disposed of in the non-levy zone unless the waste was generated elsewhere, including from interstate. This is to ensure that there is no incentive to transport waste into these areas to avoid the levy.

A number of levy exemptions will be available. For example, waste resulting from declared disasters will be exempt. Registered recycling charities will be able to apply for an exemption for unusable donations. Community groups running events such as Clean Up Australia Day will also be able to apply for an exemption for disposing of the litter and illegally dumped waste they collect.

The government is committed to assisting with the levy transition for existing recovery and recycling entities, including those affected by China's decision earlier this year to tighten import quality standards for recycling. Until 2022, a transitional exemption will be available, on application, for residue waste from sorting mixed recyclables collected, for example, in yellow-top bins. Existing recyclers of other types facing hardship and the Bedminster facility in Cairns could also apply for this exemption. Downstream recyclers will also be able to apply for a discount where this will ensure the establishment or continuation of essential reprocessing and recycling capacity. Operations such as paper and cardboard remanufacturers are making Queensland more self-sufficient when it comes to waste management as well as generating jobs and economic growth for Queenslanders. These discounts will help attract much needed recycling capacity to Queensland.

To facilitate recovery and recycling, waste disposal site operators will be able to establish a resource recovery area at their site where waste can be sorted without paying the levy. Industry operators have advised they prefer the simplicity of this approach over complicated levy rebates which are provided in other states.

The bill requires weighbridges to be used to measure waste at large sites initially and then at all sites in the levy zone within five years except at very small existing sites, which can apply for an exemption from this requirement for up to 10 years under a transitional arrangement. The bill requires site operators to provide the state with monthly data on the amount of waste which has been delivered to the site. These data returns will be used to calculate the levy.

Persons delivering waste to a leviable waste disposal site will need to give the operator of the site sufficient information to enable them to record the data required so that the correct levy can be charged. At least 24 hours notice will be required if a commercial quantity of waste generated in the levy zone or interstate is being delivered to a facility in the non-levy zone.

The bill also includes provisions requiring operators to charge the maximum levy on mixed waste delivered to a landfill site. This will act as a disincentive for people who attempt to hide leviable waste in loads of exempt waste. The amendments in the bill include heavy penalties for levy evasion, including up to two years imprisonment, or twice the amount of levy and interest that the operator was trying to evade. In order to ensure that operators do the right thing, the bill will also provide for the maximum penalty for illegal dumping of waste to be twice the amount of the levy payable for that waste. If the chief executive reasonably believes that the site operator is not complying with their levy payment or data supply obligations, the chief executive will be able to require the monitoring of onsite movement of waste by closed-circuit television or another method.

The government will report annually on the operation of the levy, and the bill will also require a review of the efficacy of the levy within three years of its commencement. The government has also listened to feedback from local councils, and the bill therefore makes minor amendments to the City of Brisbane Act and the Local Government Act to allow local governments to amend, by resolution, charges for commercial waste management in the 2018-19 financial year. I also table a consultation draft of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2018.

Tabled paper: Consultation draft Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2018 [1305].

The amendment in the draft regulation will support the amendments in the bill. The draft regulation includes the proposed levy rates, which will increase by \$5 on 1 January each year until 2022. It also includes application assessment criteria and fees for levy exemptions and for a 50 per cent discount on recycling residue waste as well as the formula for calculating the annual advance payment to local governments to ensure the levy has no direct impact on households. I am releasing

this consultation draft now so that the parliament, the waste and recycling industry, councils and the community can consider the full package of proposed amendments to legislation to implement the waste levy. Information about consultation will be provided on the Department of Environment and Science's website.

Since March this year, when the government announced our intention to accept the recommendation of the Lyons report and introduce a waste levy to underpin our waste strategy, we have been undertaking comprehensive consultation with a range of stakeholders to ensure we hear everyone's voices. I look forward to continuing consultation as the bill progresses through parliament, and as the regulations are discussed.

Queenslanders are increasingly conscious of waste as an economic and environmental issue. This bill delivers a key enabler of change. The waste levy will provide an incentive for people to reduce the waste they create and find more productive and job-creating uses for their waste. Importantly, the bill also ensures that it will not cost Queenslanders any more to put out their wheelie bin. It is not hard to see the long-term economic and environmental benefits that this levy will bring to Queensland. Through the introduction of a waste levy and a new waste strategy, we can work towards a more sustainable future for generations of Queenslanders to come. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.29 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 5 September (see p. 2348).

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Miller, I will take this opportunity to welcome to the House this morning students from the Bouldercombe State School, which is in the electorate of Stephen Andrew, the member for Mirani.

I will read out the list of warnings for this morning: the member for Toowoomba South, the member for Cooper, the member for Maroochydore, the member for Capalaba, the member for Kawana, the member for Everton, the member for Glass House, the member for Waterford, the member for Nanango, the member for Nicklin and the member for McConnel.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.31 am), continuing: This has been a government of social reform. We believe in acting on climate change. We believe in keeping the 'great' in the Great Barrier Reef through renewable energy, electric vehicles and reducing emissions. We are getting ready for the wave of technological change that is coming.

After the previous LNP government did nothing, we acted on the tow truck sharks and passed legislation. This government has been pro jobs, pro environment, pro Barrier Reef, pro social reform, pro infrastructure, pro education and pro health because we have had strong leadership from the Premier and Deputy Premier. Fifty per cent of our cabinet and party room are women, which is reflective of the population. I am very proud to be in a government that reflects our community in that way. We have been a balanced government at a time when women in the Liberal Party are losing preselection to the federal parliament.

We have also been a government that is keen on dealing with the massive disruptions that are happening in various markets. We have seen a massive explosion in information technology capacity through supercomputing and the cloud. We are seeing massive changes in energy through

technological change. Autonomous vehicles are developing very rapidly. You have to be interested in technology if you are serious about the economy. This government has done that and it continues to do that. I am very proud to play a role in that.

One thing you do not do is let extremists in the tent if you are serious about the economy and jobs. One of the great failures of the opposition was to flirt with One Nation at the last election. Queenslanders do not respect weak leadership, and that is what we got from those opposite. I acknowledge the defeat of the member for Hinchinbrook, who paid the price for flirting with One Nation. Queenslanders did not back the weak leadership they were getting from the member for Clayfield. I note that the member for Clayfield melted down three times last week on MF radio and morning TV as pressure mounted about flirting with those extremists, One Nation. That is weak leadership. All they got from Labor was strong leadership on the economy, jobs and keeping that sort of thing out. The people of Queensland backed us for it.

We also have the Marine Infrastructure Fund. With so much coastline in Queensland, boat ramps and marine infrastructure are very important. We have been happy to play a role in that. Since then we have launched the War on Wrecks task force with the member for Redlands as the chair. I look forward to working with her to get those environmental eyesores and threats out of our waterways right up the coast. I am very proud of the rail trail program that I brought in last year. The rail trail presents many opportunities for redundant rail lines right up the coast, which I think is a tremendous economic opportunity for this state.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, your repeated interjections are not being taken.

Mr BAILEY: All we get from the opposition is rhyming, not policy. It is quite juvenile.

We have also acted on road safety. We have introduced double demerit points for repeated mobile phone use while driving, motorcycle license reform and our Co-Lab Youth Innovation Challenge, where young people design road safety campaigns for young people. It has had more than eight million hits on the web. We have been tough on speeding and we will continue to be tough on speeding. You cannot be serious about reducing the road toll if you go weak on speeding enforcement. That is the type of weak leadership we get from the member for Nanango, who wants to go back and loosen up on speeding enforcement. That would mean more crashes, more people injured and more fatalities. It is a pathetic piece of leadership from those opposite. They should be working in a bipartisan manner to increase road safety across Queensland roads.

That includes managed motorways technology. We have seen a reduction in rear-end crashes of 50 per cent on the Bruce Highway coming into Brisbane as a result of that. There has been a reduction in the peak hour by half, and we have seen hospitalisations fall by more than half because we use good technology for road safety outcomes. During the Commonwealth Games the traffic plan was very, very successfully executed despite the doomsaying of those opposite, who were embarrassed to see their predictions did not come true. Because they did not develop any policy, they had no idea what they were talking about. We delivered a very successful traffic plan.

I will turn to a number of local issues I would like to cover. The veloway project is a fantastic project for the south side of Brisbane. This dedicated separated cycleway all the way into the CBD will encourage people to get out of their cars and onto their cycles to commute. The section that was opened in December last year from Buranda to Tarragindi saves about 10 minutes and has created huge benefits. It is much safer because you avoid major streets like Juliet Street and Cornwall Street. We will complete the next section at Tarragindi and there will be bridges over the notorious Marshall Road intersection, Gaza Road off-ramp and the road underneath to the Holland Park West busway.

I am very proud of that project. It will help ease bus congestion, and that means a healthier community. We have to treat cycling infrastructure as an important part of our transport network and not as gold plating, as those opposite would have us think. I look forward to that being completed towards the end of next year. I know that Tarragindi, Holland Park West and other communities beyond in the electorates of the member for Toohey, the member for Mansfield and the member for Greenslopes will welcome this project enormously.

I want to make a few comments in support of Mojgan Shamsalipoor, a Yeronga State High School graduate who has gone through an incredibly difficult process attempting to gain residency in Australia. In terms of a decision, Mojgan has been continually put back by federal minister Dutton. She is much

loved in the community. She has been here for many, many years and is married to an Australian resident, yet she has been treated extremely shabbily and poorly by Peter Dutton and the federal government.

We have seen that if you are an au pair—a nanny—and you know somebody who knows somebody in the federal LNP government, you get waived through. That is a disgrace. It shows preferential treatment by the federal LNP government. They do not care about people's welfare. Mojgan Shamsalipoor would make an enormous contribution to this community—she already does—and they should give people who need help and assistance the approvals they need to formally become part of our community when they already are. The au pair scandal around Peter Dutton shows how partial and unfair the federal government is on these matters.

We are investing heavily in addressing traffic issues and in transport on the south side. We are delivering the Ipswich Motorway upgrade. We have upgraded the Graceville station. We are developing plans for the Fairfield station upgrade. We are delivering Cross River Rail, which will benefit every rail station in my electorate of Miller. We want to see action from the Brisbane City Council on a second bridge over the Brisbane River at the location of Walter Taylor Bridge.

The Brisbane City Council does nothing about traffic and congestion on the south side, particularly in Graceville, Chelmer and Sherwood. It needs to start listening to the community instead of ignoring it. Its only contribution has been to increase density and traffic at Sherwood without investing in transport infrastructure.

The Palaszczuk government is taking action at Sumners Road and is undertaking the planning necessary to build another bridge at Centenary. I know that matter is dear to your heart, Madam Deputy Speaker Pugh. We are doing the heavy lifting. The LNP and City Hall are doing absolutely nothing.

Mr Minnikin: BCC is building Brisbane Metro.

Mr BAILEY: The Metro will be of no benefit to this side of the city. The member for Chatsworth has no idea what he is talking about.

I absolutely support a 40-kilometre-per-hour zone on Ipswich Road alongside Annerley shopping centre. This safety measure would be tremendous for people in this area of high pedestrian and traffic use. I support the campaign of the school kids and parents at Junction Park State School for a 40-kilometre-per-hour zone. We saw on TV last week that the Brisbane City Council did not even realise it was their road. How embarrassing! Ipswich Road has been a BCC controlled road for over a decade. Brisbane City Council needs to start listening to and connecting with the community. I support my Annerley community very strongly in that regard.

It is an honour to be a member of this place. I will always give my 100 per cent commitment to be part of this very in-touch, delivering Labor government. I look forward to working throughout the rest of the term.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.41 am): It is a great privilege to be re-elected the member for Everton. This is my third term as my community's state representative. My passion and my enthusiasm for my electorate are undiminished.

The last electoral redistribution saw the boundaries of my electorate change. Unfortunately, I lost a component of Keperra and Mitchelton. I will miss my formal association with many schools and community groups in the area I lost: St William's Catholic school, Mitchelton Special School, the YWAM base at Mitchelton and the business precinct of Blackwood Street. I have made many good friendships. Those friendships will be maintained. People will still see me around the traps as all of those areas are on the boundary of my new electorate.

The losses of geographical area were compensated by picking up more of Gaythorne, the 'avenues' in Enoggera, Arlington estate in Arana Hills, Bunya Riverside, the southern section of Warner and a patch of Brendale. I am delighted to take in these new areas. I have affiliation with all of these areas. I lived as a young man in a share house at Wattle Street, Enoggera. I played golf and was a member of Wantima golf club for 10 years. I have driven many golf balls from the tee at the 11th hole into the Brendale housing estate. I apologise to anyone who was unfortunate enough to be having a barbecue at the time! As a teenager I rode my motorbike through the forests that are now Arlington and Bunya Riverside estates. It is great to represent these new patches.

I love representing my community. I grew up in it and my whole life has been invested in it. My family moved into the new estate of Arana Hills in 1963. I went to school at Grovely State School and Mitchelton High, both on the boundaries of my old electorate. I played football at West Arana Hills, where unfortunately my talent as a player was never identified, so I became a Rugby League referee and started refereeing there.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will not take any of those interjections! As a schoolboy I delivered milk to homes in Arana Hills. I picked lettuce at a farm in Everton Hills. I helped my mum deliver mail in Everton Hills when she was a mail contractor and that service was warranted. I pumped petrol at a service station on Blackwood Street at Mitchelton. It was then Blackwood Road, as the locals liked to call it. When I was at school I worked as a yardman at the Brook Hotel on a Saturday morning. I had lots of jobs around my area.

As I said, I have lived in my district all of my life. Two of my children have now bought houses in the electorate, which brings me an extra four votes at least—so they tell me. My mum lives at the Aveo retirement village at Albany Creek and my dad is buried in the cemetery across the road. I love my community, and I want it to be the best place in Australia to live, work and play.

During the last term the LNP was in opposition. That does provide different challenges. Despite not being in charge of expenditure, I am proud of some of the things I and my team managed to achieve. We now have the Youngcare facility at Albany Creek. The land was donated by the former LNP government when I was the minister for housing. It is just such a wonderful facility to have in our community. It is home to eight residents who, if they were not in this facility, would otherwise be in an old people's home. Youngcare has been absolutely embraced by our local community. There is no greater example of that than the fundraising effort, which I instigated and which was helped by the local business community, to raise money for a motor vehicle to transport the residents around. That is something they truly appreciate. It is a great facility.

Recently we saw the installation of traffic lights at Explorer Drive. This has greatly improved safety for the older residents at Aveo. There have been massive upgrades to Albany Creek State High School and Everton Park State High School. Tens of thousands of dollars in grants have gone to sporting and community clubs. We have managed to get grant funding from the state government and Brisbane City Council for an artificial pitch for Mitchelton Football Club. We have been lobbying for that for the past four years.

I mention the notorious intersection outside my office of South Pine Road and Stafford Road. During the election campaign we made a commitment to begin stage 1—a \$28 million bypass around the back of Woolworths. Lo and behold, two hours later I looked out the window and saw the Labor representative making the same announcement—very coincidental! It was good news for the community because it meant that, no matter who was elected, this upgrade would take place. We are waiting for that to take place. We will be keeping the government accountable, to make sure it keeps its promise.

There is still plenty to do at that intersection. We need not just stage 1; we need a full upgrade. That would require a significant investment of money—probably another \$100 million. This intersection is the bottleneck for my community. Everybody avoids it. It really is quite bad. We need an upgrade there and we are calling on the government to provide that.

As I mentioned last night, the biggest issue in my electorate and in many electorates of Brisbane is overdevelopment. This issue particularly affects electorates such as mine on the fringe of Brisbane where there have been acreage blocks and farmlets. People have invested in these areas because they offer the style of living they have wanted. This is a major issue. People are usually quite okay with development, but it needs to be appropriate, to be sustainable and to have appropriate infrastructure to support it.

As I have already mentioned a few times in this House, we have the Warner Investigation Area at Warner and Eatons Hill; we have the Albany Creek connection road between Greensill Road and Leitchs Road; and we have the Murphy's Paddock development in the Brisbane City Council area where Mirvac wants to put in 130-odd units. This is in itself not wrong, but there are issues of accessibility. We believe that residents should have access to the main road, not go through the back streets. This is an iconic block of land, which until about 18 months ago had cows on it—only 15 minutes from the city. We will continue to fight for those things in my electorate.

I want to thank my electorate office staff. In the last term I had April and Peter at the beginning of the term. They then moved on to bigger and better things. April is now a professional kickboxer, and she is not bad either. You do not muck around with April! She was fantastic. I now have Judy. Judy is the head of the electorate office and has done a wonderful job and will continue to do that. I had Lisa for a short time and Erin as well, but Erin has just left us as she is going on to hopefully practise her law degree.

Like all of us, there are many volunteers whom we need to thank. There are too many to thank from the last election campaign, but I want to thank my branch chair, Alex; my secretary, Paul; and my treasurer, Sandy, who did lots and lots of work to help me get re-elected. Of course there is Bruce—Bruce-ster—who owns the Jinker Track corner. There is a race every election between Bruce and members of the Labor Party to get on that corner. It was not unusual for me to get a text at 3.30 in the morning from Bruce saying, 'I beat them.'

Bruce is a beauty. In fact, people from the Labor Party did beat us there one night. That is because they started on Friday afternoon and slept there for the weekend and I said to Bruce, 'Mate, at least you've wasted four or five people on one spot.' I do not know what we would do without Bruce. He is a professional campaigner. Thanks also to Meg and Ian, Annette and Cameron. There are stacks of other names, but unfortunately I cannot name them all.

I thank my family—my four children and their partners and my two beautiful granddaughters. I thank my wife, Gayle, who has patiently supported me over nearly 35 years of marriage. Thank you for your love and support. I could not do it without that support.

Of course the LNP was unsuccessful at the last election, but I want to thank Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, for a fabulous effort. The hard work that he put in as leader of the opposition and the hard work that he put in through the election campaign could not be questioned, so I want to thank Tim for that. I also want to thank him for the mature and graceful way that he has handled the leadership transition. It has been a real credit to him and I hope that Tim stays around for a lot longer yet.

I want to congratulate the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, on being elected as the leader of the LNP parliamentary team. Deb is the real deal. She is intelligent, she is hard working, she is warm and she understands the issues in the bush but at the same time is completely familiar with the challenges in the city. She has raised a family of three beautiful young women. She has had real-world experience. She has worked hard to get where she is today and I am delighted to be her deputy. I will do everything in my power to help her become the next premier of this great state. That is what we on this side of the House are working towards.

I am also delighted to be the shadow Treasurer. Although I am delighted with that role, there is also quite a deal of trepidation in that when we do have a chance to govern we will have to try to clear up the mess that this state will be in at that time.

Mr Janetzki: On track for \$100 million.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. With regard to this debt of \$83 billion that is projected for three years time, who knows what the projection will be when we get into government in 2020. It is a scary thought.

Mr Watts: \$7,000 a minute in interest.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Toowoomba North, you are not in your seat.

Mr Watts: Sorry, but I am acting as the leader of opposition business.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North: yes, \$7,000 a minute—

Mr Watts: Interest only.

Mr MANDER:—in interest only, which is something that is just unforgivable. What we have seen so far is no economic plan from this government. We have seen five new taxes despite receiving over \$1 billion of coal royalties—a bonus that was unexpected. Despite that unexpected bonus and with those five new taxes we will still have \$83 billion worth of debt. Can members work that out? This is from the Treasurer who claims we have an infrastructure crisis, and she is right, but it is interesting that she would say that when in fact she was the previous minister who was responsible for infrastructure. Today we have seen the latest national account figures which say that we are flatlining. The major reason for that is because there has been basically zilch investment in infrastructure.

We are in desperate situations. The CommSec State of the States latest report had Queensland rated fifth. What would the treasurers of the past 20 years say about that when Queensland was the economic powerhouse of the nation yet now we are struggling to stay above Tasmania and South Australia? Those states are economic basket cases, and we have now joined them. Not only that, small and medium sized businesses in this state have the lowest confidence level of any state government in the nation.

There are two reasons why they state they have that low confidence. The first reason is that they are totally burdened by red tape and the second reason—surprise, surprise—is that they are worried about the union influence on this government and the effect it has on them in their small and medium sized businesses. Who is saying that? Is the opposition saying that? No, although we do say it as well, but small and medium sized businesses are saying that.

Mr Watts: We are saying it, but there are others.

Mr MANDER: That is right: we are saying it, but there are other sources as well to prove that this is not simply a partisan argument. It is a statement of fact. We have a lot of work to do when we eventually get back into government in 2020. We are going to have to clean up this mess once again and show that we are the only side of politics—

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Caloundra. It is always the same: Labor governments go out and waste money. Earlier today we heard an example of that—\$100,000 on an app about how dogs lose weight. I could save the government \$100,000—take your dog out for a walk every day! That is \$100,000 saved. Labor's only plan is increased taxes, additional taxes, record unemployment and record debt that our children and grandchildren will have to deal with in the future. It is a high-spending, high-taxing government and it is continuing to put its hands into the pockets of Queensland taxpayers.

The Liberal National Party team wants a secure economic future for our state and an outlook where Queensland's best days are ahead of us. I look forward to serving the constituents of Everton for the rest of this term to 2020.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (11.58 am): I want to start by firstly acknowledging the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we are gathered—the Turrbal peoples north of the Brisbane River and the Yuggera peoples to the south. I acknowledge their elders past and present and acknowledge all who are present today. I want to take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the millions of footprints that have travelled the Dreaming pathways and to pay homage to the ancestors who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years.

I give my warmest congratulations to Cynthia Liu on her election to parliament as the member for Cook—the first female Torres Strait Islander to be elected to the Queensland parliament. I would like to thank my children, James, Katy, Grant and Joe, and my wife, Kerri, for their love and for supporting me in all my endeavours.

My election as the first member for Toohey in the election held in November last year is due in no small way to the combined efforts of many volunteers: the people who worked for me on polling day, made phone calls, manned street stalls, erected street signs, and did the hundreds of other things that may not be visible but are essential to a successful campaign. Those volunteers included Elijah Buol, Annamarie and Ray Newton, Annie Sun and Richard Huang, Trent McTiernan, Jennifer Elvery, Graeme La Macchia, Ashwina Gotame, Lewis Lee, Ben Driscoll, Sasha Marin, Terry Wood, Doreen Awabdy and many others. Although time does not permit me to name all those who assisted, I ask them to please know that I am grateful for all of their hard work and to please forgive me if I have not mentioned them by name.

I wish to thank the electorate staff of my office, John Prescott and Janet Ren, for their hard work for the people of my electorate and for their contribution and assistance to me daily. Janet has recently married Jeff, so has started a new phase of her life. I now have Mandy Awabdy and William Wu helping me in my electorate office. I would also like to thank everyone who donated to my campaign, who attended my functions, who made bids at auctions and bought tickets. Every little bit helped. I would like to thank my campaign committee, which was skilfully led by Jules Campbell. I congratulate Jules on being elected the state secretary of the Labor Party. Jules is a remarkable person and has a very bright future ahead of her. I would also like to thank the support of my union, the AMWU.

I feel very privileged and humbled to have an opportunity to serve the people of Queensland in this second term. I am sincerely grateful that the people of the new electorate of Toohey have put their trust in me to represent them in this place. Under the electoral boundary changes preceding the election, my electorate gained Salisbury, Nathan, part of the Rocklea and the Moorooka suburbs, and the balance of Eight Miles Plains. I lost Archerfield, Willawong, Acacia Ridge, Sunnybank Hills and Runcorn. I will miss the people with whom I had formed relationships through my work in those suburbs and I thank the constituents of those suburbs for the opportunity to have represented them in my last term.

Although many have claimed that the Toohey electorate is named after the beer of the same name it, in fact, takes its name from the Toohey Forest Park. The park was named after an Irishman, James Toohey, who purchased the land in 1872 from the spoils of the Californian gold rush. That land was held by his family for a very long time until Toohey Forest Park was acquired by the Brisbane City Council in 1945.

William J Metcalf recorded the following in the journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland—

Brisbane has two Toohey Streets, a Toohey Road, a Toohey Avenue, Toohey Forest Park and even a Toohey Village. All are named after James Toohey, one of Brisbane's most interesting 19th century pioneer land speculators. The impact of his man, and his descendants, can be seen in much of the suburban design of the inner south side of Brisbane, yet it is a story largely untold.

James Toohey's story is an early story of the success of our past immigrants and their impact on the development of our city and our state. Metcalf also writes that Toohey's story was one of a—

Poor Irish Catholic, peasant family who made their way to Australia ... a dramatic rags to riches and back to rags story, spanning most of Brisbane history.

Somewhat ironically, it would seem that Toohey's desire to create and preserve an estate for his family inadvertently caused their financial ruin. Large landholdings were held up by the terms of his will. The land comprising Toohey Forest Park was pristine and undeveloped when it was finally able to be sold in 1946.

As I said earlier, fortunately, for all those who use it, the Brisbane City Council had the foresight to secure that land as a forest park. The forest is managed by the Brisbane City Council as a bushland reserve. It is 260 hectares of beautiful bush, 10 kilometres south of the Brisbane's central business district in the suburb of Nathan. The forest is a sanctuary of sandstone outcrops and eucalypt forests, with grass trees and banksias scattered throughout the understorey. There are koalas, echidnas and gliders and many species of birds, reptiles, butterflies and frogs.

The forest also contains the Mount Gravatt Outlook Reserve. The incline of that road to the reserve makes for a challenging ride that many cyclists attempt while trying to improve their fitness. I have ridden this road many times and I am always glad to reach the top. The forest also has mountain bike trails and picnic areas. It is a remarkably beautiful asset within 10 kilometres from the Brisbane CBD. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful place for the people of Brisbane, and visitors to our city, to enjoy. I am fortunate indeed to have such a beautiful asset in my electorate. I take great pride in being the last member for Sunnybank, and the first member for Toohey.

I would like to use this opportunity to highlight a few matters of importance to my electorate. In the address-in-reply speech that I made to the 55th Parliament on 5 May 2015, I spoke about issues that were important to the former electorate of Sunnybank and now the electorate of Toohey. The two major infrastructure projects that I spoke about were the Coopers Plains crossing and the drop and go for MacGregor State School. I will deal with each in turn.

The Coopers Plains crossing has been a big issue for the south side for nearly 40 years. As I said in my first speech in this House, Coopers Plains crossing is one of the most dangerous level crossings in Brisbane. The people of Coopers Plains—business owners, students, mums and dads and retirees—have had enough. People and businesses in the surrounding suburbs have also had enough. Almost everywhere I go in my electorate the Coopers Plains locals tell me that one of their top priorities is fixing the Coopers Plains crossing. I can assure members that it is one of my top priorities. I was proud to announce that, after years of talk from the LNP, the Queensland Labor government committed to funding the first ever business case for an overpass at Coopers Plains crossing. I would like to thank Minister Bailey for making this important commitment.

The Brisbane City Council, Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and the LNP do not share my view of the need to fix this crossing to protect the road users and enhance road traffic. I understand that the Brisbane City Council and Mayor Graham Quirk have refused to fund their fair share of the project, with

that refusal coming before the business case has even been completed. That is astounding. I intend to keep up the fight on this issue, to keep it on everyone's radar. I intend to work with the department and the Minister for Transport to make sure that locals have their say on how to fix the crossing. I intend to hold forums and feedback sessions for locals to have input into the business case.

On 1 September 2016 in this House I spoke about issues affecting the drop and go at MacGregor State School. The main problem seems to be that the Brisbane City Council was doing everything in its power to inhibit funding drop and gos in the areas for which Brisbane City Council is responsible. It seemed that Steven Huang, the councillor for MacGregor, did not know what was happening. I wrote to the councillor asking him to advise what was happening with the drop and go and I am still waiting for a reply.

I want to thank the hardworking former minister for education, Kate Jones, for her public recognition of the issue. In answer to a question without notice, the minister told this parliament that she had had the privilege of attending the school and seeing firsthand the issue whilst also speaking with representatives of the school and the parents and citizens who have been campaigning on this issue for the past seven years.

I became aware very early in my first term that neither the former LNP member or Councillor Huang had made a request for funding to remedy the safety issue at the MacGregor State School. A basic ask had never been asked. A commitment was made by Minister Jones to fund the feasibility study, something that the Brisbane City Council was unable to do. A commitment was made to fund the construction of the drop and go zone. All we ever got from the Brisbane City Council and Councillor Steven Huang were broken promises and the playing of politics with the safety of the children at the MacGregor State School.

The council attempted to walk away from a longstanding arrangement that has been in place for approximately 20 years where drop and go zones were funded on a fifty-fifty basis. The Palaszczuk Labor government has committed to the building of the drop and go zone and a memorandum of understanding has been signed to that effect with the Brisbane City Council. The parents, teachers and I eagerly await the beginning of construction on this project.

During my first term I was involved in helping some of the schools in my electorate get funding to complete major building projects. I again want to thank Minister Jones and her hardworking staff for getting these projects off the ground. The first was the redevelopment of the manual arts building at MacGregor State High School. The building was essentially falling down around the students and teachers. I was fortunate enough, with the help of the minister, to secure funding to have a new building built, which is currently under construction and due for completion in October 2018. Construction is also well underway at the Sunnybank Special School, which is due for completion some time in 2019. I have had the opportunity of viewing the temporary hire buildings while the existing buildings are being demolished to make way for the new buildings for the junior, middle and senior school.

I am excited about this second term and the prospects of what I and this government can deliver to the people of Toohey and to Queenslanders at large. In my time working in my electorate I am proud to have built respectful relationships across the fantastic diverse part of Brisbane that is the electorate of Toohey. I am privileged to have been part of bringing about substantial improvements and positive change to resources within our community.

Since being elected I have also had the good fortune to have worked as the chair of parliamentary committees where I have used my legal training to serve both my constituents and the people of Queensland generally in the scrutiny and development of new laws to govern the state. I thank the Premier for the opportunity to serve in this way. After serving as acting chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I became chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and served in that role from 18 February 2016 until 24 November 2017. During that time the committee prepared reports on the Labour Hire Licensing Bill, the State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill, the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill, the Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill, the Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill, an inquiry into the practices of the labour hire industry in Queensland and last but not least a report on the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill and the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill.

I did a bit of soul-searching about what to include in today's speech and decided that I would like to use this opportunity to continue my story which I started to tell in my first speech. I do this in part because of the question often asked of me, and no doubt of very many others in this place, 'Why go into politics?' To seek to answer that question I thought about the influences on me in my younger life

which led me here and what I have a passion for outside of politics. Those thoughts led me back to the values I was taught by my parents, which they inherited from their parents: hard work, compassion, embracing people no matter who they are or where they come from and taking care of the vulnerable. I am very grateful that opportunities have been presented to me to live out my parents' values. They were hardworking, loving people.

I was lucky enough to be born in Townsville and grow up in Ingham in North Queensland. I was educated at Lourdes Convent, Cardinal Gilroy College and finished my senior schooling at St Teresa's Agricultural College, Abergowrie.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr RUSSO: I take that interjection. My story is a migrant story. I am an Australian of Italian heritage. Dad was born in Giarre in Sicily, a small seaside town clinging to the coast under the shadow of Mount Etna. My nonno came to Ingham from Sicily in about 1922 and my dad and my grandmother followed in about 1927. They grew cane at Bemerside just outside of Ingham and as a kid I loved my visits to the farm. Nonno worked with the cane-cutting gangs and was also the cook for the gang and I have no doubt my love of cooking and gardening has something to do with my nonno. My Dad, Giuseppe Russo, known as Joe, was a small business owner, hairdresser, canefarmer—and my dad. My mum was a homemaker and nursing sister who worked at the Ingham Hospital after Dad passed away leaving behind six of us for mum to feed, clothe and educate. I became aware of what life is like when you have very little.

The story of my grandparents and my parents has had a lasting effect on me in many ways—some I can articulate and some I cannot. My Italian heritage has had a big bearing on how I view the world. The rich contribution that immigrants to this country have made and continue to make is something I strongly value. Somewhere along the way I developed my own ideas about politics and governance and eventually the urge came to take a role in the political life of our state.

A driving force behind both my career as a lawyer and now as a member of parliament is my commitment to the rule of law and my respect for true democratic government. Last year marked 30 years since the commencement of the Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct. The Fitzgerald inquiry changed Queensland forever—or so we thought.

For years it seemed that we had moved away from the dark days of corruption and repression, from politicians who valued absolute power and control over democratic values and the rule of law. This shift towards proper democracy occurred when the Goss Labor government swept into power in 1989, bringing wideranging reform and progress to this state. Labor governments which followed built on that legacy. Then in March of 2012 everything changed. For many of us it seemed like a return to the Joh days. The sheer arrogance on display was extraordinary. The government went to war with our judges, flouting the doctrine of the separation of powers and with it the rule of law. Laws protecting the rights of vulnerable and often marginalised groups in our society were singled out for devastation at the hands of a group of politicians drunk on power.

The experience of watching the Newman government go to town on the legal system I had worked in for over 25 years was a radicalising one for me, as I know it was for many. I could not, in good conscience, stand by and do nothing. It was time to stand up and do something about it. My commitment to that cause is long held, guiding me through my years representing vulnerable Queenslanders in court. It was now important to pursue it on the floor of the parliament.

I am so proud of what this government has achieved. The starting point for me is that the Palaszczuk Labor government restored the rights of children and young people in our criminal justice system. We got rid of boot camps, of naming and shaming and returned to principles of youth justice based on evidence, based on respect and based on a desire to see young people truly rehabilitated and able to lead ordinary lives in our communities. At the heart of all of these policies is a commitment to building stronger, safer communities and to providing opportunities, both in education and employment, for our young people.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.19 pm): It is a great honour to be elected to the 56th Parliament. I join with others in congratulating all those who have returned to serve their communities and those who have been given the privilege of being elected to office for the first time. When I was first elected in 2004, I thought it was a dream. At that time there were people here such as Kevin Lingard, who served under the Belke-Petersen government and was a Speaker of the House, and within the Labor Party we had Terry Mackenroth, Tom Barton and Henry Palaszczuk who came from the old guard. It has been a great honour to be elected again and I acknowledge all of those who have been elected for the first time.

I express my extraordinary gratitude and affection for my family. They have supported me over the 14½ years that I have been a member of parliament. My first electorate covered over 270,000 square kilometres. My second electorate, the electorate of Dalrymple, was 1,200 kilometres long. It took 12 to 14 hours to get from one end of it to the other. I acknowledge my wife, Heather, for bearing the weight of home life and supporting our children, because as a member of parliament I am continually away from home. I express my appreciation to Heather and our wonderful children, Anna, Joel, Daniel and Naomi. When I first entered parliament Naomi was two years old and has just had her 17th birthday.

To the constituents of the newly created electorate of Hill, thank you for putting your faith in me as your member of parliament. I thank the constituents of the former electorates of Mulgrave and Hinchinbrook for trusting me and acknowledging my record in the service of the former electorate of Dalrymple, which gave them the confidence to give me the opportunity to represent them in this parliament. To the constituents of the seat of Hill who were also in my former electorate of Dalrymple, I say thank you for recognising that I have been able to accomplish significant things on behalf of our community and for giving me the opportunity to represent you and fight for our fair share.

I ask for the indulgence of the House to take a minute to thank the constituents from my former electorate of Dalrymple, the Charters Towers Regional Council area and the area stretching through to Moranbah for giving me the opportunity to represent that area for the past 14 years. It is difficult to no longer represent those who had entrusted me with that responsibility for so long. That has now happened to me twice: once when I represented the seat of Charters Towers, which was abolished, and, secondly, when I represented the seat of Dalrymple, which has also been abolished.

Our role has never been something that I have been able to do easily. Our role is unique. As I have mentioned in the House before, it is a privilege to be chosen out of five million people as one of 93 individuals who come here to carry out our duties and represent the views, the issues and the passions of the people and to fight for the best outcomes for our areas. In this parliament, we are the ones who represent our areas, which is something that we can all be very proud of.

I want to mention a very special person who has supported me with commitment and dedication. She has been a rock to me, both professionally and personally. I acknowledge Verna Mitchell, my 76-year-old electorate officer in Charters Towers. Verna has worked with me from 2005 until the electorate of Dalrymple was abolished in November last year. Until the last redistribution, Verna was with me through some of my greatest challenges and also to celebrate my wins. As those who have been members of parliament for a while will understand and those who are new to the role will learn, supportive staff are the backbone of our service. Nobody was more fiercely loyal, dedicated to and passionate about the region and its people than my electorate officer, Verna Mitchell. I know she will be relishing her retirement at the present moment. I am deeply indebted to both Verna and my assistant electorate officer, Lorraine, for their hard work and dedication in serving the communities of Charters Towers and surrounds. I miss working with them, although, as I said, Verna is enjoying retirement. Both women are mighty people who helped and supported me through very tough times.

I thank those who gave their energies and their efforts to cover the booths, hand out information, put up signs and corflutes, and help me to get my message out loud and clear as a candidate reaching out to new areas. I have picked up an extra 17,000 or 18,000 new constituents. A huge thank you goes to Rene Kung for his drive and support and to all those who committed time to helping us out. I thank Jenny Coffison for taking on the campaign role in the Cassowary Coast area for the first time, which is a role that Rene Kung performed for three election campaigns.

As a member of a minor party, I am very proud that the KAP has been able to punch above its weight and achieve significant outcomes for Queensland and our electorates. In the last parliament, the member for Traeger and I introduced nine private members' bills. We secured the passage of the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill. I acknowledge Lawrence Springborg for his role in working very passionately with us to achieve that security for our canegrowers. We have given them a choice in the marketing of their sugar. In other words, if canegrowers want a miller to market their sugar, the canegrowers can choose the miller; if they want the QSL to market their sugar, they can choose the QSL. Now there is a choice and there is competition. It was a pleasure to work with Lawrence and serve with him from 2004 until the end of the last parliament in November 2017.

The KAP has introduced the rural debt bill, the Stradbroke Island bill, the taxi bill, the rural pubs bill, legislation for blue cards and vegetation management, as well as the safer waterways legislation. We were very proud to move the amendment for the four per cent ethanol mandate, which is being introduced throughout Queensland and which I believe is a better outcome for the state.

I want to mention the Ravenshoe tragedy, which has had a huge impact on the people of the Tablelands. Lives were lost. The tragedy highlighted the need for local emergency services and health services to be upgraded. Before that tragedy, a petition with over 6,000 signatures pushed for an upgrade to the Atherton Hospital. I thank the former minister for health, Cameron Dick, for visiting the Tablelands on the back of that petition and acknowledging that something needed to be done about local health services. The hospital received \$17 million for an upgrade and the Tablelands community will benefit from that.

At the Dimbulah Hospital, people had to wait outside and wheelchairs could not get through. The hospital was located in a little house that was filled with asbestos. On the back of another petition, we received \$5 million to upgrade that hospital. It was not just about money going to an area; when a community is behind you, you can achieve virtually anything. I express our appreciation for that. I want to acknowledge that, at the time of the Ravenshoe blast, the government played a great role in supporting the community and the region.

Many issues are brought up in the parliament and I want to mention the Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road. We are very passionate about this issue, because we get tired of seeing local contractors that have expertise in road maintenance and road construction pushed aside because they are little and do not have the funding and resources of the big companies. However, they know that if they do not do a good job in their region they will never again receive a contract. The issue with the Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road involved melted tar getting stuck to the tyres of vehicles.

I am not just pointing the finger at them. In the past Western Australian contract companies have been given the tender for a government road. Southern contractors do not understand the weather conditions, the terrain, the high altitude and the Wet Tropics conditions. The locals know these things. As an example, \$5 million was provided by the Minister for Main Roads to upgrade the Upper Barron Road. The council received the tender and used local contractors. It is a state-of-the-art road. It is so important that we give locals the opportunity to tender. We need to acknowledge that it is not about the cheapest quote but who can do the job properly otherwise they have to keep going over and over the road again. They will upgrade a road and they are coming back over it three months later. This is money that is going back to the community. It is money that is going into local jobs and the whole community benefits.

I would also like to mention the Feluga pub turn-off. It is a death trap. There have been a lot of near misses. We need the state government to work with the federal government to upgrade that intersection. We need more passing lanes. It is a death trap. There have been lives lost there before. If we can get funds in that area and they can work together that would be warmly appreciated. It would benefit the community by saving lives.

I turn now to the Palmerston Highway, which was in my electorate. I lobbied the Minister for Main Roads at the time. We were given \$3 million and then another \$4.7 million. We probably need another \$20 million to really fix the problem. It is a major arterial route. A lot of water comes down that range each year and a lot of cars and trucks. The road is basically disintegrating. There have been a huge number of accidents on that road. We need the state government to put some dollars into the main road.

One thing that is very important to my electorate and has a lot of community support is the Tully Showgrounds grandstand. It was condemned. I have mentioned this in the parliament before and there has been strong representation on this from the Isaac Regional Council, the Tully Rugby League Football Club and other community groups. There are up to 13 users of the Tully Showgrounds but there is no grandstand. At the last Tully show we had elderly people standing watching the performances. The community is very passionate about this. It is much needed. It is very difficult when the football clubs—the women as well—the tennis groups, the touch teams, the pony clubs use the showground but yet there is no grandstand.

In conclusion I congratulate everyone. It is a great honour to be elected to represent the views and issues of the people of one's electorate in the parliament. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Hill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Before we move to the next speaker, I acknowledge that we have in the gallery students from Iona College in the electorate of Lytton. Welcome to the parliament.

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.33 pm): Firstly, I congratulate the Premier and all new and returned members on their successful election as members of the 56th Parliament. I acknowledge the Jagera and Turrbal people and their elders both past and present. I honour the memory of the Indigenous people who walked these lands for thousands of years, acknowledge the current day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and encourage our Indigenous youth to a brighter future. In doing so, I recognise and congratulate the member for Cook as the first Torres Strait Islander in this place. Hopefully there will be many more to follow as our rich cultural society and our views in this state mature.

It was with a somewhat heavy heart that I left my portfolios of Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships behind. I met many good people and was starting to make headway on reforms to long-held injustices in those areas. I have no doubt that those ministries are in good hands with the Deputy Premier and the member for Sandgate.

I have sunk my teeth into my new portfolio of Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries with relish and have travelled thousands of kilometres across the state already, meeting with farmers and industry groups to listen to their concerns and compliments. As someone who has travelled the breadth of the most decentralised state in our nation throughout my various careers, I once again enjoy the engagement with those men and women in the regions—men and women who are so resilient, genuine and down to earth. I look forward to continuing the good work of the Palaszczuk government in this area. With a terrific team behind me, I believe the future is very bright for this \$20 billion industry. Furthermore, I believe the portfolio should be treated with the respect and bipartisanship it deserves. I look forward to the collaboration of all members of the House.

I thank the electors of Ferny Grove for placing their trust in me for a second term. As I did in the last term, I will continue to support their aspirations, hopes and dreams. I also acknowledge the tremendous support of the volunteers in the Ferny Grove electorate who worked so hard to return a majority Palaszczuk Labor government to Queensland.

I am extremely thankful to everyone who volunteered and supported my re-election in 2017—the local ALP members, my office staff, Laurence and his son, Will, Ross, Clare, Daniel, Christine and Cindy. Some of those people are no longer with me. They have moved on to brighter futures. I am thankful to the party office, in particular Julie-Ann Campbell, the state secretary, and Sarah Mawhinney, the assistant state secretary. They are two fantastic women who are leading our party into the future. I am also thankful to the union movement, in particular Chris Gazenbeek from the SDA, Neil Henderson from the Services Union, Peter Biagini from the Transport Workers Union, John Oliver from the United Firefighters Union Queensland—to name a few—and my fellow caucus members in the first Palaszczuk government.

Many of those who volunteered are life-long members of the Labor Party—party members whose efforts have done so much to create the modern, progressive state of Queensland we live in today. Queensland today is not the state it was when I was growing up. It is the Labor Party that can claim the lion's share of those reforms—reforms which have made Queensland the prosperous, forward-looking state it is today.

Perhaps even more importantly, I am grateful to the many people who volunteered their time on the Labor campaign. Those who volunteered their time to stand by A-frames, make phone calls, do letterbox drops, hand out how-to-vote cards, staff the pre-poll booth and had conversations with their friends and neighbours did this simply because they believe they should participate in the political process. There were also those who were not party members but were simply concerned community members with no political affiliation whatsoever. For example, residents from Peterson Road, Samford—a part of my electorate that I lost to Pine Rivers—expressed concerns over a bike path which was earmarked to go through their property the week before Christmas 2016. Minister Bailey and I walked their properties before ruling that proposal out. They volunteered on my campaign.

My very good friend Mark Orreal, the president of the Samford RSL Sub Branch, volunteered. Unfortunately, Mark was immediately scurrilously labelled while volunteering on the Ferny Grove pre-poll booth by the LNP once they learned of his position. This gutless, unprovoked attack for merely exercising his democratic right to support me once again brought home to me the clear values which separate those opposite from Labor. Their born-to-rule arrogance was alive and prevalent and on display for all to see. Concerned about his continued involvement, I approached Mark and asked him whether he was okay. His response satisfied my concerns. He said, 'I've fought the Taliban; these amateurs are nothing.'

There are some who say we live in an age where people are cynical and do not have any faith in their institutions or elected members. There seems to be a growing narrative that declares it is what people say on social media that matters more than what they do. I can inform the House that, in Ferny Grove at least, this is not true. The people who volunteered on my campaign experienced what life was like under an LNP government and overwhelmingly gave their time and money to ensure the gains we have made for Queenslanders were not lost again.

I stand here today quite humbled by the efforts of our volunteers who worked on the Ferny Grove Labor campaign because they believe it matters who is in government and what their elected member stands for. During the LNP's single term of government many front-line services were cut and record numbers of electors in Ferny Grove lost their jobs. We had a lot of work to do to fix the damage, and the job is not done yet.

Last term we restored front-line services in our local schools and emergency and health services. I was able to secure funding to extend the 367 bus route in Upper Kedron and for Transport and Main Roads to conduct the first comprehensive traffic flow study on Samford Road in decades. Additionally, secure funding for the construction of a transit orientated development will provide hundreds of extra commuter car parks, along with hundreds of local employment opportunities at this development both during the build and on completion of the Ferny Grove Railway Station.

In this term of government, we will deliver even more. The Mitchelton and Ferny Grove state high schools will see more than a \$20 million investment, and we will seal the overflow car park at Grovely State School. I place on record my appreciation to the previous education minister and the current minister. Local sporting fields in the heart of Ferny Grove will see the installation of our first ever dedicated women's change room facility. Today, Ferny Grove is moving again thanks to the responsible judgements of a progressive and stable Labor team. I am proud to be part of a majority Palaszczuk Labor government—a government which believes that public service and participation in the political process is vitally important for the future and prosperity of our state.

I would like to place on record my gratitude and admiration of the Premier and the role she took in my campaign. On a rainy Sunday at the Ferny Grove Bowls Club, the Premier came to a well-attended morning tea to help launch my campaign. It was fantastic to have the Premier there, and I know all of those who went were able to stop and chat, get a photo with her and ask her their burning questions. It was her personality and genuineness that resonated with Queenslanders and went part of the way to ensuring the re-election of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I would like to thank the people of Samford and districts for the privilege of having been their member for the past three years. Samford and districts were lost to the Pine Rivers electorate in the 2017 redistribution. I had a great time supporting many community groups in Samford and made some great friends in that part of the world which I will take forward with me, even though the area is no longer part of my electorate. I am looking forward to building those same sorts of relationships in Mitchelton, Enoggera and Ashgrove as this term progresses. I acknowledge the legacy of the former member for Ashgrove, now member for Cooper, and look forward to building on those longstanding relationships she had with her constituents.

Last but most certainly not least, I would like to thank my family. To my wife, Lorraine; my children—Troy, Stacey and Sally; Troy's wife, Daniella; and my beautiful grandchildren, Marley and Xavia: I say thank you for your continued support and for standing by me. I love you and I would not be standing here today without you.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the address-in-reply. I start by acknowledging the Governor and affirming that I am a monarchist and believe strongly in Her Majesty and the succession of her family members.

I want to congratulate the Premier on her election victory. It was a solid victory, but I also want to say to Tim Nicholls, who is here in the House: well done. The member for Clayfield fought a very tough and hard battle. There would not have been a day, including weekends, when he was not traversing this state with Deb Frecklington to make certain that the LNP message got out there. To you, Tim: congratulations on the great work that you have done and may you long sit in this chamber and offer your solid and professional advice in any capacity you so desire.

I also acknowledge Gary Spence, the president of the party, Lincoln Folo and Michael O'Dwyer who also fought a very tough and hard campaign during the election period. I congratulate them on all of their efforts, together with the people who were working from headquarters here in Brisbane and, indeed, right across the state.

I congratulate Deb Frecklington and Tim Mander on the roles they now have in this House in relation to the LNP in opposition. I wish them all the very best for the future and I can assure the House that they will take the battle up to Labor and keep them accountable. I assure them of my support in the years ahead to the election in 2020.

To all returning members, I say congratulations. Any election campaign is a tough campaign. It does not matter what people say about supposed safe seats. That is a nonsense in today's society. Safe seats do not exist. Well done to all returning members. To new members, I say congratulations. Congratulations for having the determination and drive to get into the state parliament.

A member earlier today used the word 'surreal' in defining what it feels like to become a member of parliament for the first time, and it is right. You do not really get a sense of what it means to be a member for parliament until you have been here for a short period of time and that sense of reality grows upon you as time goes by. I remember years ago a member of this House Bob Quinn told me a story about how he related to the knowledge of being a member of parliament. With the change in seat numbers, the story went something like this: every four years the front doors of this building open and 93 Queenslanders are elected to govern for a period of four years. That election date comes and goes. The count is done and those 93 members are charged with governing for the whole state for a period of four years.

There were 453 candidates in the past election campaign and 2.8 million votes counted. If you understand the concept of how closed we are as a group and how privileged we are as a group to cast a vote and pass the bills that govern this state and the people in this state, you get some sense of the importance of the role we have. From my point of view, that sense has grown and grown over time. It is important that we understand that and that we do have a very firm belief in the dignity of this place and the role it has in Queensland and Queensland society as a whole.

I want to thank the people of Caloundra for their wisdom in re-electing me to parliament.

Mr Nicholls: Very good people.

Mr McARDLE: I take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. They are very good people. In fact, I was reflecting on how long I have now been in parliament. I was elected on 7 February 2004. It has been over 14½ years—the same period of time as the member for Currumbin, Jann Stuckey, and the member for Surfers Paradise, John-Paul Langbroek. Believe it or not, we are, with the member for Hill, the third longest serving group of parliamentarians in this House. My apologies—the member for Maroochydore as well. I do apologise to the member.

That made me look back on how long members had served on average. At the end of the 53rd Parliament when Anna Bligh called the election, the total years served was 848.9 at an average of 18.9 years per member. At the swearing-in of this parliament this year, bearing in mind that there are four more members, the total years served was 422.6 at an average of 4.5 years per member. We have gone from 18.9 years to 4.5 years in a space of two or three parliaments.

Mr Nicholls: So you are now above average.

Mr McARDLE: So now I am above average—I accept that. We might take a straw poll on who is well below average. What that indicates to me is a volatility in politics in Queensland from the end of Anna Bligh to this current parliament.

Mr Bleijie: The education minister took a break.

Ms Grace: People on your side have taken a lot of breaks too.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Just hold on, member for Caloundra.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am seeking your protection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will just stop the cross-chamber chatter please, and let the member for Caloundra continue with his address-in-reply.

Mr McARDLE: It is not a bad story, Mr Deputy Speaker. Give me a break. What it also indicates to me is that there is a lack of corporate knowledge in the parliament. As we know, the longer you serve in a position or in a firm the greater that corporate knowledge grows. That 4.5 years does indicate to me a certain lack of corporate knowledge that we need to be aware of and understand as well. It does not mean a lack of intellectual capacity—at least on this side of the House.

I think it is also important to acknowledge certain members on this side of the chamber who are now no longer with us. Those who did not contest their seats were Lawrence Springborg, Jeff Seeney, Ian Rickuss and Verity Barton. I want to place on record my thanks for their contribution to the LNP and for their wisdom and guidance, because they were all good members.

I want to also acknowledge those who lost their seats on this side of the House—Andrew Cripps, Tracy Davis, Ian Walker, Scott Emerson, Glen Elmes, Tanya Smith, Matt McEachan and Sid Cramp. I say to them: thank you for the work you did for this side of the chamber and whilst members of this parliament over the years that you were here.

I want to welcome Simone Wilson, member for Pumicestone; Marty Hunt, member for Nicklin; Dan Purdie, member for Ninderry—a new seat—and Brent Mickelberg, who regained the seat of Buderim. We swore that we would achieve that goal and I congratulate Brent on that great achievement. There are members from other parts of Queensland on the LNP side who are not here in the chamber and I congratulate them as well.

I want to highlight a couple of members, and one is Lawrence Springborg. I think Lawrence was universally held in high regard within the parliament. I think he was an honourable man. I think he understood what I was saying earlier, and that is the importance of the ethos, corporate knowledge and standards—standards that he held within the parliament within himself and outside the parliament. I want to also mention Ian Walker. Ian Walker had a very sharp intellect. There was no question about that. He was a man who could quite clearly dissect an argument and put together a counter-argument too.

I want to highlight Andrew Cripps in particular. Andrew, to me, was one of the smartest men I have ever come across. I think on both sides of the chamber his intellect can be acknowledged. You may not like his politics, but I do not think any minister or shadow minister who stood against him would not acknowledge his capacity to understand an issue and I suspect that would apply across any portfolio. His loss to the parliament as a whole is extreme because he did two things: he would battle with you when he thought you were wrong, but from my experience he would also concede a point when he understood you were right. I think that is something that we miss to a certain extent here today in the parliament.

There is one other person I wish to acknowledge who is no longer here and that is Glen ‘Plucker’ Elmes. I will not divulge how the term ‘plucker’ came about but it is all above board.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr McARDLE: The member for Clayfield may indulge the House with a tale beyond that of my commentary. Glen was hail-fellow-well-met. He was a friendly person who adopted an attitude of having the battle inside the chamber. When he walked outside the chamber, he left it behind in the chamber—a bit like the member for Logan does; a very affable chap in the chamber. That is a process I also endorse. We on this side of the chamber miss Glen’s attitude, his comical sense of timing and his great wit. I know that the member for Mermaid Beach referred to Glen in his speech on the address-in-reply. I can only endorse those comments.

I want to move on now to the people I want to thank. First of all, I thank the people who reside in Caloundra who have put me back into the chamber now on six occasions. As my wife said, ‘After 14½ years, Mark, that’s how you look.’ That is the outcome of 14½ years in parliament. I do want to thank my wife, Judy, and Samantha and Joshua for their incredible support. I want to put on record that I do not believe any member of parliament can do this job without the support of not only their family as a whole but also individually of their spouse or partner.

Think of the things that we miss—the school events, the birthdays, the anniversaries—due to the travelling we do. The member for Glass House made a comment earlier this week that he, in essence, cannot believe his children are now so tall and of an age. I think the member for Hill made a comment about his son or daughter being 17 years of age. That loss that we have falls upon our spouse or partner. I want to thank Judy for the great work she has done and I am certain I echo many people in the chamber.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr McARDLE: We will talk about that later. I want to thank my campaign committee which includes Rob Corbett and Frank and Pam Gower. I put on record that Pam passed away earlier this year. She was a battler. She had ill health for a long period of time but she never complained. You never heard a word of complaint from Pam Gower. I also thank campaign committee members Mike

and Lyn Gahn, John Pussey, Darryl Butler, Barry Hawes, Helen Burke and Peter Pollock together with all the other people in Caloundra who helped man the polling booths, who handed out how-to-vote cards and who went to the rallies et cetera.

I want to thank Lisa, Michelle and Shari of my office who worked very hard during that time and in between the elections as well. In particular, I thank Lisa, who has been with me for 10½ years to 11-odd years. Michelle has now moved on and Shari has been a recent worker.

I want to point out to members in the House that when you talk about the seat of Caloundra you are talking about the jewel in the Queensland parliament. It is adjacent to some other suburb that we do not often discuss in civilised company. Caloundra is often seen and tagged as a retirement area, but I can tell the House that Caloundra is evolving rapidly. The area of Baringa and, in particular, the Aura development will produce 50,000 people in that region in the very near future. Theoretically, Baringa in time to come will become a state seat of its own. The population is so huge. Harmony has 14,000-odd people.

We have the best beaches on the Sunshine Coast—Golden Beach, Bulcock Beach, Kings Beach, Moffat Beach, Dicky Beach and Currimundi. We also have the Glass House areas of Beerwah, Landsborough and Mooloolah. One of the major issues we have is congestion. With population and motor vehicles comes congestion. One of the major areas of concern is Caloundra Road, which connects the Bruce Highway to Caloundra proper.

The transport minister is in the House today, and I want to thank him on behalf of the people of Caloundra for the work that he did in the Caloundra overpass-Bruce Highway intersection. He did come, as he said he would, to Caloundra and meet with the people there. That resulted in an excellent outcome, saving money, saving environmental space and a quicker time line in relation to that work being undertaken. I think it is important to acknowledge that when things are done properly the relevant minister should also be acknowledged for the work that he did and I thank him for that.

There is more work that needs to be done. The minister has met with people from the Landsborough area in relation to the Landsborough overpass. I am hopeful that the same approach and attitude will be adopted to get a win-win scenario in that region.

The Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout has been a concern now for some period of time. I know QTRIP has planned lights in place at some point of time in the future but the money is indicative at this point in time and not locked in. In my opinion there is also a necessity for slip lanes to occur at that roundabout. The link between the Bruce Highway to Caloundra Road via Bellvista arterial road also needs to be considered. That will alleviate congestion between Roys Road and the Caloundra turn-off, reducing the time that people have to travel.

What people forget is that congestion is of two types. Congestion is of mum and dads taking their children to and from places. It also applies to businesses. If you have a truck and you are taking goods and services from A to B and you are stuck in congestion, that congestion means more petrol, registration, tyres, wages and time lost. What we can do to alleviate congestion along Caloundra Road and ancillary roads works for mums and dads but for the economy as well. We should never forget that the economy is going to be affected by the congestion issue.

Duplication of the railway from Beerburum to Landsborough has been committed to by the LNP but funding for the Ridgewood Road-Caloundra Road intersection lights is still under question. I ask the minister while he is in the House today to please consider looking at that. It is an intersection that will result at some point in time in the death of a motorist and/or a passenger thereof.

Caloundra Hospital is one other major initiative that I believe needs to be looked at. The minor injury and illness centre at the hospital operates only 12 hours a day seven days a week, but it does not operate from late in the evening until early in the morning. The population of Caloundra and the region is growing and growing, and I ask the health minister to consider that the opening hours of that centre be for 24 hours and not just 12 hours.

The point I will conclude on is this: it is a great privilege to be in this House. Very few people have the opportunity. If we walk outside this chamber and down that corridor, we can read the name plaque. Historically, we are recorded as being a member of this House and we should respect and honour it at all times both here and outside the House. I say to the people of Caloundra: thank you for the chance yet again to be here. I look forward to the battle in 2020.

Debate, on motion of Mr McArdle, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.00 pm): This Labor government proclaims that it is committed to openness, accountability and transparency, but in areas where we have seen redacted, concealed and delayed reports, it is obvious that it is a part-time government dodging scrutiny and delivering little except for their mates in the union movement.

The estimates committee hearing and subsequent information provided by the racing minister himself confirmed that questions about appointment processes have now spread to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission. The Queensland racing industry has been suffering from uncertainty and mismanagement brought on by this Palaszczuk Labor government, from the Eagle Farm track debacle to the new wagering tax that it is bringing in as one of its five new taxes. Unfortunately, it does not seem as though Labor will be changing its tune anytime soon, much to the dismay of many industry stakeholders.

During the estimates hearing and in an answer to a question taken on notice, the minister provided details to the committee which calls into question the integrity of the appointment processes of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission. QRIC expects the highest standards in the industry it covers. Its own standards must meet those and be beyond reproach, and this applies to its employment standards.

Here are the details. The role of deputy commissioner was not filled until April this year, but the minister advised that the present deputy commissioner was a member of a three-person panel set up to hire an executive assistant for the deputy commissioner in 2016. An executive assistant role was advertised on 10 November 2016 on the SmartJobs website for a period of two weeks. There were 41 candidates interviewed by a panel, which consisted of the acting human resources manager, the former business coordinator for the office of the commissioner and the now deputy commissioner—the then director of corruption operations, Crime and Corruption Commission.

After sitting on the panel to appoint the EA for the deputy commissioner in 2016, he was appointed as the first deputy commissioner of QRIC in April 2018. Under the Racing Integrity Act 2016, the now deputy commissioner was apparently ineligible to apply for the position because he had been employed by a control body in the previous two years. This period expired earlier this year.

This raises some serious questions. Was the deputy commissioner position left unfilled in a permanent capacity until the now deputy commissioner was eligible for appointment? Were the other 50-plus applicants for the role of deputy commissioner wasting their time applying, given that the successful applicant had already chosen his EA before he even got the job? I am concerned that this all seems to be an example covered by the CCC's own publication *Corruption in focus*, which is why it also merits further investigation.

I repeat my calls at estimates for the minister to investigate this appointment. He told me that, if I had any information that should be referred to the appropriate authorities, I should do so. The minister went to great lengths to reinforce the credentials of the appointed person. I am not questioning those credentials; I am questioning the process. It is the minister's own answer that revealed that the QRIC deputy commissioner was part of a panel, and that calls into question the whole appointment process.

Maryborough Electorate, Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.03 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, 21 July was a special day for the city of Maryborough as we opened the Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial, which is regarded as one of the best memorials to World War I in the country. It is a magnificent memorial. Thanks go to Nancy Bates, Greig Bolderrow, Jason Scanes, Stephen Yeates, Jenny Elliott and the rest of the committee who put this together. It is a magnificent memorial and we are getting visitors from right around the country to come and have a look at it. On 21 July we celebrated the official opening with the then prime minister of the country, the Premier and the mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council. The memorial is one of the most fantastic memorials I have seen, and I have seen a few around small towns and the Canberra museum. The memorial tells the story of what happened in World War I.

When I first got elected in 2015, I had a meeting with the committee and it looked to be a daunting task to put this together, but it was absolutely magnificent to see the help from all three levels of government—federal, state and council—as they worked together to create this memorial for the benefit of the community. We are getting heaps of visitors and tourists to Maryborough to have a look at this, and it has been a shot in the arm for the Maryborough economy.

I would like to again put on the record my thanks to those people involved: Nancy Bates; Jason Scanes; Greig Bolderrow, or Mr Maryborough as we call him; Stephen Yeates; and Jenny Elliott. I would also like to thank my old mate, the president of the RSL club, George Mellick, and the board from the RSL who got behind this 100 per cent to make sure this came to fruition in our community. I would also like to thank the Premier. After I was elected in 2015, one of my first meetings with the Premier was to show her the details of the Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial. The Premier backed this memorial 100 per cent. She was right behind it. The Palaszczuk Labor government contributed \$1 million for this wonderful memorial, and it would not have been built if the state government had not got behind it.

I would also like to thank the Maryborough community. When we opened the memorial on 21 July, Maryborough once again shone and showed the people of Australia and Queensland what a great city it is and how the people of Maryborough will welcome visitors to look at the memorial. It was a great day, so 21 July will go down in history in Maryborough as the day the Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial—which is better known in Maryborough as the Duncan Chapman memorial—was opened. On behalf of the Maryborough community, I would like to thank the Premier for her unwavering support and I also thank the Premier's father, who came up and was there for the unveiling and opening of it. The Premier's father had a lot to do with Maryborough. I would like to thank all of those people and invite everyone to come and visit it.

Kawana Electorate, Community

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.06 pm): The great schools of Kawana, all of which are independent public schools, continue to shine on the world stage. Buddina State School, one of the great schools in the northern end of my electorate, recently attempted a Guinness world record for the number of people dressed up as Dr Seuss characters. If my memory serves me correctly, they had to beat 850 characters. The community came on board and I understand that unofficially they received 854 characters, so now we are waiting with bated breath for Guinness World Records to confirm that Buddina State School holds the world record.

This event was held in Book Week. All schools across Queensland have marvellous Book Week celebrations because we know that kids who can read and write have a great future. One of the ways they can learn to read and write is by getting into the characters, as Buddina State School did. I want to congratulate everyone in the community and all of the students at Buddina State School on their fabulous effort. Fingers crossed that the due diligence stacks up and they will hold the Guinness world record.

I also want to thank Meridan State College, another great independent public school. I went to their Live on Stage! show the other night, which featured band and musical performances. I might add that some of these young bands that were playing were not my taste in music but, my gosh, they did an amazing job, including my 15-year-old daughter, Taylor, who has her own band now. She is a bass player. I want to congratulate all of the musicians at Meridan State College. It was a fantastic night and celebration and administration of the school. Congratulations go to the students, participants, winners and the P&C, which put on some food and drink for the community as well.

I also want to pay tribute to some wonderful community members who received Kawana Electorate Community Awards. They do a fantastic job right around our community. I thank another great independent public school, the Currimundi State School, for hosting over 200 people at those community celebrations. I want to thank Mark and Gayle Forbes, who are Buddina locals in my electorate, whose daughters have suffered with eating disorders.

They had a dream a few years ago to set up the first live-in residential treatment facility in Australia for eating disorders. With the federal government's support of \$1.5 million, community support and business support, they have got this project up and running at Mooloolah. I say congratulations to Mark and Gayle. Through personal experiences and sacrifices, they will now help people through endED, their charity, and they will help end eating disorders.

I also thank Pauline from Brighter Future 4 Kids, an organisation that was established on the Sunshine Coast that gives shoes and socks to schoolkids who cannot afford them. I thank the Kawana Waters RSL subbranch for their reunion lunch the other day. It is nearly Nippers sign-on season. The Kawana Surf Club is searching for all young talent on the Sunshine Coast in Kawana who want to save people and help people as our summer season is approaching. I say thank you to our lifesavers right across the state.

Cook Electorate, Men's Shed

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise today to speak of the Men's Shed as an important initiative that provides support for men in my electorate. This year I had the privilege of visiting two of the many Men's Sheds in the Cook electorate. In June I visited the Mareeba Men's Shed and was treated to a tour of the facility, which operates a second-hand shop, workstations, computer area, a tearoom and a courtyard for men to congregate.

The Mareeba Men's Shed recently expanded after gaining use of the old Mareeba courthouse. This facility would accommodate an administrator to manage the day-to-day operations, a computer area and a meeting space. Following the tour I stayed for morning tea and enjoyed great company over hot scones and a cup of tea. This was clearly a space that encourages positive interactions where men could chat and share personal experiences, form bonds and comradeship. The whole experience for me was very positive and I would like to thank the Mareeba Men's Shed for inviting me.

I want to shed some light on the social, emotional and mental health issues impacting men in our communities. Research shows that men are less healthy than women, drink more, take more risks and suffer more from issues surrounding isolation, loneliness and depression. I acknowledge that risks may be further exacerbated by other underlying factors such as relationship breakdown, loss of family and children through divorce or the loss of employment. It is concerning that males have shorter life expectancy, higher overall rates of hospitalisation and higher death rates than females. If they are of low socioeconomic status and/or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, these risks are much higher than the general community.

In the Cook electorate my communities are regional and remote. I have the vast majority of discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and employment opportunities are limited due to lack of industries, thus contributing to the high rate of low socioeconomic status affecting communities. I acknowledge that while there are many Men's Sheds spread throughout the Cook electorate, their capacity to support vulnerable men may not be the same.

In August I visited the Lockhart River Aboriginal community and sat with two amazing men and listened to their experiences and recollection of community life. This experience differed from Mareeba Men's Shed, thus taking into consideration the cultural aspects, stigma around masculinity and overall challenges of remote living as underlying factors influencing positive engagement. We tried to unpack disengagement in relation to unemployment, drinking and poor health from a cultural perspective and at the same time acknowledge the important role we play as individuals to create the positive change we need. The experience for me not only highlighted the complexity in supporting men in regional and remote communities but also caused me to hear about the great work that is already happening to build strong men in our family, community and society.

Drought

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.12 pm): I rise to talk about the drought. It has not been talked about enough in this parliament. There have been too many distractions. Rural debt and drought are big issues and they have been handled clumsily at both the federal and state levels during the drought in the north in previous years as well as the current drought in Central Queensland and New South Wales.

One important thing that needs to be delivered—and it can be delivered at the state or federal level—is a rural development bank. Similar to what was included in the bill that I introduced into parliament last term, which was voted against as was a similar bill that was introduced into the federal parliament by my father, a rural development bank can capture the finance that is available in the commercial banks. No-one seems to want to admit to this. I love to debate this issue with anyone because they cannot take a long-term view. They are constrained by APRA guidelines. They cannot take a long-term view of some lenders. Many farmers who do not deserve to go will be swallowed up in this drought because the lending instruments are not flexible enough to take a long-term view.

The government cannot access cheap diesel, cheap hay, cheap molasses—or lick—but it can access cheap money. While welcome and needed at the moment, giving farmers a \$10,000 grant is not a long-term measure. Saving \$100,000 on a farmer's interest bill is something that can help. The last time we did this in Queensland—there was no cost to the taxpayer—we sold it for \$1.3 billion, the QIDC. There is an answer that can save people \$100,000 or more and does not cost the taxpayer anything. We have done it throughout our history to stabilise in the long term.

The other thing we should have been doing many years ago is constructing water-harvesting dams. These are the things that in the long term would help us get through these droughts without always having to talk about knee-jerk reactions in which we have to get through the media cycle and hand out something in a flash or make an announcement. We should have been doing this so we can get through these protein droughts and have the ability to shuffle our cattle around the national herd instead of dumping them on the markets. That needs to be done.

The transport rules is probably a lesser issue but it is no less important. In times of drought, a lot of livestock hauliers are coping fines in relation to driving hours when they are trying to transport droughted livestock. Things need to be considered differently in the time of drought. These things need to be done and they are not long term. I was pretty annoyed yesterday to hear the federal agriculture minister talking about a 10 cent levy for the dairy farmers when twice we have had a bill before us in this chamber to provide a 10 cent levy for the dairy farmers. This is a more sophisticated version of providing a levy to the farmers. They are the long-term things we need to do. We will continue to put those before the House and on the agenda. I hope that other members agree. We need to take a more long-term view when we are dealing with drought and the impact of drought on rural industries.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Schools

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.15 pm): I was as proud as punch to do my annual stint as the MC at the Jindalee State School with the dreaded role of judging the best dressed kids competition alongside Milton Dick, the federal member for Oxley. As always, I stocked up at the cake and jam shop, and I would like to thank preppie Elizabeth for the gorgeous unicorn cupcakes that I bought for dessert that night.

The Jindalee State School fete is a highlight of the annual Centenary calendar. It is nothing short of an extravaganza. It has an annual theme—this year it was myths and legends—it takes months of preparations with hundreds of volunteers and has fireworks to finish. I am not aware of any P&C day—and I am happy to be corrected—but I reckon they should have a whole year.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Ms PUGH: There we go, excellent. I could not find that on Google. I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield.

This year was Monique's first year as fete coordinator after Kara-Leigh spent many years at the helm, and she did a wonderful job. It was, as always, such fun. I want to congratulate the P&C president, Andrew Morrison, and his whole team for putting on an absolutely stellar event.

Jindalee State School is far from alone in organising wonderful events that are on a par with any gala extravaganza in the CBD. This month local P&Cs all over Mount Ommaney are hard at work, going the extra mile for our kids. Jamboree Heights has a wine and jazz night coming up organised by Trista Lyle and her hardworking team. Corinda State School has a Spring Festival this month, and the mighty Mount Ommaney Special School celebrates the 40th anniversary of their Early Childhood Development Program with a Family Fun Day next weekend. This term Darra State School P&C also opened their tuckshop for the very first time and were overrun, with more than 50 per cent of their students ordering spag bol for lunch on the first day. I say thanks also to the P&C for giving me some spag bol takeaways.

There is a saying on the wall at the Jindalee Bowls Club: volunteers aren't paid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless. This is incredibly true of all my local P&Cs, and our community owes them a debt of gratitude for their commitment to our kids. Honourable members can imagine how proud I was to be back again on Tuesday last week with the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, who toured one of the fantastic STEM classes being conducted during lunch for our kids. The minister knows that STEM is providing the jobs of our future, and it starts right in the heart of Mount Ommaney at Jindalee. I also take the opportunity to congratulate the wonderful teachers at Jindalee who have been awarded lead teacher roles under the leadership of Meaghan Rogers, who is doing a wonderful job.

The schools of Mount Ommaney are the hub, the heart and the home of our community. I look forward to welcoming the minister again to continue to showcase the amazing staff, students and volunteers of my Mount Ommaney schools.

Mary's Commercial Hotel

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.18 pm): In the early hours of the morning on Wednesday, 22 August the Commercial Hotel, located in the main street of Dalby, was extensively damaged by fire. The hotel, fondly known as 'Mary's', was an icon of the town. Although Dalby is no longer in my electorate, I spent a lot of time in Mary's from a very early age as did many others. I thank the member for Warrego for allowing me to tell this story today.

The original hotel was built in 1885. The building was demolished in 1909 and a two-storey brick establishment was constructed in its place. The Commercial had several female publicans. One, Miss Mary Barry, became the owner in 1952. Mary passed away in 2010 at the age of 91, still living in the hotel and coming downstairs when she could to be with her faithful patrons.

Mr Boyce: You'd always get your first beer free.

Mr WEIR: As the member for Callide said, you always got your first beer free. Absolutely! The hotel was officially named Mary's in 2010 as a tribute to Mary. Mary Barry was a living legend in Dalby. She was known far and wide for her hospitality and her hotel was an institution. Everyone knew about Mary's, no matter which part of the country they hailed from. After the Dalby cattle sales all of the agents and buyers would end up at Mary's for a drink or two to wash the dust away. It was the favourite haunt of many a local bank manager, farmer or grazier, with generations of families all growing up in the familiar timber bar.

As a small child I fondly remember sitting up at the bar and being given a red lemonade by Mary followed by, 'Happy days, darling!' When I was old enough I loved going to Mary's for a beer or two after our cricket matches, as did my father and both of my grandfathers. At times it was packed to overflowing, with patrons new and old spilling out onto the pavement. Mary was a big supporter of local sporting clubs, with the Rugby Union and cricket clubs being amongst her favourites. Famous faces were seen from time to time enjoying the warm, relaxing atmosphere of Mary's. I well remember having a few beers with a young fellow by the name of Stuart Law after a game of cricket there many years ago.

Unfortunately, the fire has destroyed memorabilia that were collected over many years along with decades of photographs and sporting successes. The loss of Mary's has left a deep sadness in the hearts of all those who entered this historic building. It was one of the institutions of the downs and it will be sadly missed.

McCarthy, Private J

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.21 pm): I wish to speak briefly today to pay tribute to the legacy of a great Queenslander. This story was recently relayed to me and I think it is deserving of placing on the public record.

It is fitting that today, September 6, is the 100th anniversary of the death of Private John McCarthy, who died at the Somme in World War I. Members of John's family, notably his grandchildren and their families, gathered this morning to honour his service at Mowbray Park, where he is commemorated. John is commemorated there because he enlisted with the First Australian Imperial Force from his home at Potts Street, East Brisbane, in January 1917 at the age of 37. After his death his wife, Teresa, and their two children, Phyllis and William, moved to Manilla Street, East Brisbane, and eventually to an Anzac Cottage at Nundah some time later in 1919. Unfortunately, John has no known grave and he is therefore commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial to the Missing in France.

In addition to his brave sacrifice in World War I, John also had a fairly colourful and substantial historical role in what was a significant political event in Brisbane's history: the general strike of 1912. The strike was arguably Australia's first-ever general strike, and it shaped the role of the Labor movement in Australia from then on. The Brisbane general strike began when members of the Australian Tramway Employees Association, a precursor to the RTBU, were dismissed when they wore union badges to work in January 1912. At the height of the strike over 25,000 workers marched from the Brisbane Trades Hall to Fortitude Valley and back, with over 50,000 supporters watching from the sidelines. The strike also sadly gave rise to Brisbane's own 'black Friday', where peaceful protestors were ridden down and assailed by police and specially sworn-in officers.

John McCarthy was a member of the Australian Tramway Employees Association during this period, and it was he who brought a test case against the operators of the tramway, General Electric, for workers to be reinstated. After much delay the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration

eventually ruled in favour of the tramway workers, but by that time the strike was broken. The legacy of the strike went further. It is worth noting that one of the key protagonists of the strike on the side of the workers was the then opposition member TJ Ryan, who went on to become premier of the second Labor government in Queensland. Like many others, John McCarthy was sacked for his union involvement in the strike. He was never re-employed. Circumstances were therefore tough for him, and he finally became a carter with a horse and dray. He worked around the Gabba area until joining the Australian Imperial Force in early 1917.

I am especially honoured to acknowledge John McCarthy in parliament given the sacrifices he made—not only the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country in war—but also his earlier sacrifices to the union and Labor movements, both proud legacies which live on today.

Moggill Electorate, Traffic Congestion

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.24 pm): It is certainly a great privilege to represent the electorate of Moggill, particularly now that I am into my second term. The two issues I want to raise today that are consistently brought up with me by local residents are urban overdevelopment and the resultant traffic congestion. The question that needs to be asked is: why is this occurring? It is a consequence of the Palaszczuk Labor government's flawed South East Queensland Regional Plan, which is not in the interests of my local residents and, more broadly, people across the western suburbs of Brisbane.

In fairness, there are a number of aspects of the shared governmental jurisdictional responsibilities for urban development and planning that are in need of review, particularly with respect to public consultation, right of community objection by those residents who are materially affected by developments, adequate assessment of environmental or ambiance aspects of foreshadowed developments and the resultant impacts from an infrastructure perspective when developments are approved.

All of this overdevelopment is increasing traffic congestion on Moggill Road. What the Moggill electorate needs—and, more broadly, across the western suburbs of Brisbane—is an integrated road and public transport plan which is fit for purpose for the 21st century. This needs the cooperation of all levels of government—local, state and federal—with some big strategic thinking to come up with solutions to ease traffic congestion. We know there is an increase in population out at Springfield. We know that the Centenary Motorway is under significant pressure as well as the Western Freeway, and that obviously leads to congestion on Moggill Road. More needs to be done in an integrated way by all three levels of government to resolve that traffic congestion.

We have seen the recent RACQ traffic reports and some of the solutions they have put forward, but with all of this we are also seeing additional pressure on school infrastructure as far as an increase in population is concerned. I certainly know that the students of Moggill State School in particular would value enhanced public transport and footpath access to the new Moggill District Sports Park.

I call on the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to deliver such solutions in collaboration with the Brisbane City Council. The Moggill District Sports Park will certainly provide additional support for our local sporting clubs, but it needs to be accessible for students and the broader community. Extending the 444 bus service and providing pedestrian access would enhance availability and access for local residents, students, schools and sporting clubs. I call on the minister to consider this and work with Brisbane City Council to come up with a solution to deliver that additional enhancement.

Advance Queensland, Ignite Ideas Grants

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.27 pm): I have been very keen to make this statement today in light of the member for Everton's comments this morning. For a man who is the alleged shadow Treasurer, I am startled that his business experience does not extend very far.

Last week I was pleased to visit the Ulysses Veterinary Clinic in Cairns. A local vet by the name of Dr Charlotte Williamson has designed a weight loss app for dogs and their owners which she anticipates will be on the market by the end of this year. The Palaszczuk government is proud to support this Cairns based company with \$100,000—the money comes out of the Queensland Ignite Ideas grant—to commercialise the rollout of the Wagsa app around Australia and the world. This will help create 20 jobs. There is actually economic activity associated with this. It is quite remarkable.

The Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas fund has already supported 271 Queensland businesses through \$44.65 million in four rounds of Ignite Ideas, driving more than 1,000 new jobs. The inability of the member for Everton to grasp the fundamentals is enormously concerning. The grants are designed to support start-ups to small and medium sized Queensland businesses to test and implement

commercialisation plans for an innovative product, process or service that is market ready or in a local market and ready to scale into new markets. This is groundbreaking. For a vet in Cairns to come up with this idea and then be criticised for it reminds me of the term you often hear: we are swamped with information but starved of intelligence—well, some of us in the chamber. There are plenty of dogs around Cairns, Queensland, Australia and the world who need some help to get fit and healthy.

There are about two million overweight dogs in Australia and 49 million overweight dogs around the world. I know that it will come as a bit of a surprise, but this app will be available to the world and people will use it. It will generate money, and that generates jobs. I know that is a bit hard for some to grasp. The weight plans work by providing owners with an individualised calorie, portion or activity plan for their dog. Owners may choose to feed their pets commercial food or use low-calorie dogfood recipes provided by Wagstar. This generates commercial activity and jobs. I am absolutely startled.

Mr Harper: The member for Everton is barking mad.

Mr HEALY: I take that interjection. I was certainly very impressed with Wagstar and Dr Williamson. I will be following her undoubted success with the great interest it deserves. Anybody else who has a fantastic idea should not hesitate to go to the Queensland government Advance Queensland website. We will support your business.

Ormiston State School; Redland Hospital

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to oppose state government cuts to health and education in the Redlands. It has been my pleasure to join with my school communities over the last almost 10 years to fight for their needs—Bayview State School's indoor auditorium and flashing school lights, which are now completed; the Cleveland High indoor auditorium, which is at final construction stage and is soon to be opened; and the new learning centre to come.

One of the ongoing education challenges due to growth in Redland City taking the population past 150,000 people is at Ormiston State School. I have argued over the years that two demountable buildings need to be replaced by permanent buildings. Sadly, it has been brought to my attention that the government is not replacing those two buildings but instead is planning to take them away. The two demountable buildings have become a vital asset since they were installed in 2013, but the school is now being told that these buildings will be taken away from it by 2019. They will be cut.

The school community is worried about what these cuts to the school mean. Cutting the schoolrooms will place pressure on some of the classes currently being taught. They have been used to support a wide variety of learning needs and interests such as instrumental music, physical education, languages and science. While all of these areas are important, questions are being particularly asked about why this government would cut a STEM program from primary school students. I call on the education minister to reverse her decision to cut the classrooms and the STEM and other programs and construct permanent buildings, which are needed.

Another concern is the future of the palliative care beds at Redland Hospital. The LNP opposition became aware through Queensland Health sources that (1) the government was planning a statewide palliative care review and that the review included Redland Hospital, despite statements to the contrary by the minister and local Labor MPs, and (2) as part of the review they were looking at removing the five palliative care beds from Redland Hospital.

Sadly, the health minister has refused to publicly confirm the future of the beds at Redland Hospital. He has been asked on several occasions—through the budget process, at Health estimates, through social media, in a letter from my office and now in a follow-up question on notice. On each occasion the minister has ducked and weaved and never answered the question regarding the future of the Redland Hospital beds. I call on him again to answer the question about whether they are considering cutting the palliative care beds at Redland Hospital. It is something that Queensland Health has said is underway and being considered. Today I call on the government to stop the cuts to our local hospital and stop the cuts to our local school.

Nudgee Business Breakfast

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.33 pm): The Nudgee electorate is home to a dynamic mix of industrial, retail and professional service precincts. Only 15 kilometres from the city and highly serviced by public transport, a domestic and international airport, major arterials, a national university campus and precious green space, it is not surprising that people want to live as well as work in the Nudgee electorate.

It was a pleasure recently to welcome the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Jackie Trad, as special guest speaker at my fourth annual Nudgee Business Breakfast. With over 100 attendees in the room—from small businesses to multinationals, from major food manufacturers to Supercars—the diversity of businesses present was reflective of the diverse business and industry profile of my electorate. The breakfast provides an opportunity each year to bring together my local business community and government in shared dialogue regarding this government's economic priorities and how those priorities can translate into local opportunities and, equally, to create an opportunity for local business, industry and community organisations to network and make local connections. It was wonderful to hear following the breakfast of a number of new industry partnerships being pursued as a result of the relationships formed. I will follow the outcomes of those discussions with interest.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer provided attendees with an overview of the Palaszczuk government's fourth budget—a budget firmly focused on the future, about delivering the infrastructure, skills and services required to both equip and enable Queensland business—indeed all Queenslanders—to share in the prosperity generated by a growing and changing Queensland. The Treasurer provided not only a macro perspective but also a particularly relevant focus on support for small business and advanced manufacturing—support such as \$123 million to back our entrepreneurs, funding industry research fellowships and helping small to medium businesses innovate, grow and create jobs; an extension to the Business Development Fund of \$40 million over the next two years; a further \$180 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to deliver more training opportunities and workforce participation; and an extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate scheme to June 2019 to support up to 26,000 apprentices and trainees. All this is directed towards supporting Queensland businesses to grow, create jobs and boost Queensland's economy.

Building the productive capacity and resilience of our state's traditional and emerging industries remains a critical focus for our government. My electorate has large areas of manufacturing in Banyo, Northgate, Virginia and Geebung, ranging from broad based to advanced manufacturing. The Treasurer spoke to our advanced manufacturing 10-year road map to grow the manufacturing industry and ensure it continues to be a driver of innovation and productivity across our economy. This road map of course closely aligns with our \$40 million statewide Made in Queensland program dedicated to supporting Queensland's manufacturing industry.

I take this opportunity to again thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for attending my annual business breakfast, which continues to grow year on year. I was very proud to show off my local industry and business community to the Treasurer, who was tremendously warm and approachable and generous with her time and support for me personally.

Neumann, Ms N

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.36 pm): I was honoured last week to attend the Sunshine Coast police honours and awards ceremony at Kawana. The Queensland Police Service has a long tradition of acknowledging its officers for the bravery, tenacity and professional conduct they display in many of the decisions they make and the actions they take every day. I was enormously proud to be there for the presentation of the second annual Russell Sheehan Award. I worked with Russell Sheehan in the Child Protection and Investigation Unit. He was a well-liked and very highly regarded detective. Tragically, Russell took his own life two days before Christmas 2015, but his memory lives on with the annual presentation of this award in his name.

This prestigious award is bestowed upon a Sunshine Coast detective who possesses the skills and qualities Russell displayed every day in his duties: professionalism, diligence, dependability and consistency along with a high work ethic and being a valued team member who provides guidance and mentors others. This year I am proud to report to the parliament that the recipient of this award was Detective Senior Constable Natascha Neumann. Tasch Neumann is an outstanding detective who strives every day to emulate the attributes displayed by Russell Sheehan while serving the people of Queensland. I am also proud to say that I worked closely with Tasch at the CPIU. I remember when she first came to relieve in our office when she was still a uniformed officer at Maroochydore Police Station. I was lucky when she later became a member of my team. I had the privilege of watching her progress and develop into one of the best detectives not only on the Sunshine Coast but also in this state.

Just one of the examples of why Natascha Neumann won this prestigious award is an operation she commenced into a paedophile ring that had committed horrific and prolonged sexual abuse upon a number of innocent and vulnerable young boys. This operation resulted in the arrest of two adult males who I am pleased to report are now locked up in prison. In fact, my last official duty as a detective

on the afternoon before the last state election was to attend the Maroochydore District Court, where I watched the main offender in this operation get sentenced to 16 years in prison for committing 76 serious sexual offences on these young boys.

Detective Senior Constable Neumann was the principal investigator and arresting officer in this operation, and this is just one of the examples of why she was a worthy recipient of the annual Russell Sheehan award. I also want to acknowledge David Drinnen, Daren Edwards, Craig Mansfield, Chris Eaton and Chris Hart on receiving a commissioner certificate as part of their work with the Drug and Serious Crime Task Force.

Pumicestone Passage, Police

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.39 pm): I rise to address the House on the question of Pumicestone Passage which, as people may know, is the body of water that nestles between Caloundra proper and Bribie Island. People travel from Caloundra to Bribie Island and the passage itself is a beautiful body of water. It is a very short walking distance from the passage to the sea on the other side of Bribie Island, and the contrast is simply inexplicable. On one side there is the tranquillity of the passage and on the other side there is the wild sea. The use of Pumicestone Passage is going to increase as time goes by with the population increasing across the Sunshine Coast, with Aura Bagara with 50,000-odd people and Harmony with 14,000 people. They will want to use Pumicestone Passage for recreation. It is used now.

That population usage will increase over time, and that brings me to 2010 when the then police minister Neil Roberts opened the Sunshine Coast district water police facility at Mooloolaba.

Ms Linard: A good man.

Mr McARDLE: I take that interjection; a good man indeed. That particular facility covers an area from Redcliffe in the south to Tin Can Bay in the north. Eight years ago there were four police officers attached to that facility. There are still only four police officers attached—only four—and there is an urgent need for two things: one, more police officers and, two, land to be purchased in the Caloundra precinct on which at some point in time in the future a depot is established so that there are permanent police in Caloundra in relation to Pumicestone Passage and the waterways around there to ensure people who are not doing the right thing—for example, drink driving et cetera or drink riding on jetskis—are taken into account and removed from the water.

Lyn Gahan, a resident of Caloundra, has started a petition in relation to that seeking not only more police officers but also land to be set aside so that in time to come a precinct can be built in the Caloundra region. It is most important that as the population increases the facilities to deal with miscreants, shall we say, on Pumicestone Passage also be put in place. We also know that Pumicestone Passage is used by families and by fishermen, but there are also those members of the public who—not many living in Caloundra—use it as their own speedway, their own jetski speedway, their own motorboat speedway, their own surf skiing speedway and cause risk and damage to those people who use it for family purposes. I urge people to go on to the website here at parliament to sign the petition and ensure more police and facilities are available on the passage as the population increases.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Mackay, joining us in the gallery today is the former member for Cook. Welcome, former member for Cook.

Mackay, Women on Boards Forum

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.43 pm): Get on board and create change! The Premier's Women on Boards event was the catalyst for over 30 women in Mackay to meet for lunch at Split Spaces, Mackay's innovation hub, to discuss the merit and the necessity to have more women represented on government boards. We were able to live stream into the Premier's Women on Boards event. I want to thank Karla Steen, a board member of the Mackay HHS, for assisting in getting the event launched in Mackay and leading roles played on the day with the valuable and rich conversation by Jade McAuley, Adrienne Rourke, Kylie Porter and Tegan Philpott. The women attending the lunch crossed all political divides and one thing that united us was our belief that business outcomes are stronger when a diverse range of views and a gender balance is achieved.

The women in my region are intelligent and well educated and already have a proven record as leaders in their chosen fields. The women attending were from education, law, finance, local government, medicine, media, mining and small business. Some of the women have already won

prestigious awards in their field of business and expertise. Some participants are already on state boards and committees and others are on private boards. We all believe that living and working in regional and rural Queensland should not be a barrier for anyone wanting to apply for a board position. It should be a bonus given the fact that women are underrepresented in the following sectors: natural resources, particularly water and drainage; building and construction; electrical; manufacturing; agriculture; and transport. All sectors relate to rural and regional Queensland.

As of this August there were more than 300 Queensland government bodies with a range of responsibilities and activities. These included advisory boards supporting and influencing government policy and a range of activities; regulatory and investigative boards for licensing and accreditation; governing boards overseeing multimillion dollar enterprises and industries; and enterprise boards such as government owned corporations delivering services like energy, rail, water and ports.

Last term the Palaszczuk government set the bold and ambitious target of achieving gender equity on government boards by 2020. The Palaszczuk government has set a standard for others, with a female Premier and Deputy Premier and a cabinet that includes 50 per cent women. The representation of women on government boards now sits at 46 per cent, which is up from 37 per cent in January 2016.

Lockyer Valley, Water Supply

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.46 pm): I am grateful for the opportunity to tell the House about a couple of opportunities the government could deliver that will help our struggling farmers in the Lockyer and Brisbane valleys. Today I asked the minister a question on notice: given the current drought declarations and zero water being available, will the minister remove the water allocation charge until water is available for users of our irrigation schemes? This important decision could be the difference between some farmers selling up or being able to continue. This is a dire situation. I ask the minister to strongly consider giving these farmers a much needed break.

Whilst this may be a short-term fix, the long-term solution is improved water security. I want to place on record my congratulations to the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative. This group was born of the leadership of my local governments putting their combined weight behind the fight for long-term water security which includes potential sources of floodwater, Wivenhoe allocations and recycled water. Mayor Tanya Milligan of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Mayor Graeme Lehmann of the Somerset Regional Council and their council teams formed the collaborative and brought together community leaders from the Lockyer Water Users Forum, the Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. and the Lockyer Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Also represented is Queensland Urban Utilities and Seqwater.

This group was recently successful with a \$1.4 million grant under the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program from State Development. This week I and our leader, Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, met with the collaborative's independent chair and project manager, Mr Stephen Robertson—well known in this House—who alerted us to the opportunities this business case may unlock, but he also raised the likely time frames of the work to be done on the strategic business case. This strategic business case being undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will determine if the rest of the Building Queensland business case is completed.

I have read and understand the process for unlocking the Building Queensland money, but I can tell members that our communities are already saying, 'Not another study!' There have been studies undertaken as far back as the 1990s and the 2000s. Even in the last two years there have been more completed. There is so much data available. I plead with the minister to get his department to get hold of those studies which will not only demonstrate the enormous benefit to our region this project will deliver but also assist his department to fast-track the current process. Our community needs this water. It has the potential to deliver improved security to our \$640 million economy and the potential to grow even more healthy food for our nation.

Mount Gravatt East, Development

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.49 pm): I rise to address an issue that is causing great concern to the constituents of my electorate of Mansfield, particularly the suburb of Mount Gravatt East. In May, the community of Mount Gravatt East in Coolong, Nurran and Carrara streets awoke to the sound of chainsaws as contractors cleared mature native trees from three adjoining house blocks totalling 6,794 square metres. At the end of the day, not a single tree was left standing.

Naturally, the residents were incensed to learn that a developer had purchased these three blocks, zoned low-density residential since its gazetted in 1967. The developer cleared the site and plans to establish 32 two-storey four-bedroom townhouses. This site has no street frontage except for a single driveway. Inquiries to the Brisbane City Council confirmed that, notwithstanding significant site works having already commenced, no development application had been lodged. Naturally, the residents of the area were concerned about the impact that this proposal would have on their community and began to mobilise. The Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Development Action Group was formed. A petition calling on the Brisbane City Council to act, which has 835 signatories, has been circulated. I table this petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding town house development in Mount Gravatt East [1311].

Like these residents, I have two serious concerns. One is the apparent weakness of Brisbane City Council planning regulations that allows for such works even before a development application has been lodged. The local Brisbane city councillor was quick to point out that she has no direct influence on planning decisions and that the council employs professional town planners for that. That may be true, although it is an interesting separation of powers. It is also true that the regulations that guide town planning are determined by our elected councillors. The residents are of the view that it is only by direct and concerted action by them that they can influence council development decisions. I am inclined to agree with them.

The second concern is habitat destruction. In this term, one of the first pieces of legislation passed in this place pertained to vegetation management. The basic tenet of this legislation was that, as a society, we cannot continue to condone the wholesale destruction of native vegetation. Yet in this case a developer was able to clear-fell the equivalent of three residential blocks.

As legislators, we have an obligation to ensure that quality of life is not compromised by uncontrolled development. I commend the residents of the Mount Gravatt East community for taking a stand to protect their lifestyle and to keep inappropriate developments out of residential neighbourhoods.

Redlands District Special School

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): If any member is in the Redlands on Friday, 21 September, I ask them to save the date. I will come back to why later. I want to share with the House the incredible work of the Redlands District Special School, which is a school in the Redlands for students with disabilities and which is doing amazing things. The principal, Mr Thompson, and the staff are creative, innovative and impressive. I love their work. The education and life skills being taught by them to the students at that school—some with complex and special needs—is sensational, with love, care and respect at the heart of all they do every day.

Earlier this year I was invited to the school's Koala Cafe. The food was baked by the students. They made a very mean cup of coffee! They made the table decorations, the price lists and the signage and they provided the most delightful hospitality. I want to give a special shout-out to Jayden. Not only was he a delightful host but also his raspberry slice was delicious. He was running home to tell his gran that night that he had met the member for Redlands.

The students are heading to the patch of my good friend the member for Maryborough for the Fraser Coast Technology Challenge, which is a program that is supported by our government. Last year, the students participated in the challenge. They pushed themselves and they really loved it—so much so that they are going back for more this year and they are going back with more excitement and extra enthusiasm.

These students were able to participate only because of the generosity of Traction, which is a wonderful organisation in the Redlands that is looking at spreading its wings further across Queensland. Traction donated a special recumbent bicycle, allowing students of varying abilities to participate in this 24-hour nonstop riding challenge with technology at its heart.

I will go back to where I started. If members are in the Redlands on 21 September, I ask them to stop into the Redlands District Special School in Thornlands for its second op shop day. I guarantee that members will grab a bargain. I would like to congratulate the teachers—Natalie, Kay and their team—who came up with the idea of a regular op shop to teach the students skills in retail, great customer service, product display and cash handling.

Last Friday, I attended the grand opening of the monthly op shop day. The students were so excited. I made them a promise that today in parliament I would wear one of my incredible purchases on the day. I do not think that members would disagree with me when I say that this is a gorgeous suit jacket and I purchased it for the bargain price of \$2. That is right: everything was \$2. Everything came with a great sale price and a huge beaming smile.

I want to see the very best for the amazing schools in my electorate and ensure that the wonderful work of schools such as the Redlands District Special School is supported to deliver the best possible education and achieve the best skills outcomes. Those on this side of the House know that the Commonwealth needs to come to the table with better funding for our Queensland schools. The success of our students, including those at Redlands District Special School, is dependent upon better funding for needs based programs.

I would like to remind the federal government and those sitting opposite that their focus should be on proper funding for our schools and not \$17 billion in tax cuts for the big banks. When the member for Oodgeroo talks about tax cuts, I will remind him that he might want to take up that matter with his federal member.

(Time expired)

Sippy Downs

 **Mr MICELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.55 pm): I rise to speak about Sippy Downs, which is one of a number of suburbs that make up my picturesque electorate of Buderim. Sippy Downs is just 14 square kilometres in size, but it packs a punch with what it has to offer locals as well as the overall contribution it makes to the Sunshine Coast region and, indeed, Queensland.

Hopefully, every member of this place has heard of the best netball team in Australia, the Sunshine Coast Lightning. In just two short years that team has become a national icon. It is an amazing elite sporting club that has quickly become the pride of the Sunshine Coast and it calls Sippy Downs home. Sippy Downs is bordered by the beautiful Mooloolah River National Park and the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden. Sippy Downs is a close-knit community that enjoys tranquil lakes, local coffee shops and restaurants, more than 19 parks that are currently the focus of a strategic plan, and a sense of excitement about all of the great new things that are coming to Sippy Downs.

Sippy Downs is home to 6,500 people, of whom many choose to live in Sippy Downs because of its outstanding local schools, such as Chancellor State College, Siena Catholic Primary School and Siena Catholic College. Not surprisingly, the growing needs of this young community continue to be embraced by local businesses, entrepreneurs, commercial and light industrial investors and, of course, the Sunshine Coast Council.

Previously, I have spoken about the need for the state government to support the Sippy Downs community on issues such as solving congestion on Scholars Drive and investment in education. I welcome the recent investment from the state government in classrooms at Chancellor State College, but it needs to be said that, because of the massive increase in student numbers in my electorate, more work needs to be done. I applaud the council, in particular, division 6 councillor Christian Dickson, for recognising and developing a range of responses to growth in the area that so far includes planning for a range of community facilities such as a local library—something that the LNP committed to at the last election, the need for which has been recognised by resident Marie Dyer. Together with a few neighbours, she set up the first Sippy Downs communal library and free pantry, bringing the community together and breaking down fences one at a time.

The spirit of a community is always in its people and their dedication to each other. I wish the Sippy Downs and District Community Association well as it aims to represent the community on issues such as development, roads and traffic, transport, safety, the environment, community development, recreation and services for the youth and older residents. In my role as the state member, and a local, I look forward to playing an active role in the group for many years to come and, indeed, in the entire community.

Illaweenia Street

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.58 pm): I rise to speak about some extraordinary revelations that were published overnight in the *Brisbane Times* about the absolutely ridiculous decision by the Brisbane City Council to fully close Illaweenia Street. Many members will recall that the decision to close Illaweenia Street caused absolute chaos in my community. I worked with my community, I stood beside my community and we managed to overturn the ridiculous decision by the Brisbane City Council to close Illaweenia Street.

In the article published in the *Brisbane Times* overnight, an LNP administration spokesman is reported as saying, 'At no stage have councillors suggested that council officers made the recommendation to fully close Illaweenen Street.' That is a very interesting statement as it completely contradicts what Councillor Amanda Cooper told a council meeting in 24 October last year. At that meeting she said—

Council officers have to go through extensive consideration of what's put on as a proposal before they make their determination as to what the outcome will be.

So it's not councillors who make that decision, it is council officers. Council officers with the training and the expertise to review what's put to them.

Last night a council spokesperson said something completely different from what Councillor Amanda Cooper told our community on 24 October last year. I table that article for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times* online, dated 5 September 2018, titled 'MP accuses councillors of lying over southside road closure' [\[1313\]](#).

It gets even more interesting. I table a fact sheet published by Councillor Angela Owen. It really should not be called a fact sheet; it should be called a false fact sheet. She distributed this around my community at the time that the decision to fully close Illaweenen Street was made. It says—

Council officers undertake assessments of all permit applications for any road closure—

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Fact Sheet: Illaweenen Street Closure Logan Motorway Enhancement Project' [\[1312\]](#).

We have an extraordinary situation where Councillor Amanda Cooper told a council meeting that council officers assessed the decision to close Illaweenen Street and Councillor Angela Owen put out a publication saying the same thing, yet we have an LNP administration spokesperson saying the exact opposite in an article published last night. I also table the Traffic Information Note dated 15 May 2017. The Brisbane City Council tried to hide this document from my community for so long. They have been sitting on this for well over a year. I have been fighting them with a right-to-information application. I had to take it to the Office of the Information Commissioner. Finally I have received this document, and guess what? It does not support the full closure of Illaweenen Street. In fact, it says the opposite. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Traffic Information Note: LEP TMP Illaweenen Street Closure' [\[1314\]](#).

It gets even better. The Brisbane City Council were not happy with that so Councillor Angela Owen asked Transurban for its opinion. I table an email from Transurban dated 1 August 2017 where it clearly states that the full closure would not provide a significant reduction in the construction program and would lead to community opposition.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 1 August 2017 from the Community Relations Manager, Logan Enhancement Project, to the Calamvale Ward Office regarding Illaweenen Street [\[1315\]](#).

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.02 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report No. 8 titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 5: 2017-18—Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits* tabled on 18 June 2018.

As an ex-councillor, water is close to my heart. Assets held by our water entities are enormous. Unitywater has 11,652 kilometres of pipes, Queensland Urban Utilities has 18,755 kilometres of pipes and Seqwater has 37 water treatment plants and one desalination plant. Not only do these enormous and expensive assets have to be maintained, they have to be as close to 100 per cent reliable as we can get them. It does cost a lot to service and maintain and also replace these assets.

I do remember, in my time in council, a pipe-lining program where a machine was sent down a main that extrudes a substance that coats the inside of the main and therefore makes it waterproof. Many more years of life are gained from that particular pipe and it does not have to be dug up. A former staff member would always tell me—he was not in the water business; he was in the transportation business—the amount of money and electricity it takes to move one cubic metre of water around. That is a tonne that needs to be moved from point A to point B and be 100 per cent reliable.

This report points out that \$225 million was allocated to the Townsville water security project. That is very much needed in that area. When we started the Murrumba Downs plant, which had a reverse osmosis process, it was \$44 million and we thought that was quite expensive at the time. It is a great asset to the area. These assets are large and expensive. Bearing this in mind, the audit has presented what I know is a good picture and Queenslanders can be proud of the financial standing of these water assets.

The assets and liability balances, as it says in the report, have remained consistent. We can see from this report that the money made in these businesses is going back into these businesses to make them even better for Queenslanders. For example, Seqwater has paid the interest costs for all of its debts in the past year. The debt has stabilised for one of the other entities for the first time since 2011-12. SunWater has kept its profit this year and put those back into dam safety measures.

These businesses are reinvesting their profits back into their own business. In relation to the financial standing of these entities, profits totalled \$368 million, with revenue of \$3.3 billion; expenses were \$2.79 billion, net assets were \$7.5 billion and total assets were \$22.6 billion. It is quite a massive industry.

At our briefing the Audit Office advised the committee that the increased earnings for the water sector was mainly driven by consumer demand in our area. Queensland has experienced enormous growth—another \$5 million Queenslanders—especially along the corridors north and south of the Brisbane area. As a result there is more water being produced by these plants. It can be noted from this report that the dividends from these businesses are returned to councils—in particular, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater make returns to those contributing councils. That is \$200 million annually. We need to remember that when we talk about how these particular organisations operate.

Once all of these figures are stacked up against the sheer amount of capital invested in these plants, the capital costs and the debt they service, I think they are performing very well indeed.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to the Auditor-General's report No. 5 titled *Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits*. Water in Queensland is utilised predominantly by households, for agricultural purposes, mining, electricity generation, tourism and industries involved with manufacturing. This financial audit covered the entities of SunWater, Mount Isa Water Board, Unitywater, Gladstone Area Water Board, Seqwater and Queensland Urban Utilities.

The Audit Office stated that all water entities have effective year-end close processes allowing them to produce high-quality financial statements in a timely manner. Further to this, all water entities met their 31 August legislative deadline. The report also states that Seqwater's financial report met the legislative deadline for the first time in three years. For the third consecutive year the water sector has reported an increase in its operating profits, with four entities having profits after income tax greater than prior years. The report concluded that all the water entities are financially sustainable and are capable of paying their debts.

There has been an increase in profits from the water sector of 71 per cent—\$154 million. The returns made by the distributor-retailers of water to their participating local governments amounted to \$202 million for 2016-17—an increase of \$31 million from 2015-16. The contributions received by developers has increased by \$129 million, or 41 per cent, over the past three years. In this same time there has been approximately \$85,000 new building approvals in the local government areas serviced by Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater all requiring water.

Seqwater continues to make an operating loss, largely reflecting the historical underrecovery of the cost of water. Seqwater's sustainability is dependent upon future returns provided through the pricing set by the Queensland government and, importantly, upon the security currently provided by the state for borrowings. Seqwater manages and maintains \$3.2 billion of climate-resilient manufactured water assets, including the Gold Coast desalination plant and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme. Seqwater carries debts associated with those assets of \$2.8 billion, along with maintenance responsibilities.

In 2016-17, the Gold Coast desalination plant produced 1,562 megalitres of water, which is 3.2 per cent of the total capacity, representing just 0.5 per cent of total water supplied by Seqwater, and provides a source of water supply during drought and flood. The plant currently operates in a hot standby mode, which means it is operated at the level of water production required to maintain the plant in a state of readiness to deliver 33 per cent of capacity within 24 hours and 100 per cent within 72 hours, if required.

In response to a question on notice regarding the use of recycled water produced at Luggage Point, the Audit Office provided the following—

Luggage point is the home of a large sewage treatment plant that is owned and operated by Queensland Urban Utilities. The treated sewage flows back into the Brisbane river through an outflow from this site.

That highlights a couple of issues. One is the level of debt that is still being carried by Seqwater after the Beattie years, with the construction of the western corridor and associated treatment plants. It seems incredible that, after all this time, water is being treated to a potable standard and then pumped into the Brisbane River. That is particularly so at this time of drought. Whilst that water is to be used to ensure security of supply for Brisbane, when not required it would be a valuable resource for both the agricultural and horticultural sectors.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to outline the findings of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's consideration of the Auditor-General's report No. 5 for 2017-18 titled *Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits*, as detailed in the committee's report No. 8 of the 56th Parliament, tabled in June 2018.

The committee's task was to consider the Auditor-General's findings in relation to its financial audits of the government's main water sector entities, including bulk water suppliers and distributor-retailers across south-east and regional Queensland. Those suppliers and distributors included the Mount Isa Water Board, the Gladstone Area Water Board, Queensland Urban Utilities, Seqwater, SunWater and Unitywater. The Auditor-General also examined two controlled entities, the Eungella Water Pipeline Pty Ltd and the Australian Recycling Centre of Excellence.

I was particularly interested in the Auditor-General's findings in relation to Seqwater, as that authority is based in the great city of Ipswich and its dams include the major water-holding facilities of Lake Wivenhoe and Lake Somerset. Seqwater is the Queensland government's statutory authority responsible for providing a safe and secure, cost-effective bulk drinking water supply for 3.1 million people across South-East Queensland. It also provides essential flood mitigation services. It manages catchment health, offers community recreation facilities and provides water for irrigation to about 1,200 farmers across seven water supply schemes.

Seqwater's operations extend from the New South Wales border, west to the base of the Toowoomba ranges and north to Gympie. Seqwater manages up to \$11 billion of water supply assets, including the Seqwater grid and the natural catchments of the region's major water supply sources. Its assets include dams, weirs, conventional water treatment plants and climate-resilient sources of water through the Gold Coast desalination plant and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme.

A 600-kilometre reverse-flow pipeline network enables drinking water to be transported around the region, from the Sunshine Coast to Greater Brisbane, the Redlands and south to the Gold Coast. Seqwater also manages recreational facilities at its dams, lakes and parks, which provide more than 50 per cent of the green space in South-East Queensland outside national parks. Seqwater was formed on 1 January 2013 through the merger of three state owned water businesses, the South-East Queensland Water Grid, LinkWater and the former Seqwater. It also took over the responsibilities of the former Queensland water commission.

The Queensland Audit Office found that, for the first time in three years, Seqwater's financial report met the legislative deadline. However, the Queensland Audit Office identified two significant deficiencies, otherwise known as high-risk matters, in control activities at SunWater relating to individuals' access abilities in the finance system and conflicts in roles and responsibilities in the accounts payable section. It also identified 13 control deficiencies, otherwise known as low to moderate risk matters, across the sector, but concluded that those were not high risk and were matters that could be resolved to ensure a good-quality control environment.

In its report No. 8 of the 56th Parliament tabled in June 2018, the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee made only one recommendation. The committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's report No. 8 of the 56th Parliament, titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 5: 2017-18—Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits*, tabled on 18 June 2018. Water is our most precious commodity. It underpins everything we do and provides opportunities for untold development across Queensland. The Auditor-General's report summarises the results of the financial audits of six of the main water sector entities in Queensland; namely, the Mount Isa Water Board, the Gladstone Area Water Board, SunWater, Seqwater, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater.

For the third consecutive year, the water sector has reported an increase in its operating profits, driven by population growth, consumer demand for water and, of course, pricing increases across the sector. I will go through the figures for the 2016-17 financial year: profits were \$368 million, which is a 71 per cent increase from the previous year; revenue was \$3.3 billion, which is a six per cent increase; and expenses of \$2.79 billion. The water sector recorded net flows to the government of \$306 million, which is a significant increase on the previous year. Those are big figures.

Over the past three years, a total of \$193 million in dividends was declared to the state government, of which SunWater contributed 87 per cent. That begs the question: is this government using water bills to increase profits, just as they have with electricity in Queensland? Of concern are the annual maintenance and operating costs for the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme and the Gold Coast desalination plant, at \$9.8 million and \$11.9 million respectively. That is because of low water supplies, the fact that Labor has not built a dam in Queensland for almost two decades and that much of the water grid is not used, yet Queenslanders are still paying for the costs.

Queenslanders are sick and tired of increasing cost-of-living expenses, especially from government owned and controlled utilities. Under this Labor government, again residents in the South-East Queensland corner are facing massive increases in bulk water prices. Over the past 10 years, successive Labor governments have delivered a more than 400 per cent increase in bulk water prices directly onto the bills of Queenslanders.

However, the latest blow to household budgets has come from the Queensland Competition Authority, which has recommended further price increases over the next three successive years, despite a 71 per cent increase in profits across-the-board. Those increases include over five per cent for residents in the Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim and Somerset areas, which is an increase of \$47 over three years; over eight per cent on the Sunshine Coast and Noosa, which is an increase of \$79 over three years; and over nine per cent in the Redlands, which is an increase of \$88 over three years. Therefore, over the next three years residents of South-East Queensland will be paying, on average, \$50 to \$90 more for their water and those increases are three to five times the rate of inflation. That certainly fails the good governance test and it is unacceptable.

The Minister for Natural Resources refused to rule out price hikes above the consumer price index for regional bulk water during estimates. That is a huge blow for irrigators already hurting under the increased demand for pumping through drought. I know there is no better example of that than in my area of the Burdekin which relies on irrigation to grow their annual sugar crop.

I now move on to the critical water infrastructure report. That audit found that water control systems were not adequately secure, with all entities audited found to be susceptible to security breaches or hacking attacks because of weaknesses in processes and controls. Security controls did not sufficiently protect them from internal or external information technology related attacks. The ramifications are that these attackers can target water control systems to endanger public health and safety. We need to be on top of that in this day and age.

Finally, I turn to the flood resilience of river catchments report and how important it is that all the elements of the Brisbane River catchment flood study are adopted. Of particular relevance is the recommendation that the four councils develop flood management plans in accordance with the recommendations from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.20 pm): I want to make some comments about the committee report, noting the comments made by members of the committee. In particular, I note the point made in the report about Seqwater continuing to make an operating loss which largely reflects 'the historical under-recovery of the cost of water' and the 'past acquisition of highly geared businesses'. That may well be the case when it comes to looking at the financials of Seqwater, but it certainly would not be something that rings true to consumers of water in South-East Queensland who have seen over the past decade their water bills skyrocket continuously as a result of the historical investment and spending on the water network in South-East Queensland.

I speak of things like the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, the Tugun desalination plant and the Wyaralong Dam in my electorate. That dam cost \$380 million and it has become a \$380 million rowing dam due to the fact that it is not actually connected to the grid. It was built against the advice of many locals in that area who questioned the quality of the water that would be collected in the dam. It remains to be seen whether that water will actually ever be able to be used for the Seqwater grid. The water is said to be brackish. Some people say that it is contaminated by arsenic due to the historical land uses of the land on which the dam is built.

That \$380 million forms part of the debt held by Seqwater. Seqwater is paying interest on that debt. We are all paying the debt for things like Wyaralong Dam that is not being used. It is one example of dams being built without pipelines and pipelines being built without dams under the former Beattie and Bligh governments. A massive amount of money went into the Seqwater network.

If we look at the bulk water prices this year we see that we are being charged \$2.91 per kilolitre. It will be \$3.01 per kilolitre in 2019-20. It will be \$3.12 per kilolitre in 2020-21. We are still seeing continual increases in the Seqwater bulk price as a result of the mismanagement of the water grid by former Labor governments.

The worst thing of all for most residents of the Scenic Rim electorate is that they are not even connected to the water grid. They are paying \$2 or \$3 per kilolitre of water for the so-called security of the Seqwater grid but they are not even connected to it. For all the people who live in Boonah, Beaudesert, Kooralbyn, Rathdowney and the other towns in my electorate who pay through the nose for the debt put on them by the forebears of the members opposite, they do not even get any security of water supply. It is an outrage that this amount of money has been spent and a dam was built against the wishes and advice of locals. They are now paying for it but they do not get one single drop of water security as result of it.

I think it is time the people of my electorate in places like Boonah, Beaudesert and the other areas where they are not connected to the grid got some relief from these prices. It should be recognised that they are not connected to the grid. Seqwater and the government should be looking at reducing those bulk water charges for those areas that are not part of the grid and do not benefit from any so-called security but are still paying for it and have been for the last 10 years.

I will give an example of the enormous costs to the community in this respect. Recently at a school in my electorate they had an undetected water leak. They were sent an enormous bill by Queensland Urban Utilities. They tried to fix this as soon as possible. They made appeals to QUU and Seqwater to waive those water charges. There was simply no give in that bureaucracy to allow for issues like that to be dealt with. It is bad enough that they have to cop the charges without any security, but then they also face administrative nightmares like that. This reflects poorly on Seqwater and historical investment by the Labor Party.

(Time expired)

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise today to speak to the water report handed down by the Queensland Audit Office. These reports are absolutely crucial to ensure that our government entities are operating with good corporate governance. I want to place on record my thanks to the Queensland Audit Office for their relentless dedication to ensuring that these organisations are held to high standards for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

For the benefit of the House, I point out that the Auditor-General, supported by the Queensland Audit Office, is the external auditor of the state's public sector. Every year they go through a financial audit program. They perform independent audits of the reliability of financial statements produced by state and local government entities. All of us in this House should know just how important it is that Queenslanders can have faith that their entities are operating for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The Auditor-General prepares reports for parliament and then as a committee we go through them and, hopefully in a bipartisan fashion, agree to endorse the reports.

Mr Mickelberg: Hopefully.

Ms PUGH: Yes, hopefully, member for Buderim. I take that interjection. Water is for everyone. The sectors of the Queensland economy that rely on water include, but are by no means limited to, households, agriculture, mining, manufacturing and, of course, tourism. The importance of our water assets, as members have touched on today, and the infrastructure that supports them is impossible to underestimate.

The Queensland Audit Office found that water entities used good financial reporting practices to produce high-quality, financial statements in a timely manner for 2016-17. Entities with issues last year put appropriate processes in place and made information available by the agreed time frames this year. The Queensland Audit Office also found that the control environment for each entity was suitably designed and effective and was able to rely on the internal control systems used to produce financial statements. The Queensland Audit Office also found that all water entities have effective end-of-year close processes to tie up their finances in a timely manner, which allows them to produce high-quality financial statements in a timely manner.

Queensland is one of the most decentralised states—I would wager not just in Australia but in the entire world—with 10 major regional cities. Our water assets have a big job to do. We know that. In the South-East Queensland corner alone, Queensland Urban Utilities has delivered 128,700 megalitres of water to customers this year—all 1.4 million of them. That is a delightful 117,110 megalitres of sewerage treated. They also have 108 reservoirs of water.

One of the events affecting revenue this year that was noted by the QAO was increased developer contributions. In this reporting period, developers contributed \$443 million. I think that is important to note for a number of reasons. First, it is great to see developers contributing to the growth in South-East Queensland in a positive way. Secondly, it means that Queensland's population will continue to grow beyond the five million mark and with that so does the demand for water.

I also want to make mention of the success of the previous Labor government's campaign around water savings, particularly in the South-East Queensland region. I recall that former Queensland premier Peter Beattie did a wonderful job around the need for all South-East Queenslanders in particular to preserve water with simple but important and effective measures like four-minute showers and not washing the car. I was very happy to not wash the car and save myself some time on a Sunday. Without the cooperation of Queenslanders with this campaign, it is very likely that water costs for families would be considerably higher and that would have flow-on effects for the speed at which we need to see new infrastructure. It was wonderful to see that the Queensland Audit office was pleased overall with the functioning of our water assets. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this report.

 **Mr MICELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's report on the Auditor-General's report relating to financial matters of the Queensland government water entities. After reading the Audit Office report and hearing testimony at the public briefing on 14 May, it quickly became clear that this government is not particularly interested in water infrastructure and that it is instead intent on Queenslanders carrying the can for the rash and ill-advised decisions made by previous Labor governments, of which the Premier and much of the frontbench were members.

I am talking about decisions like the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, a scheme that sits in care and maintenance and would take approximately two years to be recommissioned in the event that it is ever needed and a scheme that is costing Queenslanders every day. The Audit Office commented on the 'historical under-recovery of the cost of water' and the 'past acquisition of highly geared businesses' including 'climate-resilient manufactured water assets' such as the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme. Simply put, Queenslanders across the south-east are paying copious amounts for an asset that is not being used and is not likely to be used any time soon.

We have heard previously that the Palaszczuk government is not willing to ease the burden of high water prices by making the decision to alter the price path for bulk water prices. This is despite the former treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, suggesting that such a proposal had merit. Instead, Queenslanders in places like the Redlands, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane will bear the impost of significantly increased water prices at a time when they are least in a position to do so.

Given that profits across the government owned water assets increased by 71 per cent in the 2017 financial year, the question needs to be asked: who is it that these assets are serving? Are they a profit centre for the government or do they exist to provide cheap, safe and reliable water for Queenslanders?

I note with concern that two significant high-risk matters were identified in risk control activities at SunWater. I am confident that those responsible at SunWater have taken steps to address those. An additional 13 control deficiencies have also been identified by the Queensland Audit Office across government owned water entities.

Queenslanders in my electorate tell me that high water prices and high electricity prices are becoming unsustainable and unworkable. Despite this, we see record high profits from government owned water assets and an unwillingness to address the problem by making the hard decisions like altering the price path for bulk water prices.

I call on the government to build the dams that will provide water security for all Queenslanders in a cost-effective manner. I call on the government to make the hard decisions to reduce the burden of bulk water prices on residents across the south-east.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.33 pm): I was not going to make a contribution on this report, but I thought I might because those on the other side have completely forgotten their time in government. The member for Buderim talked about water prices at Redlands but completely forgot what residents in my area of the Redlands had to pay for water and the increases in water prices that they had to pay during the Newman years.

Let us look at the increases in water prices in those three years: 22 per cent in the first year, 17 per cent in the second year and 14 per cent in the third year. In three years they had to pay an extra 53 per cent for their water. What did they get for it? They got no infrastructure at all. I want to talk about our infrastructure investment.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting.

Mr BROWN: We are upgrading the Leslie Harrison Dam right now. Seqwater is making sure that the Leslie Harrison Dam is safe. There are 10,000 residents who live downstream of Leslie Harrison Dam. If there is a catastrophic failure, those residents would have less than two minutes to leave. That would have serious consequences. We have seen serious consequences of dam failures overseas recently in places like Laos.

We talk about infrastructure. I think the member for Burdekin raised the issue of ‘gold plating’ infrastructure. LNP members out my way want gold plating. They are advocating for an unnecessary \$18 million upgrade to the Leslie Harrison Dam which would mean higher prices for everyone in that network that would deliver no extra volume or increase—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera will cease interjecting. The member is not taking interjections.

Mr BROWN: I did not hear the member for Coomera. I might have taken his interjection if I had heard it. Members of the opposition cannot come in here and say that the Labor Party is gold plating infrastructure and then go back to their local community and say that we need to gold plate infrastructure and do these extra things because it is more impressionable in the community. If the spillway gates are put back on because of the lobbying of LNP members in that area, that would mean that five residents in my electorate who have lived on their properties for longer than the dam has been there would have their houses resumed. I do not want that for my constituents.

I want to make sure that water prices are as low as possible. I want to make sure that this stays away from politics—that the Seqwater board can make decisions about infrastructure without interference from either side of politics getting in the way. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.36 pm): I rise as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to speak in consideration of the Auditor-General’s report titled *Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits*. The Auditor-General’s report was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for consideration. As a member of the committee, I thank the QAO for its assistance with the committee’s examination. Our task as a committee was to consider the findings in relation to the financial audits of the government’s main water sector entities, including bulk water suppliers and distributor-retailers across south-east and regional Queensland.

Our committee received a public briefing on the report from the QAO on 14 May 2018. The role of the Auditor-General is to provide parliament with independent assurance of public sector accountability and performance. The report summarises the results of the financial audits of six of the main water sector entities in Queensland. These are the Mount Isa and Gladstone area water boards, SunWater, Seqwater, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater.

The QAO provided unmodified audit opinions on the financial statements for 2016-17 for all water sector entities. This means that the financial statements of the examined water sector entities were prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and Australian Accounting Standards. The QAO highlighted that, for the first time in three years, Seqwater’s financial report met the legislative deadline. Throughout the analysis, the QAO also examined the effectiveness of the internal controls of water entities to ensure they were suitably designed to prevent, or detect and correct, material misstatements in the financial report.

Generally, the QAO found that the control environment for each entity was suitably designed and effective and that it was able to rely on the internal control systems used to produce financial statements. However, the QAO did identify two significant high-risk matters in control activities at SunWater relating to individuals access abilities in the finance system and conflicts in roles and responsibilities in the accounts payable section. It also identified 13 low to moderate risk matters across the sector. The QAO stated that these are not high risks, but they are matters which should be resolved to ensure a good quality control environment. These deficiencies mostly relate to general information technology controls relating to user access, system capability and system changes. These issues were isolated and are being addressed by management.

As part of its analysis of the financial statements of the entities, the report set out a financial snapshot of the Queensland water sector which I want to highlight today. There was a \$368 million or 71 per cent increase in profits from the previous year and a six per cent increase in the overall revenue to \$3.3 billion. In current times when cost-of-living pressures are so high on mums and dads right across Queensland, it is a hard pill to swallow to see that our state water entities raked in extra \$368 million from them for such a huge profit.

At the public briefing, the QAO advised the committee that increased profits for the water sector were driven by population growth, consumer demand for water and pricing increases across the sector. The QAO noted that Seqwater continues to make an operating loss which largely reflects the historical under-recovery of the cost of water and the past acquisition of highly geared businesses including climate-resilient manufactured water assets.

At the public briefing the committee discussed a number of issues including, firstly, the control deficiencies identified in the Auditor-General's report with respect to SunWater and the response by SunWater management to address these issues; secondly, dividends returned to government and councils from water entities, particularly the fact that Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater make returns to participating councils and that Seqwater does not return a dividend to government; thirdly, Seqwater's improvements in financial reporting; fourthly, the use and ongoing life of water entity assets; and, fifthly, the future challenges and emerging risks for the water sector. The committee is content with this report and recommends that the Legislative Assembly note its contents.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (3.41 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report No. 9 titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 9: 2017-18—Energy: 2016-17 results of financial audits* tabled on 18 June 2018.

This report deals with the Queensland Audit Office report on our energy assets. In a very similar vein to what I said on the last report, let us look at the context of what is a massive multibillion dollar industry in Queensland. These organisations have \$3.8 billion in generation assets; \$7.8 billion in transmission assets—that is over 15,000 kilometres of powerlines and 139 substations; a whopping \$22 billion in distribution assets—that is nearly 200,000 kilometres of powerlines and 46,000 transformers; \$1.6 billion in borrowing costs; and \$1.2 billion in fuel and raw material costs. Their assets increased by seven per cent last year. Their capital expenditure in the reporting period was \$2.07 billion. They service 3.94 million customers within Queensland—businesses and households—and those entities have nearly 9,000 employees.

What we have is a massive sector that operates in a very complicated market, the Australian energy market. One of the things I am sure we will hear today from the other side is, 'What about all the profits that are being made?' These are the people who in the last term of government gave us a 43 per cent increase in electricity prices. That is one thing that they will always—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting.

Mr WHITING: It is one thing that they cannot get away from. What was their solution? Their only solution in the last term was to look at selling them off. 'Let's get Peter Costello in and see what we can sell off.' That is not a solution. If we had gone down that path, all these profits would have been going to private businesses and most probably overseas instead of coming back into Queensland and working on behalf of Queenslanders.

I want to talk about some of the highlights of the report. We talk about the \$771 million Solar Bonus Scheme payment to these entities. I will not talk too much about that because that will be covered in the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill. The only point I will make is that this payment by the state reduced the bill increase for regional customers from 7.1 per cent to 3.3 per cent and for small businesses from 8.2 per cent to 4.1 per cent.

I want to talk about the renewal of assets. I think it is very important to see that the money being generated is being reinvested into these entities. We need to constantly renew our electricity assets. They must be as close as possible to 100 per cent effective. One of the things we keep hearing about is the gold plating of these assets. In reflecting very closely on what the member for Capalaba said in the last debate, it all depends on where you stand. It is gold plating if it is happening in a neighbouring area, but if it is being done on the assets in my area it is a necessary safety precaution. Talk of gold plating depends on where you stand. If it makes sure that your business has improvements, then I can see there is a very good case to make for the continual renewal of these assets.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left! The member is not taking your interjections.

Mr WHITING: I want to talk briefly—and this was touched on in the report—about the importance of renewable energy in the electricity market. It is very clear that we are transitioning under this government to a renewable energy, low-emissions energy industry. We have a renewable energy sector that did not exist under the last LNP government.

We now have a nation-leading renewable energy industry with an estimated \$4.2 billion pipeline of projects underway or financially committed. At last count, 17 large scale renewable energy projects are underway. These will supply the energy needs for 520,000 Queensland homes annually. They will avoid the need to pump 2.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We have created CleanCo—Queensland's new renewable energy publicly owned electricity generator. It will have a strategic portfolio of low- and no-emissions power generation assets as well. In closing, I want to say that it is very clear we are on the right track with our energy assets.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in regard to the Queensland Audit Office energy report for 2016-17. This report provides the results of the financial audits of the Queensland government's energy entities which include CS Energy, Stanwell, Powerlink, Ergon Energy and Energex. The electricity generated in Queensland is mostly transmitted and distributed by state government owned corporations. Outside of the south-east corner, electricity retailing is also mostly state owned. There are 31 government owned corporation subsidiaries within the Queensland energy sector, with Ergon Energy Queensland being the only subsidiary that prepares separate financial statements.

Some of the audit findings show that all energy entities had 'strong year end close processes'. This allowed them to produce high-quality financial statements in a timely manner. We issued unmodified audit options for the financial statements of each of these entities. Readers can rely on the results in the financial statements.

There is some interesting reading in these financial statements. For example, in 2016-17 average market energy prices rose to record highs. The increased profitability of the energy sector was primarily due to the profitability of the energy generators—CS Energy and Stanwell—in 2016-17. This year their income increased by \$1.2 billion while expenses increased by \$614 million. This resulted in an increase in profit from the energy generators of \$511 million in 2015-16.

This year profits for the sector increased by \$583 million, or 45 per cent. This was mostly because of increased profits from energy generation, which in turn was due to the increased demand for energy and record highs in market energy prices. That is what the report states.

Generation income increased by 45 per cent, but what about the retail sector? Ergon Energy's retail income has increased to \$2.1 billion, which is a seven per cent increase this year. The retail income of generators increased by 76 per cent from the previous year, to \$877 million. This growth was driven by increases in wholesale prices and the increase on demand for electricity by consumers throughout the year.

Energex and Ergon Energy were merged in June 2016 with the purpose of lowering energy prices in the long term by removing duplication. It is now 2018, and the price of electricity is at an all-time high and unaffordable for the average family or pensioner. The report talks about future challenges and states—

Further, through the *Powering Queensland Plan*, the Queensland Government has confirmed its commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. The required growth in renewable energy may result in lower demand and a lower market share for coal-fired power plants.

Decreasing demand for energy generated by coal-fired power plants may impact on the ability of government owned generators to maintain income growth in future financial years.

How could I forget this one, where it states—

During 2015-16, the debt held by Energy Queensland increased by \$4.2 billion as a result of Queensland Government policy decisions.

That is a debt that will be hanging over our heads well into the future. We well remember the government owned entities being loaded up with government debt. Is it any wonder our power prices are going through the roof?

I also want to mention the chair's comment about renewable energy. It could well be stated that that is privatisation by stealth. There are two large scale solar projects happening in the seat of Condamine and both of those are owned by overseas interests.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.51 pm): I rise to outline the findings of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's consideration of the Auditor-General's report titled *Energy: 2016-17 results of financial audits*. The committee's findings were outlined in its report No. 9 for the 56th Parliament that was tabled in June 2018.

The committee's task was to consider the Auditor-General's findings in relation to the final audits of the government's main energy entities. I was pleased to see that these included Stanwell's Swanbank E Power Station located in the great city of Ipswich. Swanbank was recommissioned in December 2017 after a six-month period preparing the power station to be brought back online. It has brought valuable jobs for Ipswich workers. Producing enough power to supply a city the size of Townsville, Swanbank Power Station is the first gas combined cycle plant in the nation to be recommissioned. The best thing about this power station is that it can be turned on quickly so that when we need power we can just flick it on and it takes only half an hour before it is revved up and joined online.

Swanbank E was put in cold storage in 2014 due to the short-sightedness of the Newman-Nicholls government when it sold off the gas entitlements for the power station. The 15-year-old plant—yes, only 15 years old—operated by Stanwell will return to full operational capacity to boost available megawatts during summer's peak demand periods. Providing an extra 385 megawatts of power into the grid, switching on Swanbank has improved energy security for Queenslanders and helped reduce the wholesale price of electricity. With about 2,000 megawatts of surplus power in Queensland, the Queensland government has the ability to sell this excess power to southern states. Last year, this injected about \$200 million into the state's economy which drives down power prices for Queenslanders.

The recommissioning of the Swanbank plant has also helped the government achieve its plan of ensuring power prices do not rise above CPI. Swanbank E Power Station contributes about five per cent of Queensland's average electricity demand, but last year with a record demand of 9,369 megawatts Queensland almost lost its power supply. Swanbank E ensures that this summer we will have enough power to meet Queensland's power needs.

On 20 February 2018, the Auditor-General's report was tabled. On 8 March it was referred to the committee for consideration. The committee received a public briefing by the Auditor-General's office on 14 May 2018. There are four government owned corporations, or energy entities, that form the energy sector in Queensland: Stanwell Corporation Ltd, otherwise known as Stanwell; CS Energy Ltd, otherwise known as CS Energy; Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Ltd, otherwise known as Powerlink; and Energy Queensland Ltd, otherwise known as Energy Queensland. The energy sector also includes 31 government owned corporation subsidiaries, but only Ergon Energy Queensland Pty Ltd prepares separate financial statements.

The Queensland Audit Office provided unmodified audit opinions on the financial statements for 2016-17 for all energy sector entities. The Queensland Audit Office stated that all entities had 'strong year end close processes that have allowed them to produce high quality financial statements in a timely manner'. It did not identify any significant deficiencies. The committee made only one recommendation in its report, and that is that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of its report.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the committee's report on the consideration of the Auditor-General report. I do so because it reveals what we all know—that is, that energy in this state has been used as a cash cow. It has been used as a milking cow by this government for poor, unsuspecting consumers. At a time when they need support from their government, energy has been nothing more than a milking cow.

If members want proof, there are two lines that will give that proof. First of all, income from these generators has gone up by over 20 per cent. Worst of all, profits have risen by 45 per cent. A 45 per cent increase in profits is nearly \$2 billion extra. The government says that it is giving some money back to help struggling householders, but I will tell the government how it can help struggling householders: do not whack them in the first place and do not use energy as some sort of secret taxation measure. That is what the government should do.

There is another reason why I want to make a contribution. I heard the committee chairman rise and say it was a 'complicated market'. I am always wary when politicians say that things are complicated, because 'complicated' sounds a lot like justifying gold plating. He says it depends on where you stand as to whether or not you support the gold plating. I will tell the House where I stand. I stand on the side of the consumer.

Do members know what is not in the Auditor-General's report or the committee report? The name Noemi is not in the committee report. Noemi is a pensioner I met when I was running for this seat. She told me her story of sitting in her house in Runaway Bay at six o'clock at night and not knowing whether or not to stay there or go to bed. She did not want to go to bed because it was too early, but she did not want to turn the light on because she did not know whether she could afford electricity. This is a real person in a seat that I represent.

I will tell the House what else was not in the Auditor-General's report. There was no mention about the Paradise Point Bowls Club, which have seen their energy bills rise month on month, year on year, and they do not know whether they will be a viable entity because of the cost increases they have suffered.

When I hear those opposite talk about things like CleanCo I say to them to get on board with what the Leader of the Opposition has said, and that is around allowing for the ability of our generators to invest in renewables. They are somehow stitching up a con job like we saw the other day when they said they are going to save consumers by creating a generator, but they will not actually say what it is going to cost. It would be akin to going to a mechanic, who says, 'Guess what? I can save you on your petrol if you put a new engine in the car, but I won't tell you how much the engine will cost.' It is an almighty con. This report lifts the lid on an absolute con job, a con job that says profits in this state have risen by 45 per cent in a year.

Debate, on motion of Mr Crisafulli, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Question on Notice, Anticipation Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 114 allows members to lodge one question on notice each day. On Tuesday, the member for Traeger lodged a question on notice in accordance with standing order 114 relating to the then proposed Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Subsequent to the lodging of the question on notice the bill was introduced, which enlivens the anticipation rule in standing order 231. Accordingly, I rule the member for Traeger's question on notice out of order for anticipating debate. However, it is clear that the anticipation rule did not apply at the time the member lodged the question on notice. To ensure the member is not disadvantaged and in accordance with my ruling in the last sitting week, I have also ruled that the member for Traeger may lodge with the Clerk a replacement question on notice for Tuesday by 6 pm today.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to table report No. 22 of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly titled *Annual reports of former committees 2017-18*.

Tabled paper: Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 22—Annual Reports of Former Committees 2017-18 [[1310](#)].

I commend the report to the House.

VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Nominations

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this meeting is for the purpose of the election of a senator under the provisions of standing order 288 and in accordance with the summons issued on 29 August 2018. I note that a quorum of members is present. Before calling nominations, I remind members that every nomination must be accompanied by a declaration by the nominee of qualification and consent to be nominated and to act if elected. I now call for nominations.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (4.01 pm): I nominate Larissa Waters of Pullenvale, Queensland for election to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett. I produce and table Larissa Waters's declaration of qualification and consent.

Tabled paper: Declaration of qualification and consent to act of Larissa Waters, in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly [[1316](#)].

Mr SPEAKER: Are there any further nominations? As there are no further nominations, I call the Premier.

Election of Senator

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (4.02 pm): I move—

That Larissa Waters be elected to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth rendered vacant through the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett.

It gives me pleasure to speak in this debate to elect the candidate to fill the place in the Senate of the Parliament of Australia caused by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Bartlett for his service to Queensland in the Senate in what was his second stint as a Queensland senator. I also wish Mr Bartlett well for his future. The Queensland Greens have formally advised that Ms Larissa Waters should be nominated for election to hold a place in the Senate. I have, therefore, produced and tabled her declaration of qualification and consent, prepared in accordance with schedule 4 of the standing orders of this House.

Today the House is being asked to elect a senator for Queensland to fill a casual Senate vacancy. In accordance with the conventions of our federal system of government and the provisions of the Australian Constitution, the person to fill the Senate vacancy caused by Mr Bartlett's resignation should come from the same political party. As I have outlined previously during these debates, the election of a replacement senator is an important constitutional function, and the conventions of our federal system of government and our Westminster system are things that I take very seriously. Consequently, the government supports the election of Ms Waters.

As honourable members are aware, Ms Waters is already very familiar to the Senate, having served as a senator for Queensland from July 2011 until her resignation in July 2017. Having now attended to her citizenship arrangements, she has declared to this House in the declaration that I have tabled that she is legally qualified to be a member of the Senate.

She is a qualified lawyer, having attained a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Laws with honours from Griffith University and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the College of Law in New South Wales. Prior to becoming a senator in 2011, Larissa worked as a legal researcher for the Land and Resources Tribunal from 2000 to 2001. In common with the member for Maiwar, Ms Waters started her legal career as a lawyer at Freehills, working as a graduate lawyer from 2001 to 2002. From 2002 to 2011 she was a community environmental lawyer at the Queensland Environmental Defenders Office.

During her previous six years in the Senate she served on a number of parliamentary committees and held a number of positions within her party, including as co-deputy leader of the Australian Greens from May 2015 to July 2017. I am confident that Ms Waters will again be an advocate for Queensland in the Senate of the Parliament of Australia. I also say that, following the House's recent election of Ms Amanda Stoker to fill a Senate vacancy, in Ms Waters I will be equally delighted to see another woman senator representing Queensland. I commend her nomination and this motion to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.05 pm): Being a senator representing Queensland is a serious obligation. The Senate provides the checks and balances for the federal government of the day. According to the conventions of our federal system of government, the person to fill the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Bartlett should come from the same party. I support that convention. What I do not support is the alliance between the Labor Party in Queensland and the Greens.

Over the last few years Labor has cooked up this allegiance with the Greens because it is a government that values power over principle. In fact—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. The House will come to order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In fact, in the last term Labor changed the voting system here in Queensland with 18 minutes notice, without any consultation with Queenslanders, to secure—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The issues that the Leader of the Opposition is going to have absolutely nothing to do with the Senate vacancy and she should be brought back to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The important debate that is ensuing is with respect to the character of an individual who may sit in the federal Senate. The Leader of the Opposition is speaking of the character of the individual—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Can I hear the point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Also it is convention, Mr Speaker; you have only to look back at a previous Senate election debate in this House not so long ago to see that the members of the Labor Party very much politicised their speeches.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order, members! When I call the House to order I expect the House to come to order. Having heard the two points of order from the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business, I believe that relevant points have been made by both members. I will be listening to the Leader of the Opposition's contribution to ensure that it is sticking with the spirit of the meeting that the House is undertaking today and to ensure its relevance to the motion that is being debated. I have seen already that the Leader of the Opposition is appearing to not be taking interjections. I would appreciate being able to hear the contribution.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That change of the voting system without any consultation was done by a state Labor government to simply secure the preferences from parties like the Greens. The equation is simple: Labor is leaking votes to the Greens, so the Premier and her ministers must plug those holes with more and more support of the Greens' policies. We know that Labor is cannibalising its working-class roots. We see Labor keeping the Greens satisfied every single time we sit in this House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my right!

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw that comment, please, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition is not taking interjections; however, I will be managing the business of the House and the order of this House. I will not require comments or any guidance from any member.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We see the Labor Party keeping the Greens satisfied every time we sit in this Queensland chamber. The Labor government continues to sell Queensland jobs for political gain by: shutting down sandmining on North Stradbroke Island; reintroducing the ban on uranium mining;

legislating devastating anti-farmer laws; interfering in mining approvals; reneging on the ASF Gold Coast Spit integrated resort development; and its continual focus on increased taxes, which destroy jobs and smash business confidence. The Premier crumbles on every issue that may lose her votes to the Greens. At the beck and call of Labor's true decision-maker, the Premier is forced to take radical positions just for the sake of saving the Deputy Premier.

I would encourage the new senator to review the Greens' policies, which destroy jobs and push up power prices. These positions simply hurt Queensland families and small businesses. In the Senate it is important to put Queensland families and small businesses first. The Greens' policies certainly have some interesting howlers. During the 2016 federal election media reports said that one of the Greens' policy ideas included hiring snipers to shoot dogs that get too close to penguin colonies. It did not stop there! The Greens wanted to double the number of firefighters to combat global warming and destroy the retirement of millions of Australians by massive super tax increases. For the Batman by-election earlier this year the Greens announced a plan to ban the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars in Australia by 2030.

We have seen the Greens' lacklustre contribution to this parliament by frequently missing votes and debates and voting with the Labor government to keep the Adani royalty deal secret. Labor and the Greens have a long history of making pre-election preference deals in Queensland that have resulted in Labor governments imposing legislation that simply cripples our economy. The Labor Party would do well to divorce themselves from the Greens party.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you are warned under standing orders. I called the House to order and you continued to interject.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Gregory, who simply pointed out that One Nation preferred the Labor Party at the last state election.

The LNP will always put Queenslanders first because we are a party made up of grassroots members and a party free from influence. Those opposite put their own self-interest first, followed by the unions and the Greens. A government should provide a stable policy setting to encourage investment, economic growth and prosperity. We are not getting stable government because Labor is constantly changing the goalposts to save its own skin in inner-city Brisbane. Regional Queenslanders have a right to feel betrayed. I want to make sure all Queenslanders see the Labor-Greens alliance for the self-interested stitch-up that it really is. I would urge the new senator to put Queensland first.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak on the nomination of Larissa Waters to fill the vacancy in our federal Senate. Larissa and her family have faced difficult circumstances over the last year. I could not be more pleased to have the opportunity to speak to her reappointment as a senator for Queensland. She was kind enough to join me here for my first speech earlier this year, and I am so chuffed to have her back here today to be returned to her role as a senator for Queensland.

Larissa is a dear friend of mine, and she has also been a true role model for me and so many others for well over a decade. It is not such a little known fact, it seems—the Premier has made the point already—that Larissa and I have much in common in our lives before parliament. We are both graduates of the Griffith University Law School, where we studied environmental law. A number of members were at a Griffith University alumni dinner earlier this week, and I had a chance to speak to both Vice Chancellor Ian O'Connor and Pro Vice Chancellor Paul Mazerolle, who is in charge of arts, education and law. Both of them commented on how pleased they were to see Larissa returning to the Senate and how impressive she had been in the role previously. They expressed their genuine pride at having such an outstanding community representative as part of the university's impressive alumni.

Larissa's and my careers began in the same top-tier commercial law firm, where we both worked as paralegals and, albeit briefly, as junior planning and environment lawyers. She later moved into the community legal sector to help communities use the law to protect the environment and fight back against a rigged system that gives big mining companies far too much power. I remember as a student of environmental law reading seminal cases that Larissa was instrumental in running—cases that genuinely moved environmental protections forward and improved the way our law is administered in Queensland and Australia.

Foremost amongst these is the Nathan Dam case, which every law student in Queensland and Australia would be well aware of. Its principles are fundamental to the way environmental impacts are assessed and considered by decision-makers. It was the first time reef water quality impacts were considered properly in the assessment of activities undertaken up-catchment far from the reef coast.

There was also the Newlands Coal Mine case, which effectively established that there is no space in Queensland courts for the science of climate change to be disputed. It was a vitally important development, even if politicians still consider it their right to weigh in on climate science as non-experts more than 10 years later, and even though the Bligh government simply legislated to shunt this coalmine past that loss in court. It is not unlike the special legislative loopholes we have seen in favour of Adani in more recent times.

Larissa has been at the figurative coalface helping communities fight dangerous mines for years now, despite the unwavering support for the climate-wrecking industry we still see today from both sides of politics. We shared a common path into politics, in that our experience in trying to enforce ineffective environmental law has been a key motivator.

It is very unusual in these circumstances to have the opportunity to speak to a nominee's previous experience in the Senate. I have it on authority from the library that this is in fact the first occasion on which a formerly sitting senator will be appointed by this parliament. When the news first broke last year that Larissa would be forced to step down, we said that the big corporations and mining billionaires who have a stranglehold on our politics would be popping the champagne. The Senate had lost a fearless enemy of injustice and Queenslanders had lost one of their greatest champions. I am so glad to be here to welcome her back. Her track record in the Senate speaks for itself, but I want to reflect on just some of the moments that made me proud to be in the Greens.

Right after she arrived in the Senate the Greens helped put in place, along with the Gillard government, our world-leading price on carbon pollution which saw big polluters start to pay their fair share and the proceeds going to the lowest income households in Australia. That package created a 20 per cent clean energy target and put a massive \$13 billion into clean energy by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. Despite attempts by Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull to scrap them, those agencies are still creating jobs in Queensland today.

Larissa fought for, and helped win, stronger protections for groundwater against coalmines and fracking via the federal water trigger, as it is known. She was instrumental in pushing the government to list koalas for protection under our national environment laws in 2012. With shocking inaction at the state level, that protection is one of the few things that is helping stop the extinction of koalas in South-East Queensland.

Larissa and the Greens tried to stop Labor kicking thousands of mums off the single-parent payment in 2013, a decision that ultimately pushed many of those folks into poverty. Larissa was fighting to stop Adani before it was cool. It is probably fitting that we are listening to the action happening outside at this particular moment. After both Queensland Labor and the federal Liberals and Nationals approved projects to open up the Galilee Basin and trash the reef, Larissa launched a pivotal Senate inquiry which helped make Adani, the reef and climate change national issues. We saw Queensland and federal parliament ban offshore dumping in the reef, and the people powered campaign to stop Adani and keep coal in the ground kicked off.

Larissa led the campaign against dangerous fracking for CSG and shale gas, to protect the renewable energy target and to abolish fossil fuel subsidies and represented the millions calling for stronger action at the Paris climate conference.

Larissa marched in the streets and fought in the parliament to stop Tony Abbott's 2014 budget. Together, a huge community movement stopped \$100,000 degrees, the \$7 GP tax and even more attacks on the most vulnerable. Since then she has pushed tirelessly to save funding for Queensland schools and hospitals from cuts under successive Liberal prime ministers.

Larissa's work in establishing a Senate inquiry into domestic violence was a crucial piece in our growing national conversation about this epidemic. When the federal coalition government tried to cut millions from front-line services, she helped to stop them.

Women have had no better advocate in the federal parliament. Larissa is a fierce advocate for closing the gender pay gap and standing up for low-income women, especially by protecting penalty rates. She set an amazing example by being the first to breastfeed in the federal parliament, making international headlines.

On a purely selfish note, it has been quite nice over the past year to have more time to spend with Alia, who is a bit bigger now than she was then, and with Jeremy, Larissa and Lana, who is not here today. It is the silver lining, if there is one, in this circumstance.

She was a voice for marriage equality, for shutting down our offshore prison camps and for peace. The Greens message is a message of hope. We are fighting for universal health care, universal housing, child care for all, raising the minimum wage and Newstart, 100 per cent clean energy and making big corporations pay their fair share. We want to create a future for us all.

I will take a moment to thank Andrew Bartlett for stepping up after the High Court delivered its findings on Larissa's eligibility. It is wonderful to have had such a safe set of hands, and we are fortunate in the Greens to have had this depth of experience to draw on when the unexpected circumstance arose. I also thank Andrew for his decision to step aside to allow Larissa to return, freeing him up to run a fierce campaign in the seat of Brisbane. The federal LNP is on the nose right now. I think Trevor Evans, as a one-time chief of staff to Peter Dutton, must be feeling the pressure from Andrew and his campaign team. As he was in his time in the Senate, Andrew Bartlett is in amongst his community, listening to the issues that matter to people and offering an alternative vision—a far cry from the inward-looking, self-serving conduct we have seen from the federal government and its ugly internal power plays in recent weeks.

To finish, I want to reflect on the integrity that Larissa and her fellow former Greens senator Scott Ludlum showed in resigning from the Senate. At that time none of us could have anticipated what would follow these two resignations and the slew of MPs embroiled in the whole affair—more than a dozen others from various parties. It is fair to say that, despite the criticisms levelled at the Greens by Labor and LNP politicians at the time, not one of the impugned politicians in these parties acted swiftly and in the public interest the way Larissa and Scott did. Self-interest was the apparent motivation behind all their actions.

Larissa was an outstanding senator for Queensland in her previous time in the Senate. Queenslanders are indeed lucky to have such a representative returning to Canberra. I commend her nomination and this motion to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.23 pm): As has already been mentioned by the opposition leader, the opposition is very much a supporter of the federal convention that when a senator resigns that senator should be replaced by somebody from the same party, so there is no argument about that whatsoever. What we have to remember is that this senator is representing the interests of Queensland. This senator is going to Canberra supposedly to stick up for what is best for Queensland. That is where the opposition has some incredibly grave concerns about the Greens.

The Greens are the most dangerous political party in this country. Long ago they expanded their remit from protecting rivers and forests and have gone on an extreme mission which is causing constant devastation to our economy, not only in Queensland but also right across the country. At best their policies are misguided; at worst they are just plain dingbat crazy. You do not have to go too far to see some of the ridiculousness associated with their policies. During the last federal campaign, Senator Di Natale suggested that there should be a uniform wage across the country. No matter if you have a job and no matter how rich you are, you should get a salary—no matter what. What would that cost? In order to pay for a system like that, the tax of those who actually do pay tax would have to increase by 75 per cent. Senator Di Natale said, 'Yes, it's radical.' It is more than radical; it is totally and utterly irresponsible.

At the last state election I think it was the member for Maiwar himself who said that the Greens' policy was to build a million new social housing properties over the next 30 years. Again, that is absolutely ridiculous. There are only 10 million houses in the country, yet they want to build a million houses in Queensland alone over the next 30 years—20,000 a year, at a cost of \$60 billion.

Then we have that intellectual genius, former senator Lee Rhiannon.

Mr Minnikin: She's gone.

Mr MANDER: She's gone, but her policies remain. She wanted to increase foreign aid by \$8 billion. I do not think I have heard one Greens member talk about drought relief or what they can do for our farmers, but they are happy to increase foreign aid by \$8 billion.

This is a party that hates Australia Day. This is a party that hates Christmas. This is a party that takes the high moral ground when it comes to donations but receives the single largest corporate donation in the country—\$1.6 million from Graeme Wood and wotif.com.

This Labor government relies on the preferences of the Greens. That is why we have seen the lurch to the left from this Labor government and their crazy social policies—because they need to appease the Greens. There is nobody in that situation more than the member for South Brisbane.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Leader of the Opposition, please resume your seat. Members, regardless of the subject matter being debated, the House must still be a place of decorum. I am asking members to cease interjecting at the level they are interjecting. I need to hear the contribution by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I just wanted the honourable member to elaborate on what these crazy ideas are.

Mr SPEAKER: No, that is not a point of order. Resume your seat.

Ms JONES: Is it gay marriage?

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Minister.

Ms JONES: Is it abortion law reform? What are these crazy ideas?

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Minister! Minister, you are warned under the standing orders. I repeatedly asked you to resume your seat.

Mr MANDER: Nobody needs Greens preferences more than the member for South Brisbane. The member for South Brisbane has come out and said that she will run in South Brisbane at the next election. I do not believe it. She will go to Toohey. She will flee South Brisbane because she knows that next time she will not be so lucky with regard to the preference deal.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I would like to bring you back to the motion. I am allowing an awful lot of scope and space here for you, but I believe you are now straying further afield than is necessary. I would ask you to come back to the motion that we are debating in the House.

Mr MANDER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The position of senator for Queensland is one that is incredibly responsible and we in this House—this side of the House at least—want to make sure that the representatives who are in the Senate are there for the best interests of Queensland, and that is our appeal to the new recycled Greens senator—that is, to think about what is best for Queensland and the majority of Queenslanders, not some crazy left fringe who represent an incredibly small minority in this state. We want our state to be the economic powerhouse of this country, and that definitely will not happen under Greens' policies.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.30 pm): I rise to speak on this motion. Firstly, I wish the senator all the best as she returns to the Senate but I also call on the senator: you are a senator for all of Queensland, not just inner-city Brisbane. I represent a large section of the state, the seat of Gregory, which contributes a lot to the state economy. That includes agriculture and mining—the two industries under constant attack from the Greens. Yes, these are the two industries—whether it is coal royalties from the mining industry—filling up state government coffers to pay for new schools, health and hospital facilities or our police, fire and emergency services to protect us in times of need. Agriculture is our biggest manufacturing industry because of the abattoirs and our live cattle trade, which I note that Labor now wants to end as well, as we heard from its conference. The Greens party has been on a rampage to close all of those industries down.

One in eight jobs in the greater Brisbane catchment is associated with the mining industry, yet the Greens party wants to shut the mining industry down. That would mean that the Greens want one person out of every eight who works in Brisbane on the unemployment line. It wants you out the front of Centrelink on the unemployment line. It wants those people to arrive home to their families after working in an industry that has provided them with an income to pay the bills, given them a skill set, a career and the ability to pay the mortgage and the school fees and say, 'I've lost my job because the Greens want to shut it down.' We need to make sure that we support our industries in Queensland.

The mining industry and the agricultural industry are a big part of the electorate of Gregory and we get sick of hearing the Greens party continuing to attack everything that we do. I can tell members now that the agricultural industry is a sophisticated, tech savvy industry that cares for the environment whilst also looking for productivity increases in yields to ensure that we have a growing economy. That is the agricultural industry that I know and the agricultural industry in the future.

We need to ensure our senators in Queensland develop a depth of knowledge on issues and challenges facing all Queenslanders. Where could the Greens senator place her office? At the moment it is in Paddington but, given her public sprouting of devotion to the Great Barrier Reef, she could have

chosen anywhere like Cairns or Gladstone in regional Queensland or Townsville or Mackay where she could develop a good understanding of the reef, the challenges of shipping transportation, the mining industry or regional ecotourism—all interests of the Greens. Any of these centres would give her a grassroots feel of regional tertiary education as well, which is so important, health and even our Defence Force.

The Greens are loud in support of itinerant protesters who travel and bully the government and local communities when it comes to mining—constantly coming up and bullying us when it comes to mining. How many were even Queenslanders? We do not know. We do know that they annoyed many Queenslanders in our regional towns, but our regional towns want to get on with the job and provide the economy for the state. Someone said to me that ideology is not always wisdom and that ideology can be deaf, blind and arrogant. I know the senator has had time to leave the Canberra bubble and I hope the time has been well spent listening to people in regional Queensland, understanding why we need to have a strong agricultural industry that generates billions of dollars in trade revenue and employs hundreds of thousands of smart, innovative technology savvy people who not only protect the environment but also generate the jobs and income for our regional towns.

In the most blatant bit of seat warming we have seen in a very long time, Andrew Bartlett, the former Democrat and now Greens politician, took her position. We are here today because Andrew Bartlett wants to contest the lower house seat of Brisbane. I note that the *Gladstone Observer* on 3 August—and the member for Gladstone would be interested in this—reported that Andrew Bartlett recently visited the city and observed that people have the assumption that country areas must all be full of rednecks but that he had found diverse local economies and welcoming attitudes to immigrants. Thank you, Andrew. It must have been a big surprise to you, but thank you for visiting regional Queensland. Thank you for coming out, and guess what? To his shock, he did not even have to take a passport! He was able to come to regional Queensland.

I am hoping that the new senator will be able to take herself away from Brisbane and educate herself on the real concerns of her constituents, half of whom live outside of Brisbane. Please come out to Western Queensland to have a look, talk to the people out there, talk to the small business people, talk to the people on the land and talk to the people who work in the mining industry and see the impacts that it has on the livelihoods of regional communities. We need to have a vibrant regional community if Queensland's economy is going to continue to grow. If we do not have the regions, we have nothing.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to address the Senate vacancy motion before us today. I am sure that all representatives in this House, regardless of political party background or persuasion, can agree that it is an incredible privilege and honour to be democratically elected by your constituents to serve as their elected representative in this parliament. That being said, for a number of our federal representatives and senators this great honour was recently revoked due to circumstances surrounding individual breaches of section 44 of the Constitution, otherwise known as Australia's dual citizenship saga. It was a breach of this provision which saw Ms Larissa Waters resign her position last year as a Greens senator for Queensland. We now find ourselves in this parliament, as required by the Australian Constitution, to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett and, as a consequence, consider the nomination of Senator-elect Waters for the position of senator for Queensland once again.

I have no doubt that for Senator-elect Waters it is indeed a great honour for her to be nominated again to represent her constituency and further the cause of her political party as a senator for Queensland, but just what exactly is that cause? What is it that the reappointed Greens senator will champion on behalf of her party? Unfortunately when it comes to the Greens, they champion causes that do nothing to further the state of Queensland and in fact do everything possible to destroy our economy and way of life.

There is no question that the Greens have clearly lost their way. Formed over a quarter of a century ago, the Greens held as their ideas balanced social justice, respectful democracy, peace and nonviolence and of course environmental sustainability. These days it is obvious that the Greens stand for little more than socialism and cultural Marxism, higher electricity prices, higher cost of living, fewer jobs, less infrastructure and of course ultimately a warped ideology that champions radical gender theory and policies lacking credible evidence like the Safe Schools program.

For more than 25 years the Greens have championed environmental sustainability, which in fact is a cause the LNP also champions, but the Greens have systematically marched further and further to the left, promoting policy that defies any logic or economic sense. Perhaps there is no greater example of this socialist madness than the leader of the Greens party, Senator Richard Di Natale, earlier this

year announcing as Greens' policy a plan to introduce a universal basic income. In essence, this is a non-means tested payment to all Australian citizens with no credible way to pay for it. In announcing this policy, Senator Di Natale declared it to be a bold move towards equality. That is one way to describe it.

Personally I would have described it as being a strategy moving towards extreme socialism, because that is what this is and that is what the Greens have always stood for. Forget the environment, forget democracy, forget even peace and nonviolent protests, because there have been plenty of members of the Greens party involved in all sorts of extreme and inappropriate protests, not only in recent times but over the years.

The Greens also now stand for higher taxes and reckless spending. An analysis of the Greens' policy for a universal basic income has indicated that federal spending would have to rise by \$254 billion a year, bringing the top tax rate to 78 per cent. Not even France would dare to go that far. Of course, that is just another day in the Greens party. They announce policies with no effort. They are not made to consider the cost or the consequences. They can make motherhood statements such as, 'Farmers should be celebrated, supported and rewarded for the role they play in producing our food and managing our natural resources,' or even, 'Locally owned small and medium businesses are significant and crucial elements in the strength and resilience of local economies,' but then support legislation that hurts our farmers, or locks up prime agricultural land and destroys family businesses and Queensland's regional economy.

The Greens are also supporting the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan for urban overdevelopment across the western suburbs of Brisbane via their implicit support of Labor's current South East Queensland Regional Plan. There is a reason the Greens are sometimes referred to as watermelons—green on the outside and red on the inside. That red, while representative of the Greens' socialist ideals, is just as representative of their ties to the Labor Party and union movement. Whether it is shady preference deals, happily taking union donations, or even working hand in hand with GetUp!, the Labor Party and the Greens are really one and the same.

When Senator-elect Waters returns to the Senate, I sincerely hope it is Queensland and not the Greens or the Labor Party that she puts first. Earlier this year, in the months before her expected return to the Senate, Senator-elect Waters was committed to getting around the state listening to the needs of communities. I sincerely hope Senator-elect Waters heard loud and clear that Queenslanders, including my constituents in the electorate of Moggill, want lower electricity prices, more jobs and better infrastructure. Given the Greens' economy-destroying policies, that is a message that she can take back to her Greens colleagues in Canberra.

However, on a personal note, I wish Senator-elect Waters all the best. Although I do not agree with Senator-elect Waters' party policies, I appreciate the personal sacrifices both Senator-elect Waters and her family have made and will continue to make in her returning to her elected position. As such, I wish her all the best.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak to the motion to appoint Larissa Waters to fill the casual Senate vacancy that has been created through the resignation of another senator. It is an immense privilege to be elected and to fulfil the role of a senator for Queensland and to represent the state's interests in the Senate. I believe that it is important to outline the course of events that have led to today's motion in this state parliament.

On 18 July 2017, after learning that she was entitled to Canadian citizenship and therefore ineligible to be elected under section 44 of the Australian Constitution, Larissa Waters resigned from the Senate. Her resignation came four days after her fellow Greens co-deputy leader resigned from the Senate over dual citizenship. Larissa Waters's seat was then filled after a recount, which saw a former Australian Democrats leader, who held the second position on the Greens 2017 Senate ticket in Queensland, return to the Senate. In August 2017 Larissa Waters announced that she had renounced her Canadian citizenship and declared her intention to stand for Greens preselection and return to the parliament at the next federal election.

On 27 October 2017 the High Court handed down its decision and ruled that Larissa Waters was invalidly elected. On 16 June 2018 another senator announced that he would resign from the Senate at the end of August and that Larissa Waters was expected to fill that casual vacancy ahead of the election. That is why we are here today in this state parliament debating this motion.

The framers of the Australian Constitution intended the primary role of the Senate to be to protect the interests of the less populous states in the federal parliament by giving equal representation to all states. The Senate is often referred to as the states' house, and I hope that all senators for Queensland are thinking of the communities from Cape York, to Birdsville, to Coolangatta when they are undertaking their duties.

Unfortunately, when I look at the Greens' policies, I see many areas where the role of representing the state's best interests are in direct conflict with those policies of the Greens. That brings me to those conflicts that this senator will face. I urge her to put the interests of this state and the great people of this state ahead of those Greens' policies in a number of areas.

I will start with coal. The policy of the Greens is to really demonise coal. The Greens want to phase out thermal coalmines and coal export and oppose the development of any new coalmines or the expansion of existing coalmines. There is no thought given to what would happen to the communities that are supported by coalmines. The Greens' policies give no consideration whatsoever to the associated industries that underpin so many jobs in regional Queensland and, as we heard earlier from the member for Gregory, such a large portion of this state's economy.

The Greens' policies give no consideration to what closing down coalmines in Queensland would do to electricity costs for every household in Queensland. This is certainly a policy that is not in the best interests of the resources industry jobs that this state, the communities of this state—or anyone in Queensland for that matter who simply wants to keep the lights on. As a regional member of parliament who has communities that are involved with coal, I ask that this senator put the interests of this state ahead of the Greens' outrageous policy to shut down the coal industry in this state.

If the Greens' policy on coal makes people choke on their cornflakes, wait until they hear the Greens' policy on coal seam gas. The Greens not only want to shut down the coal industry but also want to stop the coal seam gas industry in its tracks. The Greens oppose CSG exploration, production and associated pipeline and export infrastructure developments. That means that the Greens oppose billions of dollars worth of investment in Queensland. It also means that the Greens oppose the industry jobs in my electorate; they oppose the millions of dollars worth of compensation payments being provided to landholders; they oppose the upgrades to the roads; they oppose the upgrades to community facilities and sporting clubs; and they oppose the families who have moved to make their homes in regional Queensland in communities such as Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Tara and Roma. Without this investment, how can the state fund the hospitals, the schools, the roads, the dams, the services, the doctors and the nurses that our state of Queensland needs now and into the future?

More than a third of the current business investment in Australia is from the natural gas sector. The oil and gas industry indirectly represents about two per cent of the current GDP. The sector's economic contribution to the national economy is estimated to be more than double—to \$65 billion—in 2020. In 2011-12, the Australian oil and gas industry paid \$8.8 billion in taxes. It is forecast to pay almost \$13 billion in taxes in 2020. At a time when government revenues are under pressure, the contribution of the oil and gas industry is very important to the nation's economic wellbeing and also that of this state. Again, as a regional member who represents a number of communities in the Surat Basin, I ask that the interests of this region and the state be put ahead of those outrageous policies on coal seam gas.

I turn to the production and the breeding of livestock, which is an industry that is close to my heart and that of my electorate. The Greens' policy is to shut down the live export trade of sheep and cattle. Thanks to the federal Labor government, we have already had one overnight shutdown of the live cattle export trade. The impacts of that shutdown were felt far away from the gulf—all the way to the Roma saleyards. During that shutdown, 30 per cent of the cattle coming through the Roma saleyards were northern cattle. That depressed the price. At the time, the south-west region was experiencing drought conditions—which seems to be not unusual—and farmers were forced to sell cattle at prices that did not cover the cost of the freight of the stock to the saleyards.

Closing down the live cattle and sheep trade is not the answer. Putting in place the correct checks and balances on those involved in livestock transport and ensuring transparency of the journey of these animals is the solution. That will give confidence to farmers and the community. As a regional member of parliament, who has the privilege of representing many good sheep and cattle farmers, I ask that their interests and their livelihoods be given due consideration rather than being ostracised by this appalling Greens' policy.

Another very concerning Greens' policy relates to wild rivers. The Greens' policy advocates not only the reintroduction of the wild rivers act 2005, which includes the Cooper Creek catchment in my electorate, but also to include the Paroo and Bulloo rivers catchments. The communities of Cooper Creek, the landholders in the Paroo, Bulloo and Quilpie shires and the local governments tell me that they are strongly opposed to the reintroduction of any wild rivers or pristine rivers legislation.

They know their communities will lose jobs and they will lose population. They have been fighting a drought that is so severe that Mayor Tractor Ferguson has to handfeed his bees. Locking up these catchments with wild rivers restrictions will do nothing to preserve the region; it will hurt the farmers already in drought and it will hurt these communities.

For the last 60 years petroleum products have been produced in the Cooper Basin. Landholders have been managing that land for 130 years. The reason why the Cooper Basin is seen by many outsiders, including the Greens, as pristine is testament to the good management practices of the resources industry and local landholders. Ethane produced in the Cooper Basin is used to produce Australian stretch wrapping, food packaging, water tanks, wheelie bins and the lining on our milk and juice cartons. The Greens' policies will take the glad wrap out of your kitchen and the wheelie bin out of your yard.

I refer to the member for Maiwar who made this statement in the House, and it is also on the Greens' website: 'I want to see our parliament put Queenslanders before the profits of corporations and that's why I support the Greens' stand on banning political donations from property developers, mining, gambling, tobacco and alcohol corporations.' One only has to do a Google search to find that the Greens have received \$1.6 million from the founder of Wotif travel online, Graeme Wood. I say to the Greens that if they want to ban political donations it is a good start to this policy to give back the donations the party has already received.

No doubt the senator-elect will make many personal sacrifices. I know her family will also make sacrifices to support her in her role as a Queensland Greens senator. I wish her all the best in returning to that role as a senator.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.51 pm): I will use this opportunity to make a brief contribution about some of the issues in Condamine that are in conflict with some of the basic beliefs of the Greens. The electorate of Condamine lies within the heart of the Darling Downs. It is a privilege to represent all the constituents of Condamine. It has been a personal goal of mine to endeavour to assist anyone who has needed support or help during my time as the local member no matter what that issue is. The electorate of Condamine is home to a large diversity and number of industries, including manufacturing, engineering, construction, agriculture, mining, retailing and processing. Many of these industries are at odds with some of the beliefs of the Greens.

This diversity has allowed me to gain an understanding of the importance that each and every industry has to the local economy, plus the economies of Queensland and Australia, and any environmental impacts that they may have. Each of these industries interacts with one another in one way or another to create employment and business opportunities. Because of this diversity of industry there is always a diversity of viewpoints, which I acknowledge readily. I have met with many people who have opposing views of the same issue. My issue often is the way those views are portrayed.

There are two abattoirs in Condamine that process over 3,000 cattle daily and employ over 1,650 people in the local area contributing millions of dollars to the economy. Both of these processing plants adhere to strict environmental guidelines in their operations and have dedicated team members committed to employee safety, animal welfare and food safety. An animal activist protest took place at the Beef City abattoir in May this year where the group claimed that 'slaughterhouses led to increased instances of violent crimes like rape, murder and domestic violence'—an unfounded and ridiculous statement. Oakey Beef self-funded a methane gas project which extracts green energy biogas from the plant's wastewater streams to replace a percentage of the natural gas needed to power the abattoir. This technology cuts greenhouse gas emissions, improves water quality and reduces the odour emissions associated with the abattoir.

The Greens would have us believe that all animal-processing plants should be shut down. Both of these abattoirs are environmentally sustainable and pride themselves on their animal welfare policies. The Condamine electorate not only has animal-processing plants but also has the most number of intensely farmed animals in Queensland. All of these businesses follow strict animal welfare regulations regardless of whether they are feeding pigs, cattle, sheep or poultry. These regulations are stringent and those who disregard them are subject to large penalties, and so they should be. They employ a significant number of people, both directly and indirectly, and inject millions of dollars into the local, state and national economies. The Greens would like to shut these businesses down.

The community of Oakey has been battling an issue that impacts directly upon its residents and those who are employed in the area. That issue is stage 3 of the New Hope coalmine at Acland. This issue has seen a platform driven largely by the conservation movement and heavily supported by the Greens. These greenies from all over Australia, many of whom would not know where Oakey actually is let alone having visited the town, have condemned the expansion without giving a thought to the majority of the local community, who support stage 3 going ahead. This expansion would ensure the continued employment of 300 locals, 160 contractors and 2,300 indirect jobs.

The Greens have a meeting planned to be held in Toowoomba for 12 October with the title 'Revive: a coal free future for Oakey and the Downs'. I am pretty sure the New Hope Acland coalmine is not located in Toowoomba. They advertised this meeting in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* on 2 September and it will be attended by Larissa Waters and the member for Maiwar. They are meeting at the Downs Club, no less. I table this document.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 2 September 2018, titled 'Greens set to challenge New Acland Coal Mine at meeting' [1317].

I wonder why the Greens would not at least have the courtesy of hosting this meeting at Oakey. Apparently the only reason it will be in Toowoomba is because the Greens were asked to host it in Toowoomba by their friends the Oakey Coal Action Alliance. Do both groups think Oakey businesses would not be capable of hosting such an event, especially an event that will require some form of catering, the hire of a venue, staff to set up, clean up et cetera? I think Oakey businesses would appreciate any business such an event may bring to the community.

The Greens have a plan for a 'coal free future for Oakey and the entire Southern Downs'. They also believe that they 'can revive Oakey without coal and instead work to create a clean green economy that works for rural Queensland'. I struggle with these statements. The Greens want to firstly not allow intensive livestock production; secondly, not allow abattoirs to process meat; and, thirdly, not allow the expansion of the New Hope coalmine. All that is left is the production of grain, cotton and pulses, which is also in the firing line of the Greens with the pesticides and herbicides used, irrigation water that should be directed to the environment and the genetic modification of plants such as cotton.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Condamine, can I ask that you come back to the motion. You are speaking about a political party. This is about the appointment of a senator.

Mr WEIR: There is not much left for the creation of a clean green economy that works for Queensland. I admire the courage of Larissa Waters in going back to the Senate. Unfortunately in this place we have a failed senator. That senator is a dud. We do not need any more dud senators in this place. Canberra's loss was not the state parliament's gain. I wish Larissa Waters all the best. I ask that she keeps these issues in mind when she re-enters the Senate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** The motion has been agreed to and Larissa Waters has accordingly been elected to fill the vacancy in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Notification of Election

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.58 pm): I move—

That Mr Speaker inform His Excellency the Governor that Larissa Waters has been chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.58 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136(3), that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill No. 2 and the Appropriation Bill No. 2 by 19 October 2018; the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill by 2 November 2018; and the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee report on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 22 October 2018.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 2395.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.59 pm): I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Turrbal and Jagera people, and pay my respects to elders both past and present. I also acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that I represent in this place, the Darumbal people and the Woppaburra people. I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on being elected to the high office of Speaker. It is wonderful to have a North Queenslander as Speaker of the Queensland parliament.

It is a great honour and privilege to rise in this place, in the 56th Parliament, as the returned member for Keppel after the 2017 state election. At the 2015 election, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk promised to stop the cuts, stop privatisation and begin building Queensland jobs again. Over the following 2½ years we made steady progress. When we came to government, confidence in the Queensland economy began to recover from the cuts of Campbell Newman and many of those opposite. Many of those opposite sat around the cabinet table and the Cabinet Budget Review Committee table and cut 14,000 public servants' jobs. Under the LNP, our region was kicked when it was down. Workers were sacked, job creation projects were scrapped and the economy was cut to ribbons.

There is still work to do to repair our economy, but the targeted investment I have fought for is making a difference. In fact, the front page of today's *Morning Bulletin* reads, 'Strong growth and jobs bounce for CQ's economy'. Construction Skills Queensland has said that the region's building and construction industry is on the verge of strong and continued growth with key indicators showing broad-based recovery across all sectors. CWS said that construction in Central Queensland will grow at 11 per cent per year for the next three years, which is great news. In the past 12 months, in the Rockhampton region unemployment has fallen from 8.5 per cent to 5.1 per cent. The CWS said that the tide has definitely turned and the economy is on an upswing. I table a copy of the front page of the *Morning Bulletin* for the interest of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Bulletin*, dated 6 September 2018, titled 'Strong Growth and Jobs and Bounce for CQ's Economy' [[1318](#)].

The 2017 state election was a clear choice between Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who has restored front-line services and confidence without selling assets, and the LNP, which would have just cut more jobs and services and sold Queensland assets. The people of Central Queensland wanted a better future and they voted for me to stand up to Brisbane and fight for us. When it comes to delivering for our community, I have a proven track record of fighting for secure local jobs, standing up for small businesses and ensuring Keppel gets its fair share.

In my first term as the member for Keppel, I fought against the LNP's compulsory acquisition of prime grazing land near Shoalwater Bay, I stood up to Aurizon against job cuts, I stood up for better Buy Local policies and I have been fighting hard against the casualisation of the workforce. I also fought for and delivered over \$100 million worth of job-generating projects, including \$29 million for the Yeppoon foreshore project, which created hundreds of jobs. I fought for and delivered over \$6.5 million in job projects at Emu Park, including the Emu Park foreshore revitalisation, the Hartley Street multisport precinct and new classrooms at Emu Park State School. In North Rockhampton, I delivered over \$18 million worth of job-generating projects, including the refurbishment of the North Rocky nursing home, new classrooms and school buildings at Frenchville and Lakes Creek state schools, and upgrades to our beautiful Mount Archer.

In my first term, one of my greatest achievements was securing \$29 million for the Yeppoon foreshore and town centre revitalisation project, which has supported 680 jobs and will transform tourism in our town. Earlier this year, I was very proud to officially open the new Yeppoon Lagoon. It was an amazing day. Thousands of children, parents, grandparents and local people joined Mayor Bill Ludwig, the federal member and me to officially open the lagoon. There were people everywhere. The whole foreshore was abuzz with excitement. The music was pumping as the DJ provided some great tunes.

I remember in the afternoon, dozens of children were in the pool. The DJ played the song *Sexy and I know it*. It was amazing to see all the children in the pool dancing when he hit that part where he sings 'wiggle, wiggle, wiggle—yeah'. All of the children were getting right down and boogying in the new Yeppoon Lagoon as the DJ played amazing music on that opening day. Everyone had a smile on

their face. There was laughter everywhere and everyone had a real sense of achievement. Yeppoon's heart burst with pride. One local businessman expressed his delight with the project when he said, 'Whatever this cost, it's worth double.'

Our government's plan is continuing to drive record growth in tourism and investment in new job-creating industries such as biofuels and renewables, while keeping our resources sector strong. We promised that a re-elected Palaszczuk government would continue to invest to encourage businesses to innovate, grow, increase their exports, buy local and employ more people, and we are doing just that. It goes without saying that small businesses are the powerhouse of our local economy. The Palaszczuk government has a strong track record in providing support to small businesses to grow, diversify and tap into the digital marketplace. I am proud of our new Queensland Buy Local policy, which gives preference to local businesses for government contracts that in turn support local jobs.

The Palaszczuk government is driving growth and jobs in the north-western parts of Keppel, with a \$240 million investment in the expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre. That is the single largest investment by any state government in our region's history. That \$240 million investment, coupled with the \$120 million northern access upgrade, means that there is \$350 million worth of local infrastructure works in Parkhurst and Etna Creek, which in turn is driving our local economy. Local businesses are thrilled with that level of investment. You only have to ask Reg or Cumner at Parkhurst Quality Meats and they will tell you just how busy they are and how pleased they are to have the economy buzzing.

The 2017 election was a choice between Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who restored front-line services and confidence, and the member for Clayfield, who only proposed to cut more jobs and services and sell Queensland assets. The last time the LNP was in power in Queensland, they sacked 1,400 Central Queensland workers. At the 2017 state election Keppel locals said loud and clear that we could not afford to take that risk again.

On 12 December 2017, it was a great honour and a privilege to be sworn in as Queensland's Assistant Minister for Education. My mum has been a teacher for over 25 years and the importance of education was instilled in me from an early age. As I was growing up we were always having discussions around the dinner table about the importance of education. I was taught that education is the great social equaliser. Therefore, I am incredibly excited to be working in a portfolio that aligns with the principles that were ingrained in me by my parents. I know the importance of education to community, to society and also to our economy. I want to give students and young people a quality education and the best start to life that they could possibly have. I think that the Education portfolio is the jewel in the crown of any Labor government. I am very honoured to be working alongside the education minister, Grace Grace, whom I consider to be a mentor and a friend. I think that the changes that we can make through this portfolio can make significant changes to the lives of young people.

I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering a great start and a bright future for our children. In our last term, we hired 3,634 more teachers and 1,135 teacher aides across Queensland, including 137 extra teachers and 58 extra teacher aides in Central Queensland. Ahead of Teacher Aide Day, I make special mention of the amazing support work provided to young students by our state's teacher aides. We are going to hire thousands more teachers and teacher aides, because we are building six new schools and spending more than \$200 million refurbishing existing schools, including \$10 million each on 17 high schools.

In Keppel, Yeppoon State High School is receiving \$4.2 million for a new school administration building and new classrooms, as well as \$124,000 for the school's new e-learning hub in the library. In North Rockhampton we are spending \$2.5 million to refurbish classrooms at North Rockhampton State High School. Our priority has been to repair the damage inflicted on our state's education system by those opposite and to deliver on our commitment to provide quality education for all students and give them the resources and support they need to succeed.

In my first term, I heard many stories from local people and families about the devastating impact ice is having on people in our Central Queensland community. I fought for our local community and I am proud to be delivering on our \$14.3 million commitment for a new 42-bed residential drug rehabilitation and detox facility in Rockhampton. The new centre will create jobs during construction and also in the centre's operation. It will give Central Queensland locals improved access to vital drug treatment services and support close to their families and support networks.

We are also building better hospitals, aged-care facilities, health facilities and emergency departments. I am delivering on the commitment I made to refurbish the North Rockhampton Nursing Centre. I visit the staff and patients at this centre regularly and in 2016 I fought for funding to refurbish

this important public aged-care facility. I was proud to announce last year \$8 million in funding to refurbish the Cec Pritchard Wing and a new kitchen. I am proud that these major renovations are expected to be completed by early in the new year. I understand that there are staff who work in the kitchen at the nursing centre who are holding off on their retirement because they are so keen to work in this brand-new facility. I hope that it lives up to their hopes and dreams.

The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$610 million in health care in Central Queensland—a record Health budget for the region and almost \$44 million more than the 2017-18 financial year. We are also investing \$4.4 million across Central Queensland for community mental health services. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a Health budget that focuses on strengthening front-line services and managing rising demand.

Growing jobs in regional Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's first priority. We are delivering on our commitment to build job-generating infrastructure in Central Queensland with \$1 billion for infrastructure in Central Queensland, over \$600 million for our Central Queensland hospitals and over \$30 million for our local Central Queensland schools in the 2018-19 financial year alone. We are delivering on our commitment to the \$352 million project to build Rookwood Weir.

We are delivering on our commitment to grow jobs in tourism, with \$25 million towards power and water infrastructure on Great Keppel Island. Tourism operators, residents and future tourism development projects will benefit from improved access to infrastructure that will create jobs and provide a catalyst for tourism and economic development across the region. Providing affordable and reliable power and water will support existing tourist operators to become more sustainable and grow, while also supporting new and expanded tourism ventures on the island.

It is great to see business owners from Great Keppel Island in today's *Morning Bulletin* have described the investment by our government as 'fantastic' and 'essential'. Shane Bonney from GKI's Tropical Vibes said to the *Morning Bulletin*—

For this island to go ahead, we need power and water. I'm all for it.

I table a copy of the newspaper article for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Morning Bulletin*, dated 6 September 2018, titled 'GKI business owners share perspectives on power and water' [[1319](#)].

On Thursday, 19 October 2017 at 1.17 am, with the rain pouring outside, our beautiful baby girl, Odette Mary Lauga, was born. Odette was a healthy 3.34 kilograms and 49 centimetres long at birth, and breastfeeding was established successfully. When Odette was born, my heart burst with so much pride and so much love. I did not realise that something so small and so beautiful could bring me so much joy and happiness. I would like to thank the Mater Hospital's staff, midwives and obstetrician Dr Akash. My husband and I were most grateful to everyone who offered their support and congratulations after Odette's birth.

I did know in 2017 that an election could be called at any time and that it could coincide with the birth of my baby. It was something I considered frequently—what would I do, how would we manage? I prepared the best I could, but I know now that nothing could have prepared me. Nothing could have prepared me for the 2017 state election to be called when Odette was just 10 days old. It was an incredibly difficult time for me, for Odette and for our whole family. I was battling sleep deprivation, still physically healing after giving birth, establishing breastfeeding, battling the trials and tribulations of becoming a new mum and trying to enjoy my new baby, but I was also fighting to win an election.

They say it takes a village to raise a child and I can attest that it definitely takes a village to win an election with a newborn baby in tow. Becoming a mum is a steep learning curve, but becoming a mum in the middle of a state election when you are in a marginal regional seat felt like climbing Mount Everest. We did it and we won. During this time I certainly learned how to be more organised than ever before and an even better multitasker. Like so many other working mums, I felt guilt. I asked myself: am I doing the right thing for my baby and for my family? Am I doing the right thing for my electorate? I did and continue to try to balance my family's needs with that of my community.

Unfortunately yes, some people were critical and they were judgemental. With everything it is darned if you do, darned if you do not—you should have taken more leave, you should not take leave at all; you should take the baby with you, you should leave the baby at home. Having a baby is exhausting and challenging, but it also remarkably rewarding and it certainly makes you strong.

Becoming a mum has changed my perspective on life. I was fighting for Keppel's future before I became a mum, but now I see the future in a whole new light. I have found that being a parent and a member of parliament gives me a greater vested interest in the future—decisions we make today affect

our children, well beyond our own life spans. This new perspective and care for our future generations helps shape my work and my vision as the member for Keppel and also as the Assistant Minister for Education.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and say thanks to the Australian Breastfeeding Association for their support. We know that breastfeeding is the best way to provide infants with the nutrients they need. In fact, the World Health Organisation recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour of birth and exclusively until a baby is at least six months old. Nutritious complementary foods should then be added while continuing to breastfeed for up to two years or beyond.

I joined the ABA prior to Odette's birth and attended a breastfeeding education class in my local community which the ABA's local breastfeeding counsellors hold each quarter. This class gave me the tools and knowledge I needed in order to establish breastfeeding after birth and to continue on a breastfeeding journey, which I am proud to say has now extended over 10 months and I hope to continue for up to two years or beyond.

I was so grateful in the middle of the night when Odette was only a few days old to have a calm and friendly voice on the end of the phone when I called the ABA's free and confidential 24-hour 1800 breastfeeding helpline which is available for all women and men. I needed advice and the fully qualified breastfeeding counsellor on the end of the line at 2 am was there for me.

Since then I have attended a number of very helpful ABA seminars on a variety of topics like supply, keeping baby hydrated, sleep, baby led weaning and social get-togethers, all provided free to local women and men by the ABA across Queensland. I want to thank the ABA Queensland President, Naomi Hull; ABA Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast Group Leader, Amy Deme; Tiana Ruckert; Pauline Delany, who has been volunteering as a breastfeeding counsellor for over 40 years; Sharon Lowe; and Alannah Shore in Gladstone. They are all qualified breastfeeding counsellors who volunteer their time for women, men and families in our region. I thank all of the trainee breastfeeding counsellors—Kaitlin Holland, Jessica Bell, Katrina Harney, Shantelle Ehmann and Annalyce Coleburn—for all of the work they do to help support women and children in our community to continue to breastfeed.

Whilst we celebrated the birth of Odette, sadly, during the campaign, my family also lost my grandfather, Barry Ayscough. It was a sad time for my mum, my aunts and uncles and all of my family. It was sad that he did not get to meet Odette before he passed away. My grandpa was by no means a Labor man. In fact, as a farmer and grazier for most of his life, he and I had very different views of the world. Our political differences aside, he supported me in my career, he followed me in the news and even had one of my corflutes proudly displayed in his front window for all of the street to see.

I want to pay tribute in my second address-in-reply speech in this place to the coalminers at Oaky North. Many will remember that the workers at Oaky North were sadly locked out by their employer, Glencore, for 230 days. We need changes to the federal Fair Work Act to stop big businesses like Glencore from blatantly sacking permanent workers and replacing them with contract and labour hire. We need the federal government to regulate labour hire, to re-shore work that has gone overseas, to set mandatory local minimums for all major work, to use local workers first, to allow casual workers to become permanent and to save our penalty rates.

Throughout the lockout I constantly called on Senator Matthew Canavan and the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, to pluck up the courage and show some compassion to visit the locked out coalminers at Oaky North mine near Tieri during their tour of Central Queensland mines. Both Senator Canavan and the member for Capricornia refused. Instead, they toured mine sites, got selfies with mine bosses and ignored the very people they purport to represent—the miners who were locked out of their livelihood by rich, multinational company Glencore. I stood in solidarity with the 198 locked out Oaky North workers at the lockout camp and I fought for them. I backed the Oaky North workers and during the election they backed me. On election night I proudly dedicated Labor's win in Keppel to the Oaky North workers and their families.

I want to thank my campaign manager, Thelma Humphris, and her husband, Gary, and campaign director, Paul Hoolihan, and his wife, Elizabeth, for their tireless work. I thank my electorate office staff—Annette, Thelma and John—for their years of dedication to serving our community. I would like to thank the Yeppoon, Emu Park and North Rockhampton branches of the great Australian Labor Party.

Branch members are our party's greatest asset. It is the rank and file who get stuck in and stand up for our party and for our candidates. It is people like Bryce, who slept in his car to protect our marquee at the pre-poll booth. It is people like Hugh and Yvonne who turn up to every barbecue, every doorknock

and every fundraiser. It is people like Greg and Dave who sell footy doubles to raise funds for the campaign. It is people like Bruce, Paul, Gary, Ernie, Tom and all of the volunteers who stood in the heat and handed out how-to-vote cards at pre-poll on election day.

I thank the former Queensland Labor state secretary, Evan Moorhead, for his leadership and ongoing and consistent mentorship and advice and the incumbent State Secretary—our party's first female state secretary and a strong woman at that—Julie-Ann Campbell, for her leadership and mentorship both as the new State Secretary and also as the AMWU's political officer. I thank Ann-Marie and Rohan at the AMWU as well for their ongoing commitment and support.

Sadly, I want to pay tribute to a great Labor man—the president of the Yeppoon ALP branch Lance Waters, who sadly passed away on 19 April this year aged 60 years. Rest in peace, Lance, and thank you for everything you have done for me and for Labor.

I grew up in Central Queensland and I am passionate about our region. I love working for the community and I love standing up for our future. I fought for and delivered over \$100 million in job-generating projects in my first term and I have hit the ground running in this, my second term, to make Keppel an even more prosperous place to live, work and raise a family.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.20 pm): Here we are in September 2018—10 months after the state election—and I am finally getting the opportunity to thank the wonderful residents of Currumbin and express my deep gratitude for once again putting their faith in me and re-electing me for a sixth term, having first done so in 2004. I tasted defeat in 2001 and did not like it one bit and neither did my dedicated team of volunteers. We worked very hard to gain the trust of residents and overcome a 14.5 per cent margin to win the seat of Currumbin three years later. It is truly an honour to be returned as the member for Currumbin, with over 47 per cent of the primary vote compared to 45 per cent in 2015.

Enormous resources are required to run campaigns, as we have heard from many other honourable members. The majority of my team have been with me for many years, and I cannot thank them enough for their loyalty, dedication and generous giving of their time. There are too many to name and, as mentioned by other honourable members, there is always the fear of leaving someone out. To my beloved Currumbin branch members and family, regional LNP chair and his wife, women's president, young LNP, Tweed Liberals and Nationals, small business owners, community advocates and anyone else who helped in any way at all: I say thank you. Together we brought Currumbin in once again for the LNP.

Families share the highs and lows of politics and no time is more testing than campaigns. My husband of 41 years, Richard, is a very seasoned campaigner and literally the wind beneath my wings. He knows me well and trusts my instincts as to how things are going. He is up before dawn and out motivating our troops on roadsides around the electorate. In fact, he became so conditioned to doing this that for a couple of weeks after the election he was on autopilot and still raring to go.

Electorate staff have an important role to play during elections, with phones running hot from residents wanting information about polling dates and locations and everyday issues that electorate officers deal with. I want to express my sincere thanks to Kerrie Maxworthy for doing an outstanding job almost single-handedly.

Currumbin is an exquisitely beautiful electorate blessed with world famous beaches and lush valleys. It is no wonder people feel connected to this region and choose to make it their home for many years. I know my family fell in love with the place 31 years ago. As I said, people in Currumbin feel connected and they are very vocal about what matters to them. Over the past 14 years I have championed countless petitions and campaigns for residents, standing side by side as we fought for a better deal.

Labor have been in power for most of my time as the member for Currumbin and, despite their efforts to starve us, we have had some significant wins—but only through shaming Labor with people power and passive public protests. First there was the Tugun bypass, a project well overdue that was finally built in 2008. Costs blew out from \$55 million to around \$543 million, making it the most expensive road per kilometre in Australia.

Even though the majority of the road was in New South Wales and there was a Labor government there, Queensland Labor could not get them to pay one cent towards construction of the bypass. This gross incompetence and cost blowouts are the hallmark of Labor governments—it is in their DNA—and Queensland taxpayers cop it, inheriting debt that will hang around their children's and their grandchildren's necks for generations.

When the Premier and Labor ministers bang on about federal funding percentages, they are too embarrassed to admit the total balls-up that was the Tugun bypass fiasco. The federal government gave Queensland 50 per cent of the cost of the project when it was \$240 million, but Labor sat on their hands and did nothing as the cost exploded to over \$500 million, resulting in a funding split of 80-20 with Queensland paying the 80 per cent.

In 2017 Labor were desperate to win Currumbin and played a cruel hoax on residents by announcing they would fund the widening of the M1 from Varsity to Tugun. They blew into town with their pseudo town hall meeting and announced a half-baked promise which was exposed on the eve of the November election when costings were revealed and there was a \$176 million shortfall.

I have worked hard for many years fighting to fix the M1, partnering with our community to demand action on the M1 between Varsity and the border, and a petition with over 10,000 signatures that called for action was tabled in this House in 2016 and forced the Palaszczuk government to commit \$5 million to funding a business case. I also lobbied the federal coalition government to commit funding, and in April this year they did just that with the Prime Minister announcing \$1 billion, which included funds for the southern section of the M1.

The Palaszczuk government stamped their feet and refused to commit funds even though opposition leader Shorten jumped in and said he supported the funding model. Then the Premier sent 'Minister Mangocube' out to throw another of his hissy fits before finally succumbing to the strong media campaign run by the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and public pressure. However, the Palaszczuk government's reluctance to fund the M1 upgrade exposed them as the fraudsters that they are when they made election promises they had no intention of meeting in the foreseeable future.

On 7 December 2017 in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* the member for Gaven said Labor were 'crystal clear' on the M1. That is hard to believe when Labor had to be dragged kicking and screaming to match federal funds. The member for Gaven has only been in this place for a matter of months, yet she has the arrogance to take credit for the M1—an issue for which many of us here in this House have fought hard for many years. She was not here when the \$5 million was committed for the business case and did nothing to advance the cause but now wants full glory for it. The member might feel important swanning around at ritzy tourism events, but I hear the people of Gaven would rather she was attending to their needs.

Koala conservation and protection is valued in my electorate. Currumbin's Labor candidate pretended to take an interest and made much of her party's strong stance on koala protection, stating on one of her rehearsed and insincere videos—

I'm here today with Environment Minister, Steven Miles, on Tallebudgera Connection Road. The Tally Valley is home to a sustainable koala population. However, the deaths of 10 koalas on this road just this year has local residents seriously concerned about the continued viability of the population.

Minister Miles said on the video—

Thanks for inviting me down here to see this stretch of road ... The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital tells us that this is a real hotspot sadly for koala deaths. We know that the koala population, particularly in the south-east, is under threat. We can all do something about it by driving more safely on roads like this one. We've put an expert in place to tell us exactly what policy settings to put in place to give our koalas a better chance of survival.

Minister Miles went on to say that he would meet with the main roads minister to talk about what we can do on this particular stretch of road and to stay tuned between now and the election to see what a re-elected Labor government will do to protect habitat and protect our koalas.

Well, according to the Minister for Main Roads in a reply to a resident's petition, koala deaths are not occurring on this road and there is no need to reduce speed limits there. Further, the report from the Koala Expert Panel that was due on 30 June 2017 was only released on Friday, 11 May, coincidentally the day after I asked the minister a question on notice. So much for koala protection! What hypocrites they are, every single one of them—fake, insincere frauds.

My track record proves I am a genuine advocate for koalas, having personally invested many thousands of dollars of my own money in the wildlife hospital and financially sponsoring the naming of five joeys whom I enjoy visiting immensely. Once again, I commend the tireless work of senior vet Dr Michael Pyne and his dedicated team of staff and volunteers who treat over 10,000 injured wildlife every year. The LNP promised \$1 million over four years to help this amazing facility to function. With no promise that Labor will continue funding past 2019, our hospital and its miracle workers face uncertainty about their future.

Recognising the challenges faced by people who live on state borders, the LNP committed to install a cross-border commissioner tasked with solving problems across Queensland and New South Wales and a roving brief to coordinate with and across all departments.

An opposition member: Great policy.

Mrs STUCKEY: It was a great policy. Living on the most densely populated border in the nation, we face a raft of unique challenges with the provision of services, rules and regulations and different time zones. Since 2008, I have been working with Tweed MP Geoff Provest and more recently the New South Wales Cross Border Commissioner to get a better deal for our border inhabitants and pushing for more streamlined processes in relation to cross-border policing, small business regulation, child safety services and transport, to name a few.

The Palaszczuk government have had little interest in resolving the many differences faced by residents and have dragged their feet on this issue. Granted, Labor finally signed off on a statement of principles that would see more engagement between both states' agencies, but it has been a case of push and prod from New South Wales to get things moving. The annual work list due at the end of June has not yet appeared, like so many of Labor's reviews and reports. The ALP in Victoria are investing in a cross-border commissioner but not Queensland.

After two years of requests from local high school principals and senior police for a school based police officer, the LNP promised to allocate one to our two high schools with students in the electorate. The SBPOs, as they are known, have proven to be highly effective in reducing aggressive behaviours, drugs and bullying in schools. It is truly disappointing that Labor, who we all know are soft on crime, have not only refused this position but are also tampering with the policy as stated by the assistant commissioner at last year's estimates. Meanwhile suspensions rise, assaults rise, bullying rises and a proven strategy such as SBPOs is denied. Now the entire independent public school system is under threat with the Queensland Teachers' Union demanding the program be killed off. What is Labor trying to hide by refusing to release their secret IPS review?

I move to the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Much has already been said, but as a former games minister and a member whose electorate hosted three different sporting events I make the following comments. What should have been a showcase like no other from beginning to end with athletes taking centre stage was compromised by political interference that ashamed millions of Queenslanders and Australians. Thank goodness for our true-blue athletes and those from across the 71 nations of the Commonwealth who embodied the spirit of these friendly games. I am proud to have been a minister in the LNP government that secured all 17 venues and the athletes village, laying a solid foundation for the smooth running of sporting events in top-class venues and guaranteeing a built legacy of modern sporting infrastructure.

Media tart Peter Beattie hogged TV screens and imposed politically correct nonsense on us. The opening and closing ceremonies were a total embarrassment. As quoted in the media, they were a \$40 million stuff-up—an insult—but the ultimate sin was shutting our athletes out of the closing ceremony. Minister Jones would have been advised of the program for the closing ceremony. Her director-general would have known. I used to speak to mine several times a day. Did the minister own up to not doing her homework or to doing nothing about this appalling omission? No, the member for Cooper tried to shift the blame, like she always does, and point the finger at someone else.

All the Premier was concerned about was whether she got a speaking gig and Minister Jones was busy making sure she had a different dress each day while staying at five-star accommodation. The Premier got her speaking gig, made an apolitical event political and was so rude she did not even acknowledge His Royal Highness Prince Edward. What a disgraceful lack of protocol!

There were countless tales of restricted ambulance access, no car parks for Brisbane train commuters to get to work and 3,000 sales a day lost to Coolangatta traders as park-and-ride ticket holders had to leave after each volleyball session. Meanwhile, correct and timely information about limitations on small businesses and residents alike was withheld and those who complained were labelled whingers or lunatics, told they were exaggerating and told to suck it up.

Over 450 complaints came through my office prior to the commencement of the games, not from whingers but from people who had genuine concerns about dialysis appointments or cancelled child care. Bus contracts went to an interstate company whose drivers took volleyball competitors to Brisbane instead of Coolangatta. People in wheelchairs were stranded at a light rail station because buses did not have the necessary low floors. Surfside Buslines, which was discarded as a contractor, had to come in and rescue these poor abandoned souls.

Volunteers were told to neuter who we are, cover up our outgoing, gregarious, sociable nature, be un-Australian and address people as 'folks'. Apart from the athletes, my most ingrained and fond memory of the 2014 Glasgow games is of the amazing volunteers. Their Scottishness and Englishness was infectious and so welcoming. Many of our volunteers thankfully ignored those PC directions and will be remembered with the same fondness the world over, I am sure.

Beattie tells people to suck it up—that the legacy will be worth it. He even tried to spin it that the M1 upgrades are a legacy of the games. That is fine for him with his plum job and the thousands of Goldoc employees on outrageously high salaries. It reveals contempt for the small business owner and a total lack of understanding or consideration of their circumstances.

Labor members come into this place and bang on insincerely about how much they help small businesses. I have not heard one of them speak up for them when it comes to lost trade and disruptions. A number of our small businesses who were negatively affected for periods of six weeks and more are now seeking compensation for lost trade, and I do not blame them. Withholding key information as to how businesses would be affected was criminal. Labor did not care about hundreds of small businesses in my electorate, and each time I tried to speak up for them, as I am now, and get answers I was labelled a whiner. That is how Labor sees small businesses—as whingers. That is why they pay them lip-service while strangling them with regulations. I am speaking up for them, and to hell with the pathetic criticisms and mutterings from those opposite.

Then there are the legacy items. Currumbin deserves a fair share. Minister Jones spoke at our local chamber breakfast just before the games commenced and told those present she would look into small business concerns and legacy items, but we got very little and businesses are being totally ignored. The member for Cooper says one thing in front of a crowd but then does another. True to form, when things go bad for the member for Cooper she ducks for cover and blames someone else. She has no shame. She cannot help herself. If only the general public saw the real Kate Jones and the way she behaves here in this House—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Currumbin, you have been warned by the Speaker, as has everyone in the House, that you need to refer to members in this House by their correct title.

Mrs STUCKEY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. If the general public saw the real member for Cooper and the way she behaves here in this House they would see an individual who is prepared to twist the truth for political gain. However, I am pleased that one of the Borobi mascots now lives in the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Without doubt, the 2017 state campaign was a dirty one, with Labor using under-age volunteers, intimidating and threatening to 'drop' older workers. One youth even paid lip-service to a female policewoman who told him he had been warned and she would not tolerate him anymore. This was a young man who attended youth parliament in 2017. Astonishingly, the booth captain, Katrina Beikoff, who ran for council for Labor in 2015 and wants to run again, did not see anything wrong with his behaviour and did not attempt to admonish this minor.

My car windscreen was smashed while I was at a Tallebudgera booth. It was suggested a golf ball was responsible but police and forensics ruled that out. It was ugly vandalism. Labor played the age card and said that I was a career politician. They cannot have it both ways. I did not start my political career until I was 45, by which time I had raised my family and successfully run my own small business. That is more than can be said for my Labor opponent, who did not live in the electorate and who ran in Mudgeeraba in 2015. That is what you call a deceitful opportunist.

I was deeply disappointed with the behaviour of a couple of local community groups who are supposedly apolitical—Philip Follent, in particular, who personally funded the ALP candidate's campaign and sent personal emails asking people to vote for the ALP. Labor's candidate left some of her corflutes up for weeks after the election which annoyed many residents, especially as she had covered the electorate with them with no respect for where she put them—even putting them outside our RSL on Remembrance Day. Labor spent a lot of money on their campaign to win Currumbin with an outsider, but the people who live in this wonderful electorate saw through it. Once again, I thank them from the bottom of my heart—a heart that beats for my beloved Currumbin with her beauty and her amazing people.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Julie Bishop, a leading light for women in politics. I agree with her, as I told the ASPG gathering here on Monday evening, that the behaviour in parliament would not be tolerated in most other workplaces. I am surprised there are not more suicides and MPs on depression medications. It concerns me greatly that bullying and intimidation have become the accepted norm in this place and other parliaments.

In Queensland, women are as bad as or worse than men. Like Julie, I am not completely innocent of dishing it up, but sadly new members adopt the practice early on. It is one thing to call someone out on failures and behaviour, but now it is just nasty sledging. No wonder the general public have had enough and are tuning out as the quality of debate suffers. Today in question time the Premier took standards to a new low by targeting the child of an MP. That is gutter politics and must be condemned.

In closing, I would like to reinforce my commitment to and love of the people in Currumbin and thank them for re-electing me for a sixth time in this place to represent them. I will continue to do so fiercely and with strong advocacy.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.39 pm): It is a great privilege to rise to address this House once again as the member for Nudgee. Securing the support of my community for a second term in this place is no less an honour than the first day I walked in here. The 2017 state election was the third time I have contested the seat of Nudgee, having been unsuccessful in the whitewash of 2012 and coming back in 2015 and 2017 more determined than ever to give my community the strong voice and advocacy it deserves.

I would like to begin where I intend to end, and that is by thanking the electors of Nudgee for the faith they have instilled in me to continue to serve and represent their interests in this place. Some of those who did in this election did so for the first time, and I would like to warmly welcome those constituents in the new part of my electorate in Nundah and Wavell Heights to the Nudgee family following the state redistribution of electoral boundaries that occurred last year.

My team made it a challenge to knock or phone and write to every one of the thousands of new homes we gained in the redistribution, and we did it and we had a lot of fun doing it too. I had some of my most memorable conversations on the doorsteps in this new area, where many residents had never heard of or from their previous member. I made some wonderful new friends through these conversations and gained some fantastic new stakeholders—like Nundah Community Enterprises Co-op, Nundah Neighbourhood Centre, Nundah Rotary, Lions, Nundah Historical Society, Nundah State School, Mary MacKillop College, St Joseph's primary school, Nundah Now, Loving Nundah, Northern Suburbs Bowls Club, Wavell Heights Community Hall, Nundah/Wavell Girl Guides and so many more.

Of course, change rarely comes without some loss, and it was with sadness that the taking effect of the new boundaries also meant saying goodbye to some valued friends. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Geebung State School, Wavell State High School, Wavell Heights Primary School, Zillmere State School, St Kevin's Primary School, St Dymphna's Primary School and Our Lady of Assembly Primary School, their principals, P&Cs, P&Fs and all their school communities, along with Geebung Bowls Club, Geebung RSL and so many others across the suburbs of Geebung and parts of Zillmere, Wavell Heights and Chelmside all the very best for the future. It was a pleasure to represent you for the past three years, and I know that my colleagues, the members for Aspley and Stafford, who now represent these areas, will serve them well.

I would like to thank our Premier, Annastacia, and acknowledge that it is in such large part her humility, consultative approach to leadership and the comfort that both of these qualities engender in the Queensland community that has afforded me the opportunity to once again take my seat on this side of the chamber. I also offer my belated congratulations to all members across this House on their election to this honourable place and those who have been elevated to the high office of cabinet and shadow cabinet positions. To serve your electorate is a great honour; to serve the electorate of Queensland is a greater responsibility still.

I particularly congratulate those newly elected members. It is always a special experience to listen to maiden speeches and to gain a small window into what has brought people to this place. The speeches delivered by new members, including Cynthia Lui, which I found particularly moving, did not disappoint. While congratulating the new, I also take a moment to remember those who are no longer in this place. This is a transient place, particularly so in more recent times—we all know that—but it is also a place where friendships form and people are missed on both sides.

Before turning to the term ahead, I would like to reflect for a moment on the past. Nudgee is my home. It is where I grew up, where I was educated, where I started my first job, where I bought my first home and where I am now raising my two young boys. It is in local clubs that my boys play footy and

we train in Goju Kai, where we shop, where we celebrate special occasions at one of our many fantastic local restaurants, microbreweries or wine bars, where we grab a quick coffee and use local services. Perhaps, some would say, it might be healthy to once in a while leave its boundaries, but clearly these are just the jealous ramblings of those who do not live there. Levity aside, for me, everything I raise in this House and on behalf of my community is personal and my advocacy all the more passionate because of it.

By working together with local community, government and stakeholders alike, we were able to secure much needed infrastructure and service improvements across my electorate last term. These included in our local schools: a new \$6 million performing arts centre at Wavell State High School; \$250,000 for new senior school bathroom facilities, a full-time guidance officer, the installation of industrial ceiling fans in the hall and a \$5,000 grant for engineering, robotics and programming from Queensland Rail at Earnshaw State College—

Ms Grace: The best fans in the world.

Ms LINARD: At Nundah State School as well; this one was at Earnshaw, Minister. Improvements also included: new shade sail and seating for the prep area at St Pius primary school; a new security intercom, shade sail and trees to enhance privacy and security at Banyo C&K Kindergarten; and road safety improvements, with flashing school zone lights installed for St Pius, Boondall State School, Geebung State School, St Kevin's Primary School, Virginia State School and Boondall State School. Every one of these improvements last term I had the pleasure of advocating for and seeing delivered for my local school communities, but I could not have done so without my colleague and friend the former minister for education, Kate Jones, and I thank her.

In health, the electorate is now home to a new \$13 million 24-hour ambulance station and QAS Emergency and Fleet Management Precinct in Geebung. It was lovely to have the health minister, Steven Miles, out to officially open this and a new \$5 million step-up step-down mental health facility at Nundah recently.

From education and health, I move to public transport. Last term saw: a new pedestrian footbridge, signage, lighting and CCTV, as well as additional commuter car parks delivered at Banyo Railway Station; a reconfiguration of and additional commuter car parks at Nundah park-and-ride; an expansion of park-and-ride facilities at Nudgee train station; and the commencement of a significant accessibility upgrade of Boondall Railway Station which will include a new pedestrian footbridge with lift access, raised platforms, extended shelters, upgraded security cameras and station lighting.

Our vibrant local community and sporting sector saw millions of dollars in additional funding and grants to support programs, including at Nundah Neighbourhood Centre for their legal and domestic violence programs and Micah family support services at Zillmere, as well as facility upgrades at Toombul Cricket Club, Norths Rugby League Club, Zillmere PCYC, Hendra Pony Club, Nundah Activity Centre, Boondall ice skating and many more. Of course, our joint funding commitment to the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge has already taken shape across my electorate and the Sandgate electorate over the past nine months. This will improve congestion on the motorway and Sandgate Road into the future.

While much has been achieved, there is much more still to be delivered across my electorate. This term I look forward to seeing local election commitments including park-and-ride extensions at Geebung and Virginia stations delivered, as well as a \$5.5 million investment in a new home for the Northside Wizards Basketball club and indoor sports complex at Zillmere.

With 12 train stations across the electorate, it is no surprise that public transport improvements will continue to be a key part of my focus again this term. In this regard, I look forward to seeing a new \$1.9 million police railway squad outpost constructed at Northgate station this year and the completion of the Boondall station accessibility upgrade. I also look forward to continuing to work with the minister, Queensland Rail and TransLink on behalf of my community to continue to seek timetable improvements and ongoing park-and-ride improvements across my local network. I meet regularly with the minister, his office, Queensland Rail and TransLink regarding these local priorities, and I take this opportunity to thank them for always being willing to listen to the concerns of my community.

Conversely, I continue to hold hope that the Brisbane City Council and local LNP councillor for Northgate will finally come to the table and start a genuine and constructive dialogue on how we can work together to improve road safety at the Banyo road and rail crossing, because, while it may not be a priority of theirs, it is a priority of my community and therefore of mine.

Ms Grace: Don't hold your breath for the Libs.

Ms LINARD: I will not, Minister. You are absolutely right. Equally, I hope to see a completed masterplan at council level and support at both local and state government level for the Zillmere PCYC in my electorate. This PCYC does so much with so little, when the need is great in the surrounding community. The connection between community and police is never as dynamic as when it is brought into parity, and that is what I see in the services delivered at this PCYC. I would like to pay tribute to the executive there, to the branch manager, Sergeant Scott Jensen, and to his team for their dedication to building community resilience, capacity and connection.

When I first sat down to write this speech following the election last November, I wrote of the need to upgrade the pool change rooms and pool facilities at Virginia State School and the installation of industrial fans at Nundah State School as local improvements I was working with my community to secure. It is truly a pleasure to already have been able to deliver these improvements alongside my community thanks to the generous support of education minister Grace Grace and her department in the recent state budget. Thank you, Minister. These are just some of the priorities on behalf of my local community, and I am excited about what we can achieve together over the coming term.

From local considerations to broader ones, I had the great pleasure of being the chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in the last parliament. All of the work of this parliament is important, but it felt particularly so when looking at the challenging nature of child safety, domestic and family violence prevention legislation, mental health reform, disability services, abortion law reform and even briefly euthanasia.

Much of the work of the committee fell within the portfolio of the previous minister for health, Cameron Dick, who was also extremely supportive and responsive to feedback and issues raised by the committee. I thank him along with Minister Coralee O'Rourke and Minister Shannon Fentiman, with whom I have the pleasure of working again this term with regard to my committee responsibilities, for their responsiveness. I would like to also take this opportunity to wish the new chair, the member for Thuringowa, the very best for the coming term as he continues this important work.

Mr Harper: Thank you very much. I learnt from the best.

Ms LINARD: Thank you. He is someone who served on that committee with me for the entirety of the last term. I know he is relishing the opportunity to continue to advance issues that he is very passionate about. I also want to wish the deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, the very best for this term as he continues in the role of deputy chair. Though we did not always see eye to eye, which no-one would expect, I always appreciated and admired the intellect and consideration he brought to the work of the committee.

It is with much relish that I sought to be and was happily appointed chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee this term. This committee equally has responsibility for industrial relations, skills and training, all of which I am very passionate about. When I spent three years in a previous life in policing and corrective services policy, when reading and hearing firsthand the stories of those who find themselves caught up in our justice system it became very sadly evident that not everyone in this great state and country of ours has an equal opportunity at life. That is not to say that we are all victims.

Regardless of our circumstances we make choices and we live with the repercussions of those choices, but, to repeat a very powerful phrase often said, you cannot be what you cannot see. It reinforced for me in a very powerful way the transformative capacity of education. It has been said that education is the great equaliser, the most empowering force in the world. It creates knowledge, builds confidence, breaks down barriers to opportunity and allows one hope for a better future.

We have made tremendous advances in this country, but there is work still to be done to ensure that no child gets left behind: improving literacy and numeracy, making sure that every child can access vital early learning services such as kindy, engaging more children with disability in learning, re-engaging disengaged or at-risk youth in meaningful education to prepare them for the future and making sure we have the meaningful data to know where we are and where we are going.

For some children our schools also provide the only constant and safe place in their daily lives. While this is in itself a tragedy and one that moves me deeply as a mother, it provides opportunity and demands that we continue to look at in terms of how we can do better by vulnerable children across our community. Ultimately, we as a society are only as good and as just as how we treat our most vulnerable members. I take this opportunity to applaud and thank all Queensland teachers, teacher aides, staff and volunteers who serve with such dedication, heart and vision in this vital area. I acknowledge my colleagues Grace Grace, the Minister for Education, and Di Farmer, the Minister for Child Safety and Youth, who serve so diligently in this vital area.

Equally so, the protections we afford workers in this state, the way that we value and reward work and the family unit, the availability of quality training and skills development to get people into work, to give people the dignity of work, are a key focus for me and have been for my entire working life and my tertiary study before that. As a country, we are facing sustained low wages growth, the ongoing challenge of gender pay parity, a culture of rampant unpaid overtime, casualisation and the impacts that all of these have on the family unit and any meaningful balance in our lives.

Do not get me wrong; we have seen positive change—hard fought for change. However, it seems ironic to me, given we live in a country that led the way in restricting working hours, starting in 1850, that we find ourselves having to once again increasingly defend them 168 years later. The divide across our country between rich and poor continues to grow and it continues to deepen. Job insecurity, cuts in real wages and underemployment are putting households under increasing strain. I see it across my community, and I see it across our country. We can and have to do better.

In addition to education and employment, I want to make some comments about women in the workplace and women in leadership. I am often asked by aspiring young women what it is like to be a woman in leadership. It is a topic I want to reflect on for those young women who ask the question, who will ultimately follow us into this place, but also for the many amazing women I come across in business and finance, in law and elsewhere who have shared their experiences and struggles.

Whether in politics or my roles in government or business before it, I have come to realise that women in leadership often have to pioneer something new because the pervasive system that we operate in is often not built for the different roles and challenges we face as women in leadership and the different priorities we often value. When I turned 30 and had my first baby, and my second at 33 prior to entering parliament, as a woman in senior roles, I began to discover that barriers do not always come in the most obvious form. Sometimes the barrier is not people's views but the system itself and what it rewards.

In 2011 and 2013, the years I had my children, when I returned to work the only option open to me to be a professional working mother who wanted to continue breastfeeding up to 12 months was to express milk in a toilet cubicle or the sick room, both when at the workplace and when at airports when travelling for work. The idea of mothers who return to work wanting to continue breastfeeding is hardly groundbreaking stuff. If we can move respectfully with the times here in this parliament, I know we can do so more broadly across our workplaces.

The absence of flexible work practices and the use of technology to make it work, accessibility of child care, rewarding efficiency and quality of work completed, rather than hours spent in the workplace and at after-hours networking functions when considering promotion are all barriers that many women continue to experience in the workplace and to positions of leadership. Professions such as education, health and creative arts that often attract women and provide the more flexible work arrangements they may seek often value their work at less than those in traditionally male dominated industries. While there is much talk about the importance of family and work-life balance, I do not think many of our systems of work, reward, and childcare accessibility in practice support what we say we value as a society, so there is work to be done.

I want to acknowledge the contribution that our Premier; Deputy Premier; state secretary; Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tanya Plibersek; and many within our Labor movement have made to this particular discussion. I know that we, as a state Labor government are committed and up to the task and that we can and will achieve much for working women and Queensland families in partnership with a future Shorten led federal Labor government.

None of us come to this place by our singular effort; it takes a team, a community, and I would like to now thank mine. Affectionately named the 'Nudgee Mafia', I am the fourth generation of proud state members to serve our great party and my great community. Former members for Nudgee, Jack Melloy, Ken Vaughan and Neil Roberts, instilled in me a commitment to Labor values, Labor Unity and Nudgee. I would like to acknowledge each of them, but particularly so my campaign director and dear friend, Neil Roberts, my truest confidante; along with Reg Neil and Kim Flessor for their ongoing friendship and support.

I would like to acknowledge my field campaign coordinators, James and Bruce; communications coordinators, Jill, Michael and Walter; SEC president, Veronica; and fundraiser extraordinaire, Bob—all of whom I owe much. To Margaret and Bruce, who have letterboxed my entire electorate and, when finished, then started again and again, I say thank you for wearing out the soles of your shoes for me and for what we believe in. Graham, what can I say? You are everywhere. No task is too big or too small.

I say thank you to my branch coordinators, Eli and Kulumba, and to every one of the branch members across my electorate who work at every fete and festival, mobile office, market and community information stall. I say thank you to the volunteers who sign up for one event or many. It truly takes a community.

We ran a strong and a positive campaign, focused on the future and focused on the community, and we did so in the face of a personal and negative campaign from the LNP candidate. It lacked vision, honesty and direction. My community deserved better. I say thank you to Neil Henderson and The Services Union, who have been alongside me since the day I first sought candidacy in 2012. I say a special thank you to my electorate office team, Natacha, Jill, Julz and Jemma, who work tirelessly for the people of Nudgee, and for me. To my gorgeous boys, Jordan and Ollie, and to my husband, Ian—there are not enough words.

I would like to also take this opportunity to make special mention of a powerhouse of the Australian Labor movement who will soon retire, Wayne Swan. Wayne Swan has been many things to many people in our movement: former deputy prime minister of our country, deputy leader of our party nationally, treasurer and finance minister of the year. However, to me and to my fellow colleagues, the members for Sandgate, Stafford, and Aspley, he is just 'Swannie'. He has been my federal member since I was 12. Frank in his assessments and astute in his advice, he is as formidable as he is loyal. Wayne, I say thank you for your personal support and for your service to our country, to our party and to our northside community. You will be sincerely missed.

In conclusion, I would like to end where I began, and that is by thanking the electors of Nudgee for the faith they have instilled in me to continue to serve and represent their interests in this place. I will do so sincerely.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Electorate, Police

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.00 pm): This morning during questions without notice the Premier suggested to me that I should check my facts on the question I asked her. I thought I would begin with that particular set of facts on behalf of the parliament to clarify things for the Premier. The question that I asked the Premier was fairly concise. I asked—

In light of Labor's laws having had only one successful prosecution and no convictions after hundreds of warnings, does the Premier now accept that Labor's soft laws and Labor's cut to front-line police are leaving Gold Coasters at risk from criminal gangs?

Where did I get the information from? Estimates 2018, prehearing questions on notice to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, question 4. He references the organised crime gang groups. He also says—

I am advised as at 30 June 2018 800 official consorting warnings have been issued across Queensland ... eight people have been charged for the offence of habitually consorting ...

He also then continues—

I am advised since 9 March 2017, one habitually consorting charge has been successfully prosecuted.

Mr Watts: One out of 800!

Mr CRANDON: One only out of 800. I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. Having cleared that up for the Premier and the House, let us have a look at some other statistics of interest. Given that I was referencing the Gold Coast, we see that the Gold Coast is facing a crime crisis. Last year robberies were up 20 per cent; break-ins were up 15 per cent; and breaches of domestic violence orders were up by more than 25 per cent. At the same time, to cap it all off, the Palaszczuk government cut 45 police officers from 2016 to April this year.

Where do I get that figure from? Another answer to a question on notice advised that 841 permanent positions are on the Gold Coast versus 886 some 21 months before. It states that 527 of those are police officers on strength at the various police stations, but the rest of them are other officers that are around and about. It saddens me that I do not have time to go through all of these other statistics, but let me say that Coomera division wins—not—on all of these stats except one: the number of police per head of population in the Coomera electorate versus the rest of the Gold Coast divisions.

Miller Electorate

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.03 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a couple of fantastic sporting groups in my electorate which the Palaszczuk government has been able to assist with a range of projects. The Tarragindi Tigers is a huge soccer club that only started with one or two teams when I was a local councillor. It is now a huge concern, but it does need its own clubhouse. The Palaszczuk government has been very pleased to help them with a grant to assist them getting established there. They are the last major club that does not have a clubhouse, and they are very keen to do so.

I also acknowledge our support and the role of the Sherwood AFL in the peninsula suburbs. We are giving them some assistance in terms of the rectification of the field to make sure the playing surface is of a higher quality. Likewise, the Souths Rugby club was looking to develop training facilities. Because of the burgeoning numbers of young families coming into the electorate, our junior sporting clubs are really growing in the middle suburbs. We have to make sure that we work with sporting clubs to ensure those facilities are there for them.

I would also like to acknowledge the Annerley and Yeronga communities in relation to the old TAFE site. We are undertaking a very good consultation process with the local community, and we will have a strong outcome there. The second oval that was taken away from the Yeronga high school next door will be given back to the high school, which is now experiencing growth, so we want to look after the high school. We will also have a permanent home for the Yeronga Community Centre, which does such fantastic work in my area. It was formed out of the 2011 floods. We are very keen to work with the Yeronga Community Centre as well.

I would also like to acknowledge a very important project in relation to the full disability upgrade of the Fairfield station that is occurring in my electorate. That design is underway. We have been consulting the community and getting local feedback. The people of Annerley and Fairfield are very excited about the upgrade of the station.

I would like to thank a few people in relation to my re-election in Miller. Like every member in this place, we all have a team of people who work incredibly hard to get us here. I would like to thank a list of people here: Felix Gibson; John Hegarty; Carly Auguston; Ken Boyne; Norm Bullen; Marianne Leslie; Jo, Justo and Lillian Cumberford; Matt Schwartz; Frank Vari; Sean McCarthy; Craig Wood; Laurence McLean; David Banfield; Lucas Kennedy; Frank and Loretta Carroll; Edwina and Frank Crowther; Matt Foley, the former member; Col and Bev Griffiths; Councillor Steve Griffiths; Sasha Marol; Graham Perrett; and all of my ministerial staff and electorate staff who worked so hard over the time. People do not realise how hard political staff work, and I thank them all for their support.

Blackall Range Regional Art Gallery

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.06 pm): I believe the Sunshine Coast is the visual arts capital of Queensland and one of the major art destinations in Australia. We already boast an incredible collection of more than 40 private and public art galleries and open studios that draw art lovers from all over. Whilst those galleries and artists are increasingly unifying around a local art trail, I believe the Sunshine Coast is lacking a jewel in the crown: a true regional visual arts gallery.

Regions like the Tweed Valley in northern New South Wales have seen the benefit of building their own regional art gallery, which is nestled in an attractive environmental setting. Having personally visited and seen their success, I believe that the Blackall Range on the Sunshine Coast could take regional art galleries to another level and smash it out of the park. I want us to get alongside people like Tony Gill, the director of Art on Cairncross, to create a place where the wonderful works of local Sunshine Coast artists, as well as touring exhibitions, can be shown to Queensland, Australia and the world.

Just to list a few—and this is not a conclusive list—we have had internationally renowned artists with links to the Sunshine Coast like Hugh Sawrey, Charles Blackman, Lawrence Daws, Brett Whiteley, Greg Postle, Michael Cook, Rick Everingham and John Coburn. We have had noted Sunshine Coast artists who are sadly no longer with us such as Kevin Oxley, Nan Paterson, Craig Medson, James Fearnley and Hal Barton. We have fantastic living legends, Sunshine Coast painters like Rex Backhaus-Smith, Peter Hudson, David Paulson, Jandamarra Cadd, Pam Walpole, Raelean Hall, Tom McAulay, Judith Laws and Lisa Adams. We have Sunshine Coast 3D artists of note such as ceramicists like Johanna De Maine, Rowley Drysdale and Shannon Garson; sculptors like Kaya Sulc, How Chee Fong and Glen and Cathy Manning; and glass artists like Chris Pantano.

Imagine a major visual art gallery that celebrates artists such as these and that interacts with one of Australia's most iconic natural attractions: the Glass House Mountains. Imagine a major visual art gallery that not only services a growing region of over 300,000 but delivers on a vision for Queensland's cultural future. I stand ready to work with all levels of government—Commonwealth, state and local—and with the private and philanthropic sectors to make this vision a reality.

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.08 pm): There is so much to talk about in the Redcliffe electorate. I will cover as much as I can in the time I have. First I give a big shout-out to the Village Motors Redcliffe Dolphins, which secured the 2018 Intrust Super Cup minor premiership with a very commanding—I would say smashing—45-16 victory over the Sunshine Coast Falcons on Saturday, 25 August. The Dolphins will be playing the Burleigh Bears at the major semifinals this Saturday at Dolphin Stadium. We wish them all the best. I know that all members representing the Moreton Bay region support our Redcliffe Dolphins.

I am very pleased to say that work has begun on the relocation of parking for people with a disability at the Kippa-Ring train station. A total of eight disabled parking bays are being made available just in front of the Kippa-Ring train station. This will significantly increase accessibility. This was a major failing in design when the station was shifted closer to Anzac Avenue. Car parking was left back, further away from the station. This meant that those with a disability were walking quite a long distance. I am pleased that this work has started.

The government has also announced two new sites for the installation of flashing lights at school zones. These are Mabel Street at Humpybong State School and Korsch Street at Kippa-Ring State School. This work contributes to our efforts to install flashing lights around all school zones, keeping our kids safe.

I am also pleased to say that the \$260,000 upgrade to Scarborough's Thurecht Parade boat ramp is underway. Following the upgrade, Scarborough boat harbour will feature two four-lane public boat ramp facilities with floating walkways. Works to the facility include an additional lane to widen the existing ramp to four lanes, providing a total of eight boat ramp lanes at the harbour. Works will also include extending the length of the ramp by another two metres. On-site works began this month. They are due to be completed later this month, weather permitting.

Lastly, it is great to see work starting with \$3.8 million being invested to redesign and equip the Redcliffe Hospital's special-care nursery, birth suite and paediatric ward. This is in addition to the day procedure unit and pathology department, which will be refurbished with \$4.2 million, and electrical reticulation works and the replacement of lift controls, at a cost of \$8 million.

The Palaszczuk government continues to invest for the people of Redcliffe, whether it be in schools, hospitals, recreational facilities, supporting people with disabilities or increasing opportunities for public transport. I end where I started: I wish the Village Motors Redcliffe Dolphins all the best in the semifinals this Saturday. Let's hope they go all the way.

Carindale Cougars

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.11 pm): It gives me a great sense of pride today to congratulate my local Junior Australian Football Club, the mighty Carindale Cougars. The club has been awarded for its fantastic results on and off the field this year, with the honours of Brisbane Lions Community Club of the Year and club president Evan Marshall recognised as AFL Queensland's Club Administrator of the Year. I could not think of a more deserving club for these awards.

For a small community sporting club, the mighty Cougars punch well above their weight. Just recently the club held an impressive fundraiser to assist people suffering with motor neurone disease, raising \$4,500. This in itself is an incredible effort. It is one thing to fundraise for your own club benefit, but it blows me away that this club always goes above and beyond to help out others in the Chatsworth community.

I am so pleased that this club has been recognised for its astounding success. This being said, this success is like the tip of an iceberg. What people sometimes do not realise is what is under the surface. Under the surface of the Carindale Cougars AFL club's award is a team of tireless parents and club members. I would like to say a very big thank you to every volunteer who has worked in the canteen, coached a team or refereed a game. These people are indeed the real backbone of any community club, and I want to thank them sincerely for giving up their valuable time.

In particular, the club's success this season would not be without the club president, and now AFL Queensland's Administrator of the Year, Mr Evan Marshall. He is a true leader who works tirelessly to ensure kids at the club learn all of the valuable life lessons sporting teams teach, both on and off the field. I have not seen a volunteer work as tirelessly as Mr Marshall. There is nothing he will not do for the club. This man truly lives and breathes the Carindale Cougars.

One of Mr Marshall's great achievements was securing the new goalposts for the club's home field. As this is both the club's field and Belmont State School's oval, the posts are now being enjoyed by both the schoolkids and the sporting clubs in the great electorate of Chatsworth. The collaboration between Mr Marshall and the school's principal, Mr Anthony Palmer, in applying for a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund was one I was truly happy to support.

Just recently I visited the club after the works were completed, and the new posts look brilliant. The posts have already been put to good use by the keen and enthusiastic Cougars players. I enjoyed having a kick at goal with the kids recently, and they show plenty of promise for the future with their skill level. This project is an excellent example of two entities working closely together for the benefit of our community. It is great to see the kids transition from a lunchtime kick of the footy to wearing the Carindale Cougars jersey with pride on game day.

It is truly extraordinary what the mighty Carindale Cougars have achieved this year. With their award-winning president, Mr Evan Marshall, leading the way, the Cougars confirmed their standing as the Brisbane Lions Community Club of the Year. I am truly proud to call this club my local in the amazing electorate of Chatsworth.

Morayfield State School, Guardians of the Garden

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.15 pm): I am very proud of the Morayfield State School Guardians of the Garden. This year they have redoubled their efforts and won the School Garden Competition at the Ekka. Last year was their first entry in the School Garden Competition, and they took out first prize. This year they took out first prize in the special category of School Scarecrow Competition. This is an extraordinary effort for a great school in the Morayfield electorate. I could not be more proud of them. I look forward to them going three in a row next year.

The Guardians of the Garden at Morayfield State School are doing a great job—not only at the Ekka, with the School Garden Competition, but also at their school, where they are running a market garden and exposing the kids at Morayfield State School to fresh fruit and vegetables. I tell you what: they grow some great snow peas and some great passionfruit. I certainly make a visit to Morayfield State School whenever I am feeling a little peckish for some passionfruit or snow peas.

This year, in the Bringing Biodiversity Back to Our Backyard segment of the School Garden Competition, Morayfield State School entered the 'Linger Longer Garden'. Their performance in that category was notable, but it was in the School Scarecrow Competition that they truly excelled and took out not only first prize but also the excellence award for having the highest overall score. The really exciting thing about winning the School Scarecrow Competition is that you do not just get the prize presented by His Excellency the Governor; the scarecrow actually performs duties at Government House for a number of months following the competition. If anyone wants to check out the Guardians of the Garden scarecrow, they should head down to Government House. I am sure His Excellency the Governor will be happy to give you a tour.

I also want to highlight the efforts of the science teacher at Morayfield State School who runs the gardening program and is the force behind the Guardians of the Garden, that is, Ms Harrington; the kids at Morayfield State School; the members of the Guardians of the Garden; and the principal, Ms White.

I also give a shout-out to the great students at Caboolture State High School who also took out some prizes at this year's Ekka in the agriculture category. Well done to all. I am very proud of you all.

(Time expired)

Gatton, Women's Correctional Facility

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.18 pm): I rise to call on Labor to abandon its plan for a new privatised women's prison at Gatton. Creating a private prison industry means there are a whole new set of vested interests in keeping people locked up. I call on Labor to scrap this plan and take the prison into public hands. I would like to applaud the actions of four brave activists who lay down on the road at Gatton this week in an act of civil disobedience to protest the new prison.

Queensland prisons do not do a very good job of rehabilitating people at the moment. It is crucial that governments recognise that poverty, homelessness, mental health issues and drug addiction are the underlying factors that contribute to criminalisation and overimprisonment. It is well established that building more cells and opening more prisons will ultimately not fix overcrowding problems. Providing adequate economic security, health care, education and social services for disadvantaged groups at risk of criminalisation is more effective than locking up ever more people.

It is estimated 40 per cent of women in Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre are on remand, meaning they are yet to be sentenced. It is not in the public's interest to lock these women up. Overcrowding concerns could be addressed by better providing support for these women who are eligible for bail. Labor is also planning on building an entirely new prison near Wacol. The business plan has been made public for this 1,004-bed prison that will cost \$660 million. That is more than the Queensland government will spend on building new social housing this year. It is more than it will spend on remote Indigenous housing. It is more than it will spend on child safety officers. It is more than it will spend on Legal Aid and DV services put together. Overcrowding is a serious issue, especially in women's prisons, but the solution to over-imprisonment is to reduce the number of people behind bars, not build new cells. Providing adequate economic security, good health care, education and social services for disadvantaged groups at risk of criminalisation is more effective than locking people up.

As well as those basic necessities, as we have heard from a former chief of Queensland Corrective Services, we should be looking at legalising and regulating cannabis since 27 per cent of all offences in Queensland are illicit drug offences. One way to help ease the over-imprisonment crisis in the adult system is to stop people from getting trapped in the cycle of disadvantage and criminalisation to begin with. The Greens support the calls from Sisters Inside, Change the Record, Amnesty International and many others to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years. Raising the age would help fix our shocking and obscene over-incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids. Of all the 10- to 17-year-olds behind bars in Queensland in 2013-14, 65 per cent were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander kids. Kids belong with their families, not in prison.

I finish by expressing my condolences and deep sorrow at hearing the news that this morning a woman passed away at the Brisbane women's correctional facility. Any death in state custody is tragic. There is limited information available at this stage, but we have to remember that in our struggles for a more humane and just society we cannot forget that individuals and families caught up in the systems we create and maintain in this parliament all too often pay a terrible price.

Mitchelton Special School

 Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.21 pm): Following the 2017 redistribution my electorate of Ferny Grove is now fortunate to include the Mitchelton Special School. The school caters for over 150 students from prep to year 12 who are drawn from 45 locations from surrounding suburbs. All of these students have diverse needs related to intellectual and other difficulties ranging from communication skills to self-care and basic health needs. More than half have additional special needs arising from autism spectrum disorder.

The teaching staff are nothing short of remarkable and strive every day to not only deliver meaningful academic outcomes but also provide essential life skills which many of us take for granted. The Pathways Program is particularly notable in that it is a Mitchelton-specific concept model. It provides transitional goals for students and their families post school. The Pathways Program incorporates supported employment, volunteering healthy lifestyles and community support. The dedication of the parents and caregivers in the Pathways Program is essential to building individual plans for students which are meaningful, achievable and relevant.

It was my privilege recently to take part in a ceremony handing over jerseys to the year 12 students. At the ceremony the students were also very excited to receive formal school jackets which senior student leaders can wear to official events when they represent the school. This is a first for Mitchelton Special School and I commend Minister Grace and her department for the tremendous work they do in the special needs space.

Mitchelton Special School is certainly a shining example of the dedication of our hardworking public servants who do a great job in highly adaptive ways to provide a quality education to all Queenslanders. Some months prior to that it was also my pleasure to attend one of the school's Thursday luncheon days when the students cooked a glorious feed of Indian. It just demonstrates their ability as special school students and the school's diversity to provide for such needs. It was an amazing opportunity and a glowing example for the community in my seat of Ferny Grove.

Callide Electorate, Great Artesian Basin

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (6.23 pm): Today I have heard the Labor members of this House speak of op shops, cupcakes and fat dogs. Most enthralling subjects! I want to inform the House of a proposed project to pump carbon dioxide into the Great Artesian Basin at Wandoan in the electorate of Callide. This is a highly contentious issue that most Queenslanders and in fact many parliamentarians are not aware of.

The company, CTSCo, Carbon Transport and Storage Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Glencore, proposes to sequester approximately 200,000 tonnes of hypercritical CO₂ fluid into the precipice sandstone water aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin. The precipice sandstone water aquifer is the deepest and best of the water aquifers that make up the Great Artesian Basin. This is a trial project and it is in its science and data-gathering phase. Soon this company will make application to the Environmental Protection Agency—Minister Enoch's office—and the department of natural resources—Minister Lynham's office—to seek their approvals so that it can begin what can only be described as compromising and polluting the world's largest potable underground water source. On the world's driest habitable continent where water is the most precious resource, why are we even contemplating this?

CTSCo in partnership with Glencore has a memorandum of understanding with Chinese generating company Huaneng, the world's largest, and Millmerran Power Station. The Australian government has had a joint collaboration project with the Chinese government involving Huaneng in the construction of a 120,000 tonne per annum post carbon capture plant in Shanghai. This is the plant that CTSCo is looking to replicate and capture carbon dioxide and deliver to the Great Artesian Basin.

The Great Artesian Basin covers 70 per cent of Queensland. It is the world's largest underground potable water source. It is the eighth natural wonder of the world. It is the Great Barrier Reef of the outback. There are dozens of rural towns and hundreds of farmers and graziers who rely on the Great Artesian Basin for their water.

To even contemplate compromising this water source is outrageous and madness. We have seen the EPA's strict guidelines become an environmental disaster at the Linc Energy project at Chinchilla. The same rules will govern the CTSCo project at Wandoan. The people of rural Queensland do not want another environmental disaster that is irreparable. I urge the members of this House to speak to the ministers involved and put a stop to this project. It is something we must do to protect this vital resource for future generations and for the prosperity of rural Queensland.

Mount Lindesay Highway

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.26 pm): Recently in a really disappointing display of partisan politics the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, made misleading statements on her recent visit to Jimboomba about the Mount Lindesay Highway. It is vital that we do not play politics on this issue but, given that the member for Nanango has made such misleading statements, it is important that we examine the facts of investment on the Mount Lindesay Highway and correct the record.

Firstly, we need to look at the member for Nanango's own record when she was on the committee that had oversight over road investment. At that time in three budgets and projecting forward over seven years the LNP only added funding for two turning lanes in the Logan area of the Mount Lindesay Highway. QTRIP at page 26 shows only \$846,000 in new funding. This is in contrast to after I was elected and demanded more and was supported by the Minister for Main Roads.

We started the highway review to consult the public and identify projects. From this process we signalised and made safer the Camp Cable Road intersection and now there is funding for lifting and four laning the section between Camp Cable and Tamborine-Johanna Street. There is \$20 million for four laning the highway at Park Ridge South between the Rosia Road and Stoney Camp-Granger Road intersection and extra funding to put a service road north of St Aldwyn Road through to Greenbank Road and then to upgrade the dangerous Greenbank Road intersection. On top of that we have \$14 million for upgrades to Stockleigh Road which will also include service roads. That is over \$80 million versus \$846,000.

When the local newspaper pointed this out, the member for Nanango was not keen to talk about this comparison. The *Jimboomba Times* wrote—

Ms Frecklington said it was time to focus on the future.

The article continued—

'Let's stop worrying about the politics of the past,' the Member for Nanango said.

She might want Logan residents not to think about the member for Nanango's role in underfunding the Mount Lindesay Highway, but the people of Logan do not forget. They know this record of failure is an indication of how the LNP would act in the future. On the *Jimboomba Times* Facebook site there are comments from people like Rob such as—

I love the ... line 'let's forget about the past and focus on the future'. Really when they were in power and focused on what was needed we wouldn't be in this predicament now!

Another said—

They didnt do it while it was their problem, now its ok to pass the buck ...

Reg said—

Always calling for something they could have done.

We know it is a serious commitment and I will continue to fight for more funding. Together with the member for Jordan we have fixed up the intersections. Our next step together is to fight for a significant piece of four lane funding for the highway between those safer intersections. Together with the member for Jordan and with the support of the Minister for Main Roads, that is what we will be fighting for rather than misleading people about this very important issue.

The House adjourned at 6.29 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, 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, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson