



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 18 September 2018

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TUESDAY, 18 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 11 September 2018

A Bill for an Act to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 and the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018 for particular purposes.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006 and the Police Service Administration Act 1990 for particular purposes.

A Bill for an Act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this Act, the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes.

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

11 September 2018

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 September 2018, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 11 September 2018 [\[1347\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Election of Senator



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that Larissa Waters, being elected by this House to fill the casual Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of the honourable senator Andrew Bartlett, was sworn in as a member of the Commonwealth Senate on 10 September 2018. I table my letter to His Excellency the Governor advising of the election of Ms Waters and the Governor's response for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 September 2018, from the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, to His Excellency the Governor advising of Ms Larissa Waters's selection to fill a casual Senate vacancy [\[1348\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 September 2018, and enclosure, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding the appointment of Larissa Waters to fill a casual Senate vacancy [\[1349\]](#).

Acting Ombudsman and Acting Integrity Commissioner, Appointments



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise that on 13 September 2018 I administered the oath of office to Angela Michelle Pyke as Acting Ombudsman. I also advise that on 10 September 2018 I administered the oath of office to Mark Glen as Acting Integrity Commissioner. I table a copy of both oaths.

Tabled paper: Oath of Office of Ms Angela Michelle Pyke as Acting Ombudsman [\[1350\]](#).

Tabled paper: Oath of Office of Mr Mark Glen as Acting Integrity Commissioner [\[1351\]](#).

SPEAKER'S RULING

Incident in Public Gallery, Referral to Committee of the Legislative Assembly



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 4 September 2018 my office received an email from the Manager of Opposition Business regarding social media posts resulting from the disruption to the Assembly earlier that day. The member drew my attention to a video of the disruption published on Facebook in contravention of my directions. That video was subsequently taken down following communications by the Clerk on my behalf to the publisher. The member also drew my attention to the apparent interaction between protestors and a member of this House. I have decided to refer matters relating to the disruption, including security issues and possible amendments to standing orders, to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Photographs in Chamber



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 10 September 2018 I received correspondence from the Leader of the House regarding a photograph appearing on social media, in apparent breach of rules and directions. Investigations have revealed that the photograph was taken in the gallery during the sitting on 22 August 2018 at 11.29 am. Camera footage indicates that the photographer was a person casually engaged by a member as an electorate officer. This person gained access to the precinct by obtaining a staff pass and for this reason was in possession of a device capable of taking a photograph in the gallery. A direction has been made to remove the photograph from social media. Further correspondence is issued to the casual employee and the member who engages them. I may report further to the House once a response to that correspondence is received.

E-Petition, Irregularities



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Clerk has reported to me that the software that enables the Assembly's e-petition system has revealed a large number of irregularities in e-petition No. 2972-18, which opposes proposed Queensland abortion law reform. The Clerk advises that it appears that approximately 10 per cent of persons who joined the petition have duplicated their joining. Indeed, it appears that some petitioners have joined the petition up to eight times.

Under standing orders and the conditions of use, a petitioner can join a petition only once. Other petitioners have not provided their relevant address details as required by standing orders. There are also grounds to suspect that some of the details provided are not true details and thus may be fraudulent. The presentation of the petition may therefore be delayed until the Clerk and his officers can undertake further study and inquiry of the petition.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Davis, Mr BJ



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): I move—

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

Brian John Davis, known far and wide as 'Digger', was born in Toowoomba on 7 July 1934 and was educated at Christian Brothers' College, Toowoomba. Brian was almost lost to his family at the tender age of 12 when, suffering from polio, a terrible affliction of the time, he was given the last rites. Luckily for all he survived that night and recovered to go on and lead a very full life of achievement and contribution to the community.

After leaving school, Brian enjoyed a career in the transport industry—at various times as a taxidriver and proprietor, truck driver and van salesman. Being in that industry, Brian became active in the Transport Workers Union, serving as a union official and organiser and later as the TWU's state president. Brian was a stalwart representative for TWU members and was awarded life membership of the TWU for his contribution.

Brian also became active in the Australian Labor Party during the 1960s, serving as state president of Young Labor Australia in 1963 and becoming keenly involved in the ALP's Fortitude Valley branch, including serving as branch president. Indeed, I understand that it was Wayne Goss' father Allan, a local barber, who, while cutting Brian's hair, suggested that he should join the ALP and get himself along to a meeting of his local ALP branch. The rest, as they say, is history, for Brian and his lifelong commitment to the ALP, for which he was awarded the honour of life membership.

A lot of people are not aware that Brian ran twice as the candidate in Cunningham—in 1963 and 1966. With all the enthusiasm of a Young Labor candidate, he had some confidence that he might win in 1963. In 1969, the then longstanding member for Brisbane and ALP representative John 'Johnno' Mann decided not to contest the next state election and Brian was selected by the ALP to contest the seat. He was successful at the election held in May of 1969 and went on to represent the seat of Brisbane until December 1974, when he was defeated in the state election that reduced the ALP to 11 members of the House.

It was a bit of a coincidence that Digger ran for Johnno Mann's old seat. His uncle, Jack Quinlan, had once run against Johnno for preselection 34 years before Digger eventually won the seat. Knowing something of his reputation, I feel fairly confident that, if Johnno had known that, Brian's political career might have ended up a little differently.

Not to be deterred from elected representation and public service for his community, Brian contested the new seat of Brisbane Central for the ALP at the following state election in 1977 and he successfully returned to this place after a three-year interlude, during which time he had been the owner and operator of the ACTU petrol station at Windsor. Never one to waste an opportunity, Brian was able to put that time to good use. I am told that, because the petrol station was run by the ACTU, union members who came in to buy petrol received a discount. Brian collected all the names and addresses of the union members who came in for petrol so that when the time came for him to seek preselection, let us say that he had a bit of a head start on other candidates. Brian was well known for putting a lot of store in lists.


Brian then went on to represent Brisbane Central until he decided to retire at the state election of December 1989. During his time in the parliament, Brian served in numerous parliamentary and political party roles. He was leader of opposition business in the House from 1982 to 1984 and served as opposition whip from 1984 to 1989. At different times he also served on the opposition front bench as spokesperson in the portfolios of transport; works and water resources; and welfare, sport and tourism.

While Brian left the parliament at the election of 1989, which returned the ALP to government after 32 years, he worked tirelessly during those many years in opposition to hold the Bjelke-Petersen and later Ahern and Cooper governments to account and pave the way for the ALP governments that were to follow.

I also understand that, like Nev Warburton, whose passing the House marked in a motion of condolence during the last sitting week, Brian was also a valued member of the Queensland Parliamentary Bowls Club for many years, representing Queensland at numerous annual interstate parliamentary bowls carnivals, firstly during his years as a member and then, after his retirement, as a former member. Known for his trademark gravelly voice and as a friend to many, Brian was a selfless servant of the community and a very much valued member of the ALP and trade union movement. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Brian was always known as Digger and I think most people have assumed that was because of his army service in his younger years. But as I said earlier, Digger suffered from polio as a boy and so he took up boxing. He enjoyed sparring and he was said to fight like Digger Bill, a well-known boxer of the time, so the nickname stuck—first Digger Bill and then he was just known as Digger.

Brian John Davis passed away on 31 August 2018 aged 84 years. A funeral mass and celebration of his life was held on 7 September 2018 at the Holy Cross Catholic Church, Woolloowin. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Brian gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Brian's family, especially his sons, Rex and Mark—and I welcome Mark to the gallery this morning; his daughter-in-law Sophia; his grandchildren, Darcy and Xavier; his nephews, Sean and Brett; and his many friends, including Michelle McJannett, Kerri Mellifont and Lou and Jack Camp, who have been able to join us in the gallery today to honour him. Vale, Brian Davis.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise to add my support and that of the opposition to the motion of condolence for Brian John Davis. On behalf of the opposition, I extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends, particularly those who are in the gallery today.


Mr Davis was the member for Brisbane from 1969 to 1974 and the member for Brisbane Central from 1977 to 1989. As honourable members have heard, Mr Davis was born in Toowoomba and was educated at Christian Brothers' College Toowoomba. Prior to his career in politics Mr Davis had a number of professions. He was the official organiser of the Transport Workers Union Queensland branch, a taxidriver, a truck driver and a van salesman. He also held many positions in the Australian Labor Party: president of the Fortitude Valley branch, a delegate of the QCE and state president of the Young Labor Association in 1963.

In 1969 in his maiden speech in parliament, Mr Davis said he was proud to represent the city dweller. He was only the fourth representative of Brisbane since 1912, a span of some 57 years. Mr Davis spoke about his friend, tutor and predecessor, John Henry Mann. Johnno had held the seat of Brisbane for 33 years from 1936 to 1969. Mr Davis spoke in his maiden speech about one quality in particular he saw in Johnno and that was sincerity. Mr Davis said he wished to possess the same sincerity to his electors that Johnno did. In his maiden speech Mr Davis discussed the need for beautification of our city, improving public transport and road safety. He said that city dwellers were equal to their country cousins and that the ALP at the time believed in a fair deal for all sections of the community.

Mr Davis earned the role as shadow minister for welfare, sport and tourism in 1972. Mr Davis lost the seat of Brisbane at the 1974 election and in a sign of the sincerity he held for the electors he successfully contested the 1977 election and returned to parliament in the new seat of Brisbane Central which included the bulk of his old seat. He would serve his electors with that sincerity for more than a decade until his retirement.

Mr Davis, as we have heard, held many positions in his long parliamentary service. His roles included opposition whip, leader of opposition business in the House, opposition spokesperson for transport and opposition spokesperson on works, water and resources. Mr Davis's wife Jeannie also fiercely supported the party and ran as a candidate for Brisbane Lord Mayor in 1988. Mr Davis retired in 1989 and was successfully succeeded by Peter Beattie in the Brisbane Central seat.

Local branch president Jack Camp paid tribute to Mr Davis as a loyal and committed person. Opposition leader Wayne Goss said he was responsible for a lot of publicly unrecognised good work. On the announcement of his retirement Mr Davis said, 'There is more to life than politics.' His interests outside of politics included gardening, horseracing, motoring and reading. He was the patron of the Mayne Australian Rules Football Club. All in this House would agree that almost two decades in high office is worthy of great respect. I take this opportunity to place on record the opposition's thanks for those many years of service Mr Davis gave to this House and the Queensland community. On behalf of the LNP and its members of parliament I wish to extend my condolences to Mr Davis's family and friends.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.45 am): It is a great honour to contribute and support this condolence motion for Brian John 'Digger' Davis who passed away on 31 August 2018 at the age of 84. He was buried next to his beloved wife Jeannie on Friday, 7 September. For a boy who was born in Toowoomba on 7 July 1934 and who at the age of 12 was a polio survivor after given his last rites in an iron lung, he went on to build a remarkable life full of family, friends and achievement. Before entering politics he worked as a salesman, truck driver and taxidriver and was an organiser, president and life member of the TWU where he sharpened his skills as a proud unionist and fearless advocate.

In September 1966 in the *Transport Worker* magazine, Brian wrote about the need to join together in unionism in order to achieve any gains in the workplace and urged his fellow members to join up to the cause remembering that united you stand, divided you fall. He was a proud member of the Labor Party, serving as president of the Fortitude Valley branch and state president of the Young Labor Association in 1963. I remember how proud he was when he received life membership of the Australian Labor Party following a distinguished career in parliament.


Brian was elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly in 1969 to 1974 as the member for the beautiful electorate of Brisbane. In 1972 he was promoted to the front bench as shadow minister for welfare, sport and tourism. He lost his seat in the 1974 election in which Labor was down to a cricket team of 11 members, but returned three years later in 1977 as the member for the wonderful seat of Brisbane Central. After serving on the front bench in transport, works and water resources and leader of opposition business, he became opposition whip in 1984 and retired in 1989.

It was around that time that I had the pleasure of knowing Brian and Jeannie. Little did I know that many years later my political career would somewhat mirror his. When I was a candidate for the seat of Brisbane Central in 2007 he told me to never forget the electors and where you come from. In fact, in his maiden speech in this House he thanked his predecessor and campaign manager, Speaker Johnno Mann, and wished to possess one of Johnno's fine qualities. He said, 'I wish for his sincerity to his electors. I know that they received that sincerity from him and that they expect the same from me.' He delivered in spades. In the same speech he also spoke about his views on one of the sports that he followed, namely midweek racing, and advocated for the allocation of extra days to the metropolitan midweek racing calendar and for better amenities. I believe he was a keen punter. He was often full of gratuitous advice when he had my ear as minister for racing. We often heard about his wins, but as we know with punters, we did not hear much about his losses.

He was a great local member, an inspirational figure to his family and friends and a charming, pragmatic and caring member for Brisbane Central. I fondly remember his quick wit and sense of humour. He was always at his best telling his hilarious stories with his trademark gravelly voice. I last saw Brian at the funeral of one of his best mates, Brian Mellifont, just a few weeks before he passed away. Brian Mellifont was a councillor in the Brisbane City Council and together they were known as the two Brians and both became icons of the Queensland Labor Party getting up to all kinds of mischief but always to further the Labor cause and their constituents.

The two Brians worked tirelessly to promote Brisbane and build the infrastructure and buildings that would make this a great city and a true proud capital of Queensland. They were formidable family campaigners as they shared electoral boundaries in an era of no computers, no mobile phones and no social media. Those were the days.

Brian 'Digger' Davis dedicated his life to his community. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. No longer will his one-of-a-kind gravelly voice be heard at Labor Party gatherings and it will be greatly missed. He was a true Labor man in every sense of the term: loyal, committed, proud and honourable—a true believer. I extend my sincere condolences and sympathies to Brian's sons, Mark and Rex Davis—I acknowledge Mark in the gallery; his daughter-in-law, Sophia; his grandchildren, Darcy and Xavier; his nephews, Sean and Brett; and his extended family and friends. He may no longer be with us, but I know that his legacy and his memory will live on for many years to come. May he rest in peace.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.50 am): Something I only recently found out about Brian Davis is his connection with the iconic Australian characters Dad and Dave, created by author Arthur Hoey Davis, better known as Steele Rudd. Arthur was the brother of Edward Davis, Brian's grandfather. From all accounts, Edward Davis was the main source for the fictional character of Dave and Thomas Davis was the inspiration for the character of Dad. Therefore, it seems fitting that Brian 'Digger' Davis, a man who was an icon to many in Queensland, was a direct descendant of the legendary Dad and Dave.

Rex Davis told me that the family were always aware of the link and would often visit the replica of the shingle hut near Greenmount. The family describes those visits as a great way of keeping them all grounded, reminding them that Thomas Davis and Mary Green managed to have a remarkable family life while housing an enormous number of children in that tiny little home. When Brian Davis first ran for Cunningham in 1966, the electorate included Greenmount. Brian shared many a humorous story about not being able to get his relatives to vote for him.

As we know, Brian and Jeannie Davis had two children, Mark and Rex. They were immensely proud of both of them. We warmly welcome Mark, who is here with us today. Rex is in Cincinnati, having only recently moved there with his wife, Sophia, and their children. Otherwise, he would most certainly have been here today to honour his father.

Rex describes his father as always being an inspirational figure from whom he learnt more than anybody else. Brian Davis was charming, fearless, pragmatic and caring. Rex said, 'Most of all, Dad was witty and at his best telling comedic stories in his trademark gravelly voice.' At family celebrations at our place, we had the pleasure of knowing that sense of humour and Brian's enormous love for life. We will always hold those occasions dear in our memories. One such occasion was a birthday celebration for my father-in-law, Brian Mellifont. The two friends would compete to relay stories of the Labor Party from their early days in politics.

The two Brians, as they became known, met at the Queensland Labor college, which was an organisation of the Queensland Labor Party that ran a public speaking and debating team. Recently, at Brian Mellifont's funeral, Brian Davis joked that although at first they were known affectionately as the two Brians, later some came to call them 'the two Bs'. The two Brians became the best of mates. On a social outing, Brian Davis spotted a young woman in the near distance. He told Brian Mellifont that he was going to marry that girl, and so he did. Later, he and Jeannie became parents and a political tour de force.

Together, the two Brians and their wives, Jeannie and Rosemary, became a formidable team of four. The two Brians were part of the formation of the Old Guard, bringing in democratic reformation of the Queensland Labor Party, establishing annual state conferences and monthly administrative committee meetings. They were also the very first president and vice president of Queensland Young Labor, and Jeannie was the first secretary.

Brian Mellifont served as alderman for the Brisbane city ward, Brian Davis was a state member for Brisbane and Manfred Cross was a federal member. For years, branch meetings and functions were held at the Davis's house, with an ever-growing collection of kids amongst the attendees, sleeping under the bench seats. Rosemary, Jeannie and, later, Kay Milliner ran amazing fundraisers by catering for functions for the Trades and Labor Council, election campaigns and the Labor Party, with guests including Gough Whitlam, Bob Hawke and Bill Hayden. Back then, the election of candidates was run by a plebiscite whereby you had to lobby for both branch rank-and-file vote and a union member's individual vote. Later they often joked that they may have lost their first plebiscite, but never lost another one after that. Brian Davis had the chance to try to repay some of the amazing support Jeannie had given him by supporting her in her campaign to become lord mayor of Brisbane.

Brian, affectionately known as 'Digger', gave generously to many. He had a deep and abiding friendship with my father-in-law and was always very giving and caring, even when he himself was so very unwell.

Brian Davis will be remembered as a reformer with a keen eye to the future. His address-in-reply speech of 9 September 1969 is an example of what a forward-looking and thoughtful representative of the people he was. He called for the beautification of Brisbane, to turn it into a city that we could be proud of and that tourists would be pleased to arrive at. He called for flood mitigation strategies for the Breakfast Creek and he railed against red tape preventing solutions being put in place. He described it as his duty and that of his fellow representatives to give Breakfast Creek back to nature so that it would be like what it had been years ago. He identified that it was critical that the government take much greater account of inner-city living. He was spot-on when he predicted that that would be a critical part of Brisbane's future.

Brian Davis called for affordable and coordinated public transport so that people would be encouraged to leave their cars at home. He called for planning for transportation for the then predicted population increase to one million people. He said that it was no good to simply say we will get more people; we have to know what we will do about it. He said that we have to say positively, 'This is what we will do.' Brian called for an increase in safety regulations for drivers who transport flammable products, warning against industrial death if action were not taken. He called for government to be alive to the injustices occurring when employers were prepared to take advantage of their employees and then cast them out when their use-by date had been reached.

Brian said that it would be impossible to emulate his predecessor, Johnno Mann, but stated that he wished to possess one of his very fine qualities: his sincerity to his electors. By all accounts, Brian certainly achieved his wish and much more. He was a man of strength, generosity and integrity, which are character traits that his children carry through their own lives. It was a privilege to have known him. Brian, may the road rise up to meet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine upon your face and may you rest in peace.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will commence at 10.44 am.

PETITIONS

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

Macleay Island, Francis and Gregory Streets, Bat Colony

Ms Richards, from 181 petitioners, requesting the House to consider a cull or removal of the bat colony, in the area bounded by Francis and Gregory Streets, Macleay Island [[1352](#)].

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

Public Transport, Bicycle Facilities

Mr Berkman, from 477 petitioners, requesting the House to develop a sheltered and secure parking facility for bicycles at public transport stations, integrated with GoCard, across the TransLink network [[1353](#), [1354](#)].

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

Invasive Pests, Control

From 502 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to prevent local government authorities from imposing fines of any sort for the inability to control invasive pests [[1355](#), [1356](#)].

Woolloongabba Bikeway

From 605 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate the pedestrian and bicycle friendly design to Stanley Street for the Woolloongabba Bikeway as approved by the community consultation process and agreed to by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Brisbane City Council [[1357](#), [1358](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

7 September 2018—

[1320](#) Education and Care Services Ombudsman, National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioners and Ombudsman—Annual Report 2016-17

[1321](#) National Environment Protection Council—Annual Report 2016-17

10 September 2018—

[1322](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to a paper petition (2982-18) presented by Hon. Pitt, from 331 petitioners, requesting the House amend Section 20 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 (Qld) to include solatium in determining the amount of compensation provision for the disadvantage resulting from the relocation

12 September 2018—

[1323](#) Gazette Notice for the Queensland Government Gazette, dated 7 September 2018, advising that His Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and pursuant to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, has approved a payment of \$108,333,942.20 (GST inclusive) from WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Education in 2018-19 for the prevention, recognition and alleviation of injury to workers, making employers and workers aware of their rights and obligations, and scheme-wide rehabilitation and return to work programs for workers

13 September 2018—

[1324](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 10, 56th Parliament—Inquiry into the operations of toll roads in Queensland

[1325](#) Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2017-18

[1326](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electricity Regulation 2006, the Energy and Water Ombudsman Regulation 2007 and the Gas Supply Regulation 2007

[1327](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Stock Route Management Regulation 2003

17 September 2018—

[1328](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (2936-18) sponsored by Mr Sorensen, from 1,206 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint a select committee to inquire into Local Government with the power to call for persons, papers and things; and replace the watchdog that is currently the CCC with a proper Independent Commission Against Corruption to commence 1 January 2019 or 1 July 2019

[1329](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 14, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 2 May 2018 and 15 May 2018

- [1330](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 15, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 May 2018 and 12 June 2018
- [1331](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2018—replacement consultation draft
- [1332](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2018 replacement consultation draft—letter, dated 17 September 2018 from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch) in relation to the replacement consultation draft

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Major Events Act 2014—

- [1333](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 600) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 140
- [1334](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 600) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 140, explanatory notes

Education and Care Services Act 2013, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Overseas Students) Act 2018, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014—

- [1335](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 141
- [1336](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 141, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

- [1337](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 142
- [1338](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 142, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018—

- [1339](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 143
- [1340](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 143, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [1341](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2018, No. 144
- [1342](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2018, No. 144, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [1343](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Energy Savings Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 145
- [1344](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Energy Savings Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 145, explanatory notes

Planning Act 2016—

- [1345](#) Planning (Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 146
- [1346](#) Planning (Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 146, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

- Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer)—
- [1359](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to formally recognise the yellow-with-three-red-stripe flag as the heritage flag of the Vietnamese community in Queensland, Australia

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Chatsworth (Mr Minnikin)—

- [1360](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to urgently address the safety and traffic volume issue by installing a set of traffic lights at the intersection of Ferry and Ann Streets, Maryborough

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

- [1361](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018

Amendment made to the Bill*

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

At page 127, line 15, after 'respondent'


insert—

.

* The following page and line number references relate to the Bill, as amended.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


Child Sex Offenders

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.01 am): My government is committed to keeping Queensland communities safe. In particular, we are determined to keep our children safe. Queensland already has the strongest legislation in Australia for dealing with child sex offenders—so strong it has become the model for other jurisdictions and for Australia's anti-terrorism laws. We are now adding another layer of protection for Queenslanders.

In amendments to be introduced and debated today we will enact a new monitoring regime for convicted child sex offenders. These provisions will come into effect in the event that DP(SO)A orders expire, and would remain in effect for a convicted offender's whole life. The amendments include: applying new monitoring arrangements to child sex offenders who have been on a dangerous prisoner sex offender order; and reducing the threshold and expanding the types of conditions for which police can apply for court orders for all child sex offenders. We will also provide the Queensland Police Service with extra funding to provide extra resources for surveillance and enforcement operations in relation to these offenders.

These crimes are horrifying. No family should ever have to suffer at the hands of these perpetrators. These changes are the result of careful planning. They are designed to be operationally strong for police, but also legally robust so they are not vulnerable to challenge. That is a very important point. I urge the opposition to support the government's sensible and responsible measures to better protect Queensland families.

Jobs; Advanced Manufacturing

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.02 am): My government is committed to getting Queenslanders rewarding jobs, long-term jobs and skilled jobs. I am pleased to report that as of last week my government has overseen the creation of 177,500 jobs for Queenslanders. The figure of 177,500 people is six times the population of Maryborough. It is 17 times the population of Kingaroy. It is the populations of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie and Mount Isa combined. I am also pleased to report that last week's labour force data showed a strong increase in the participation rate. That means Queenslanders have the confidence to re-enter the labour market as more jobs are created.

We want to do more and we will do more. That is why my government is focused on further developing what is already Australia's leading state for advanced manufacturing. Last week the Minister for State Development and I had the opportunity to attend an event for the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce. At that event, Gary Stewart from Rheinmetall had this to say about why Queensland leads the nation in automotive, defence and advanced manufacturing—

With the investments that Boeing and aerospace have made in Queensland and the Brisbane area, we already have that head start from the digital avionics side of things. The other piece is we have a very strong industrial heavy vehicle manufacturing sector here in South-East Queensland as well.


We have some of the premier universities here, you've got excellent vocational and educational training.

Rheinmetall knows it will need suitably qualified welders to build the Boxer combat vehicles at the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank. To ensure those welders are trained in Queensland, my government will ensure we have the world's best training regime here. In addition to traditional training methods, students will be able to use 10 welding simulators that my government will invest in, based at campuses in Acacia Ridge, Cairns and Townsville. There could be no better example of our commitment to protect jobs in traditional industries through new technology. This will enable students to be trained faster and better for the highly skilled jobs of the future.

To further the skills base we need to maintain our role as Australia's home of advanced manufacturing, last week I announced that later this year I will convene a skills summit of some of the biggest companies in Queensland's traditional and emerging industries. This will ensure we are able to provide the necessary skills training for the new jobs they will need.

Last night the Minister for State Development and I attended an Australian Industry Group function with the biggest names in Australia's defence industries. It is fair to say the room of people was brimming with optimism about Queensland's defence future. We will continue to be what Rheinmetall calls their 'trusted partner'. We will continue to justify that industry optimism because that is how we grow and diversify our economy and ensure Queensland remains Australia's powerhouse for the long-term skilled jobs, defence industries and advanced manufacturing into the future.

Strawberry Industry


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.05 am): This past week Queensland has been the victim of an ugly, calculated and despicable crime. The sabotage of our strawberry industry is not just an attack on hardworking growers and workers, it reaches into almost every home and school lunch box. It is for that reason we have taken the actions we have. Our first job is to protect the public. Within hours of learning of this crime, we warned consumers of concerns about first two, then three brands. The advice remains to cut up any strawberries before consumption. Police are doing their job too, but it is a difficult one. To assist the police efforts the government immediately approved a \$100,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest.

Our help does not end there. Agriculture minister Mark Furner has met extensively with growers. Last night he attended a two-hour meeting at Beerwah. We have listened to the growers and we are acting. My government is immediately committing \$1 million to help strawberry growers and the industry stay on their feet. This initial \$1 million fund will boost consumer confidence through promoting the quality of Queensland strawberries, investigate with industry how to further improve traceability and integrity in the supply chain, and help growers for the remainder of this season and as the summer strawberry season in the Granite Belt ramps up.

Minister Furner has also written to his federal, state and territory counterparts about this matter as it is central to protecting our clean, green image and reputation for safe, healthy, high-quality fruit. The growers say their banks have already been on the phone to them. I call on those banks to act responsibly and with compassion. Queensland produces 60 million punnets of strawberries a year. The crop is worth \$160 million. It is the lifeblood of 150 growers and their workforces.

Police are having to deal with not only the original contamination but also apparent copycats. This is an attack on all of us. I call on anyone with information on the culprits to come forward. Think what damage could have been done if a toddler had been handed a piece of contaminated fruit. The community needs to come together and help police catch those responsible and restore our industry to the place of pride it absolutely deserves.


Royal Visit; Drought Appeal

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.08 am): Next month Queensland will once again be in the global spotlight when the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, otherwise known as Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, will come to our great state of Queensland. I am delighted the royal couple accepted my invitation to visit World Heritage listed Fraser Island, whose K'Gari forest has been added to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. Details are still a closely guarded secret, but we know they will be showing off one of the most beautiful parts of Queensland to the world.

Prince Charles' visit in April attracted an audience of 26 million. We can only guess how many might be interested in the royal couple given it will be one of their first overseas engagements since their wedding. We will be showcasing Queensland to this audience and encouraging others to follow in their footsteps.

In other good news for Queensland, I can announce that donations to the Queensland Drought Appeal have reached more than \$2.6 million. I launched this appeal five weeks ago just before the Ekka started, and for the tally to have reached that amount in such a short time is truly incredible. To date \$1.24 million, or 48 per cent, has already reached the people who need it most thanks to the Country Women's Association—but we are not finished yet. This Thursday the Leader of the Opposition and I will join you, Mr Speaker, for our Queensland Parliament's Drought Appeal Reception. I am pleased to announce today that it is a sold-out event. Thank you very much to all those who have bought tickets and to the sponsors who have donated generous prizes and auction items. It is going to be a great night.

Child Sex Offenders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government listens to community concerns and responds—that is what Labor governments do—and we pass laws that are effective and legally robust. The legislation the Premier has outlined this morning will build on our track record of responsible, enforceable laws which make our community safer.

Currently, a serious sex offender who has served their prison term can continue to be detained in prison or released into the community under a strict court ordered supervision order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. This system was introduced by Labor in 2003 and has

worked well to make our communities safer. Indeed, it has been copied by states and territories across the country, because it proved the most effective and constitutionally robust way of monitoring serious sex offenders when they had served their sentenced prison terms.

In 2004, further laws were brought in to protect the community from those individuals who sexually offend against children under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act. As these regimes mature and cohorts of recognised serious child offenders make their way through the system, the community has demanded more and this government will provide more. Under the changes we are announcing today, when a child sex offender's DPSO order ceases, they will now become automatic reportable offenders under child protection reporting legislation for the rest of their life.

This government stands with victims. We stand with the community and against those who prey on our children. I would hope the amendments moved today are welcomed by all of us in the chamber. Laws like these are what the community has elected us to enforce. Just as the Palaszczuk government ensured that our serious and organised crime legislation gave the police the powers they need, through operationally strong laws to tackle child exploitation, we also made sure the laws were legally robust.

I thank the opposition for briefing me on their proposed laws, but I am more convinced than ever that it is Labor's proposed amendments that will be upheld in any challenge. They are strong and they will operationally provide the police the powers they need. We owe it to victims to keep our community safer by having strong, legally robust laws to achieve this aim. That is what the amendments being moved today by this government will deliver.

Child Sex Offenders



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.12 am): Our government is making the strongest laws in the nation even stronger when it comes to child sex offenders. Amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Bill and the explanatory notes have now been circulated. The new laws mean that immediately upon the expiration of a supervision order these child sex offenders will now be monitored by the Queensland Police Service for the rest of their lives. As a result, the Police Commissioner will know where those offenders live, where they travel, where they work, any contact that they may have with children, any changes to their name and appearance, the details of their phone and internet connections, the details of their social media and email accounts and passwords.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, let the record note that the opposition are interjecting on a speech about child sex offenders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr RYAN: If these child sex offenders fail to meet these reporting requirements, they face up to five years jail. There is another layer of police intervention. If police become concerned about the behaviour of an individual, police can then apply for an offender prohibition order. The law is being changed to make it easier for police to do this. These orders would place tough restrictions on the offender's movements. The offender could be ordered to wear a GPS tracker and other restrictions imposed on where they can live and what they can do.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister seems to be giving a factual ministerial statement. If you have a different point of view, seek the call. Otherwise, I would like to hear the statement.

Mr RYAN: To support these new operational activities, the Queensland Police Service will be given extra resources by our government. Those resources will be used to support police surveillance, monitoring, disruption and enforcement operations. The resources will be used for the purchase of specialist equipment for covert surveillance and intelligence gathering and aerial and ground based surveillance operations. The changes to the law which the government is introducing will mean all of these offenders will be subject to ongoing monitoring and surveillance. These changes mean that the Queensland community can be assured that child sex offenders will always remain under scrutiny.

Silicosis



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.15 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to protecting the health and safety of Queensland workers. Last night I received a comprehensive briefing from senior Workplace Health and Safety Queensland officers about the emergence of a spike of silicosis claims for workers in the engineered stone benchtop manufacturing industry, and I briefed the Premier this morning.

Engineered stone is a relatively new building product which has exploded on the Australian market in the past decade and contains around 90 per cent crystalline silica compared with, for example, five per cent in natural marble stone. It poses no health threat if undisturbed. However, high levels of exposure and continued exposure to silica dust can cause a serious and debilitating illness called silicosis, which can be terminal. Silicosis is an aggressive form of pneumoconiosis.

In October 2017, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland launched an Australian-first compliance campaign of the engineered stone benchtop industry. This followed on from our parliamentary inquiry into coal workers' pneumoconiosis, which included silicosis. The compliance campaign involved an audit of 10 workplaces involved in working with engineered stone benchtops which uncovered extremely poor work practices including uncontrolled dry cutting and grinding, inadequate ventilation and a lack of adequate personal protection equipment such as respiratory masks.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has moved quickly to escalate this matter. From this week, there will be 22 specially trained safety inspectors on the ground to audit the remaining 150 manufacturers by the end of the year. Due to these audits, WorkCover Queensland has received 22 claims for compensation for silicosis and, overall, has received a total of 26 compensation claims. Of these, six cases are terminal, with a life expectancy of three to five years. Tragically, some of these workers are young, including a 27-year-old worker. In most cases the workers had no symptoms, with the disease only being detected through health checks by recently trained B-reader physicians.

This is alarming and my heart goes out to those workers and their families. That is why we have acted immediately to warn workers in this industry of the very serious risks of working with this product specifically when dry cutting and grinding the stone. Today I am informing all employers that dry cutting of engineered stone is prohibited and that enforcement action will be taken against any employer who fails to adequately protect its workers. In addition, the regulator has written to all Queensland based manufacturers to inform them of exactly what safety controls must be in place. An urgent safety alert has been issued today, along with guidelines for industry which detail the requirements for working safely with this product.

We are working towards developing the necessary regulations to prohibit dry cutting of stone, along with a code of practice to be finalised as soon as possible. Our priority is to ensure the immediate ceasing of dry cutting and grinding of this product and to ensure that these workers are adequately compensated under our recently amended WorkCover scheme. I encourage workers in the engineered stone industry, and those who have previously worked in the industry, to undergo urgent health screenings through WorkCover Queensland and encourage them to contact WorkCover's hotline on 1300362128.

Unfortunately, this is a national health and safety issue which affects workers across the country. I have written to federal minister Kelly O'Dwyer and will contact her directly today to alert the federal government to the seriousness of this issue and to consider a national response including importation controls, new exposure standards and regulations. The health and safety of these workers must be paramount.

Jobs



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.19 am): The latest ABS labour force data released last week demonstrates the ongoing success of the Palaszczuk government's focus on driving strong jobs growth in Queensland. The August labour force data showed an additional 7,100 jobs were created in trend terms in August 2018—the 23rd consecutive month of jobs growth in Queensland.


Since the Palaszczuk government came to office in January 2015, an incredible 177,500 jobs have now been created in Queensland. That is equivalent to more than 4,100 new jobs in Queensland each and every month since January 2015. These are not just numbers. Each number represents a Queenslanders who has found a place in our economy and the dignity of work.

Over the last year alone more than 56,000 jobs have been created, and 45,000 of these jobs—80 per cent of these jobs—are full-time jobs. In comparison, the previous LNP government only managed 30,000 jobs in its entire term. A total of 7,900 full-time jobs were lost under the previous LNP government. In contrast, more than 77,000 full-time jobs have been created under our leadership—10 times more than that managed under those opposites.

While the unemployment rate did edge up slightly in August 2018, this primarily reflects the fact that Queenslanders are feeling better about their job prospects. They can see the success of those around them and are feeling confident about entering the labour market. Over the year to August 2018, 67,500 extra people across the state entered or re-entered the labour force looking to take advantage of extra opportunities in our economy. As a result of this renewed and growing confidence in our economy, the state's trend participation rate rose to 66 per cent in August 2018. This is the second highest participation rate in our country. Most importantly, our economic plan is delivering jobs growth across the state with stronger employment growth recorded in many regions over the past year including in Mackay, Townsville, the Darling Downs and Maranoa.

The latest August labour force data demonstrates that yet again employment and job numbers are up, participation is up and business confidence is up. The Palaszczuk Labor government's plan is working, and it is delivering jobs for Queenslanders. Only Labor can be trusted to create jobs and grow the economy. Queenslanders can only trust the Palaszczuk Labor government with their jobs and with our economy.


Building our Regions

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.22 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's Building our Regions program is doing just that: building and strengthening regional and rural communities across our state. The program has so far allocated \$225 million towards 174 critical infrastructure projects across 62 local governments creating more than 1,700 jobs in regional Queensland.

Recently, the Building our Regions program helped support the Central Highlands Regional Council to complete the \$8.5 million Carnarvon Gorge road upgrade, ensuring visitors will enjoy a safe trip to the well-renowned Carnarvon Gorge. This project created 25 jobs. The member for Callide will be glad to know that the Deep Creek Railway Bridge near Didcot has been replaced which created 13 jobs. Road users travelling between Gayndah and Mundubbera will have safer access thanks to the new two-lane concrete bridge which was funded through a \$2.2 million contribution from the Building our Regions program.

Ground has also been broken on the \$2.5 million Mingo Crossing Caravan Park redevelopment on the Burnett River just south of Bundaberg which generated seven jobs. The government contributed 50 per cent of the total cost of the project which will add another nine powered sites to the existing 12 as well as providing the first six glamping sites at the park, a second amenities block, a camp kitchen, additional parking and a playground. An additional 40 camping sites will also be made available through the redevelopment of open space along the north-east bank of the Burnett River. A total of 39 regional councils from Torres Shire to Bulloo have been short-listed for a share in \$70 million under the latest round of the Building our Regions program which will continue to strengthen and grow Queensland's vitally important regional communities.


BeneTerra

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.24 am): Today I am proud to reveal that a Queensland company has developed a new technology to safely evaporate contaminated water from landfill. As members of the House would know, one of the greatest threats to Australia's bore water supply is toxic water that leaches from landfill. The BeneVap BV150 technology is an on-site treatment process to address this problem. Using this world first system developed here in Queensland approximately 30,000 litres of water a day can be evaporated safely, saving landfill operators close to \$4,000 a day and stopping contamination.

This is the kind of technology that is making a real difference to landowners, councils and farmers across regional Queensland. That is why our government is backing this Queensland based company to expand overseas. In fact, the company BeneTerra expects to create 31 new jobs in manufacturing and maintenance. BeneTerra has a presence not only here in Brisbane but also in Toowoomba and

Rockhampton. That is why our government will continue to invest in new technology that will create new jobs of the future here in Queensland. We know that by investing in new technology we can grow regional economies and regional cities across our state.


Strawberry Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.25 am): People in this place know of my support for the strawberry industry. Previously I have held events supporting new varieties like Red Rhapsody developed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Those in this place, including the press gallery, have tasted the delicious strawberries developed and grown right here in Queensland. That is why it is disappointing to rise here today to report on the current circumstances facing the strawberry industry.

This year the industry has been hit by low prices that have impacted the bottom line of strawberry farmers. On top of that, since last week we have seen the devastating impacts that this blatant and disgusting strawberry sabotage has had on growers. To have fruit tampered with in this manner impacts not only customers who purchase the fruit but also the entire supply chain. Growers, pickers, transporters, accommodation providers, the tourism industry and all the local towns suffer as a result of this insidious attack.

On Sunday I sat around the kitchen table with Luigi Coco and his family in Elimbah to hear how this deplorable act was impacting his business. Last night I met with the wider industry in Beerwah to answer their questions and discuss ways in which the industry could move forward. It is clear they are suffering right now. While it is very early in the piece to think we have the silver bullet to fix this problem, the positive nature in which the discussions were held indicate there is a light at the end of the tunnel for these growers. The Premier's announcement this morning will go a long way to begin that journey. What I can say—and I am sure I have the backing of the entire House on this—is that both we as a government and the people of Queensland will continue to support the industry. I encourage all Queenslanders to buy and consume strawberries. Cut them up, make a fruit salad with other Queensland produce and support our farmers.

Skills for Queensland

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.27 am): Today I am proudly launching 'Skills for Queensland' a discussion paper about vocational education and training in Queensland. I table a copy of that for the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Skills for Queensland—Discussion Paper', Department of Employment, Small Business and Training [\[1362\]](#).

We want to make sure that our vocational education and training system is accessible, affordable, high quality and, importantly, meets the needs of industry now and into the future. In order to make sure that the Palaszczuk government is getting our investment right, this discussion paper seeks feedback from TAFE Queensland, registered training organisations, group training organisations, unions, industry associations, businesses, families, trainees and apprentices.

In 2018-19 the Palaszczuk government is investing \$777.9 million in a range of programs in vocational education and training which support people in accessing training and skills. Those programs include the further investment in Skilling Queenslanders for Work and free TAFE for year 12 graduates.


We know that our programs work: 83.1 per cent of our school students who undertook a VET program while at school transitioned to further education, training or paid employment and more than 80 per cent of Certificate 3 Guarantee graduates have transitioned to work or further training. However, with the emergence of new industries and as technology advances and changes our training system, the way in which people are being trained and the content of that training must adapt, be flexible and responsive.

The discussion paper allows stakeholders to engage around how we can do that best. I want our providers of vocational education and training in Queensland to be properly supported to ensure that our next generation of apprentices and trainees, no matter where they live in Queensland, can access an affordable and high-quality vocational education.

Industry and business have told our government that our training system must support the skills of the future, and that is why last week our Premier announced that later this year she will convene a skills summit. This summit will give us the opportunity to hear from industry and employee representatives in both traditional and emerging industries about the link between the skills that those industries will need now and in the future.

I encourage anyone who has an interest in the vocational education and training sector in Queensland to engage with the consultation being conducted through my department or to provide a written submission through the Skills for Queensland website.

Vehicle Lifts

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.30 am): Recently there has been some considerable misinformation and consequent confusion online about the issue of vehicle lifts for four-wheel drives. Let me clear up some of the confusion for the benefit of the House and for Queenslanders. There have been no recent changes to rules relating to vehicle lifts in Queensland. Here are the facts.

The Queensland code of practice has been in place since 2012. In fact, it was brought in by the Newman government, previous to this government. Since the Newman government, the maximum lift allowable with certification by an appropriately qualified, approved person has been 125 millimetres in Queensland. This is slightly lower than the 150 millimetres allowed by other jurisdictions, but it is the Palaszczuk government that is now in the process of bringing Queensland into line with standards elsewhere in Australia.

Currently, a maximum lift of 50 millimetres without certification is allowed for vehicles with electronic stability control. This maximum is slightly higher at 75 millimetres for non-ESC vehicles. These requirements are consistent with the majority of other jurisdictions. Anything above these maximums and up to 125 millimetres must be certified by an appropriately qualified, approved person to ensure the vehicle remains safe on the road. Consultation with four-wheel-drive groups is underway on whether the current lift of 50 millimetres without certification for ESC vehicles should be the same as the 75 millimetre maximum for non-ESC vehicles. Transport and Main Roads expects to make that decision next month.


Those are the facts. A lot has been made online of so-called recent changes to these rules and this is something that I want to clear up today. In late 2017 in response to questions from industry, Transport and Main Roads updated published guidance material on how to interpret the requirements specified under the Queensland code made in 2012. These updates did not change anything whatsoever. They clarified how the Queensland code should be interpreted only.

This is a complex area and I can understand why there has been some confusion. However, it is important to remember that height-increase limits are set to ensure the safety of all on our roads, including the vehicle occupants and other road users. Exceeding those limits can impact on vehicle braking and stability and can increase the risk of rollover, especially at highway speeds. A high lift also changes the zone of impact on other vehicles in a crash and the glare from headlights as well, increasing the risk to other road users and pedestrians. The owners of vehicles with high lifts are encouraged to make sure that modifications are legal and compliant and are approved in accordance with the law.

I note the federal member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, has, sadly, played his part in spreading misinformation to save his seat in the looming federal election. Mr Laming attacked current laws which were, in fact, introduced by his own Queensland LNP when they were in power in 2012, yet somehow he blames this government.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to sensible, evidence based laws governing four-wheel drives. The safety of road users remains one of our highest priorities. We are committed to ensuring that no lives are put at risk as we bring Queensland into line with the national standard.

Rookwood Weir

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.33 am): Rookwood Weir is expected to be water ready in 2021. Ongoing procrastination from Canberra has not prevented the Palaszczuk government from getting on with the job. This government knows how important this project is to the region. Rookwood will provide up to 42,000 megalitres of high-priority water for agricultural and industrial customers and 34,000 megalitres of urban and


industrial water for customers in Gladstone and the Capricorn Coast. My colleagues the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Gladstone have been tireless in pushing for this project to go ahead—tireless.

The Premier was relentless in communicating with the now former prime minister in trying to get a written guarantee for the capital funding and seeking a commitment to ongoing costs. These are the facts. Meanwhile, the project's proponent SunWater has been engaging with stakeholders including primary producers about their needs. Preliminary construction of the \$352 million project is expected to go out to tender in early 2019.

We are totally committed to this weir, the jobs and business opportunities it will provide and the future water security for Central Queensland. There will be 200 construction jobs at its peak and high-value agricultural production along the Fitzroy River within two years of construction starting. Most importantly, this is about water security for Rockhampton, Gladstone, Keppel and surrounding regions. I know the people of Central Queensland have been on tenterhooks waiting on this project. However, as a responsible government we have always said any decision to fund major infrastructure projects such as Rookwood must consider financial, social and environmental aspects. We want to see the obvious construction jobs in the short term and, looking long term, we are doing everything possible to ensure that the project is value for money.

Earlier this year this government and the federal Labor opposition committed to funding Rookwood. It took until April for the previous prime minister to commit. As I said last week, it is entirely disingenuous for the local federal members to claim credit for this project going ahead. It is the Palaszczuk government that is committed to regional water security—and it will continue to be—carefully and responsibly.

Neighbourhood Centres


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.37 am): Neighbourhood centres are important pieces of local infrastructure in regional communities. Neighbourhood centres are places where people go to come together and are also places where people go when they need support—vital social infrastructure. In addition to investing \$16.3 million per year in operating 124 neighbourhood centres across the state, the Palaszczuk government has an extensive program of establishing new and upgrading existing neighbourhood centres in regional areas.

I am pleased to report that since 1 July 2017 the following centres underwent upgrades and expansions totalling nearly \$4 million. These include: Hinchinbrook Neighbourhood Centre in Ingham; Harlaxton Neighbourhood Centre; Emerald Community and Youth Centre; Miles-Murilla Community Centre; Stanthorpe Neighbourhood Centre; Tara Neighbourhood Centre; Laidley Neighbourhood Centre; Atherton Neighbourhood Centre, which was completed on 25 June 2018; East Creek Neighbourhood Centre, Toowoomba, expansion and upgrade; Gatton Neighbourhood Centre, upgrade; and Burdekin Neighbourhood Centre, Ayr, due for completion in February next year. In addition, the member for Mackay will be pleased that on 27 June this year we completed a \$1.2 million major upgrade and extension of the George Street Neighbourhood Centre in Mackay.

I am also pleased to confirm that the following regional locations will have brand-new neighbourhood centres operating shortly: Murgon Neighbourhood Centre, worth \$3.1 million, due for completion in April next year; Moranbah Youth and Community Centre, worth \$4.1 million, due for completion in April next year; and Thursday Island Community Hub, worth \$4 million, due for completion in December next year.

I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's commitment and investment in infrastructure across regional Queensland, especially in our neighbourhood centres, which play an important role in building thriving communities.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Resources

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.39 am): I have good news for the members from Toowoomba. Ahead of next week's Governing from the Regions program in Toowoomba I would like to highlight the work that this government is doing to ensure that our fire and rescue capacity keeps pace with the growing needs of the south-west region.

Let me start with our commitment of almost \$11 million for Charlton, near Toowoomba. As part of a new South Western Region Fire and Emergency Services Complex, \$7 million has been allocated for a new regional headquarters and fire communications centre and \$3.6 million for a new fire and rescue station at Charlton. This will be an additional 24-hour fire station to complement the existing stations that are already out there. The new regional headquarters and fire and rescue station are expected to be completed by mid-2020, with the fire communications centre in the early stages of planning already.


Work is being done this year to complete the upgrade of the Dirranbandi auxiliary station and the refurbishment of the Charleville area office. Last week I had the pleasure of opening the state air operations hangar at the Toowoomba airport. We are basing six operational aircraft at Toowoomba up until December this year which can be deployed at a moment's notice anywhere across the southern part of Queensland and even into New South Wales. While I am on my feet, I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Rural Fire Service and our Fire and Rescue Service, who have combatted nearly 2,500 wildfires in Queensland in the last couple of months. There is no sign of things ending anytime soon.

We are giving the region the firefighters they need to work in these new and upgraded facilities. Five of the first 25 allocated under our four-year commitment are being allocated to Toowoomba, and more of those will follow as Charlton gets closer to opening so it is flush with the staff that it needs. It is essential that our front-line personnel have the resources they need to respond efficiently and effectively when an incident occurs. Improvements to QFES facilities and equipment across the state, combined with a boost in firefighter numbers, ultimately lead to safer Queensland communities. I will be opening even more facilities and handing over more appliances in the south-west in the coming weeks, so watch this space.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to acknowledge that we have students and staff from Heights College in the electorate of Rockhampton in the gallery with us this morning.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.42 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 11 of the Transport and Public Works Committee.


Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 11, 56th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 2 May 2018 and 12 June 2018 [[1363](#)].

The report covers portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 2 May 2018 and 12 June 2018 considered by the committee. The committee did not identify any issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.42 am.

Sex Offenders

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.42 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. The LNP has prepared tough laws dealing with sex offenders which I now table.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill 2018' [[1364](#)].

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes' [[1365](#)].

If enacted, the laws will ensure that each and every dangerous sex offender will remain under constant supervision until the day they die. Will the Premier agree to allow this bill to be introduced and debated today in cognate with the government's amendments in relation to child sex offenders?

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I would appreciate it if the questions could be heard in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question. The answer is no, and that is because there are sessional orders which apply to the introduction of private members' bills. When I was the Leader of the Opposition I complied with those sessional standing orders, as the Leader of the Opposition should comply with those sessional standing orders.

As we have stated publicly, today we will introduce tough new amendments to the police powers bill which will be debated today. We know that the LNP has a track record when it comes to laws in relation to this area: they are declared invalid. The LNP introduced laws that were found by the highest courts of this country and this state to be invalid. I can say very clearly that our laws will be robust and they will be workable. Let me say that again: they will be robust and they will be workable. Why? Because this Attorney-General—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—has a track record of introducing laws in this state that are upheld by the courts of this land. Our track record is valid, workable laws. Serious organised crime—workable! These laws have been drafted in consultation with the Attorney-General and the police minister. They have been worked on extensively and they have the backing of the Police Commissioner.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition Business! Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: If they have been written by the member for Kawana we know they are doomed to fail.

Ms Trad: Even the member for Toowoomba South recognises that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I will take that interjection. In an article written by esteemed journalist Steven Wardill, even the shadow Attorney-General says, 'We know there will be serious discussions about the validity of these laws.' They even admit they do not know if their laws will stack up.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am having difficulty hearing the Premier's contribution. Members, please keep your interjections low.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will back the laws of this Attorney-General over any we have seen from an attorney or shadow attorney-general in the past. We know their track record. Their laws were thrown out of court. It was an embarrassment. These are robust, workable laws. There has been consultation about these laws.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba! The Premier's time has expired.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I will issue a general warning today. Any members quarrelling across the chamber will be warned and action will be taken. I ask members again to please ensure that your comments are directed through the chair.

Fardon, Mr RJ; GPS Tracking Devices

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. Under proposed LNP laws that were tabled today, Robert John Fardon would not be released from supervision without a GPS tracker. Under Labor's laws, can the Premier guarantee that the likes of Robert John Fardon would be clamped with GPS supervision—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the House, you are warned under the standing orders. The question will be heard in silence and I will adjudicate.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Under Labor's laws can the Premier guarantee that the likes of Robert John Fardon will be clamped with a GPS tracker and not be released unsupervised into our community?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question, which is incredibly reckless and irresponsible. There is an appeal currently before the court. I have received legal advice that anything stated around this matter could jeopardise that appeal.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Communities and Leader of the Opposition, you are both warned. I made myself very clear about those sorts of activities this morning. I will not tolerate it. I would like to hear the Premier's answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What I find even more disturbing is the fact that the Leader of the Opposition is a former lawyer and as such should understand legal processes in this state.

Mr Dick: Embarrassing!

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is embarrassing. It is irresponsible, and I think it is a lesson to all members in this House about how—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Deputy Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we said very clearly, our laws will ensure that child sex offenders coming off the DPSO will be monitored for life. When those opposite were sitting on this side of the House they had an opportunity to put in place robust, workable laws and they squandered that opportunity. The person who was responsible for that is the member for Kawana, and the member for Nanango was a member of the government that backed in the member for Kawana's unworkable and illegal laws. I urge those opposite to support our workable, robust laws.

Mr Powell: Soft laws.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection, because their own shadow Attorney-General said that their laws could be invalid. That is what they said.

Ms Trad: He did.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, he did. It is quoted in the paper.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the misrepresentation that I said the laws would be invalid.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the member finds those words offensive. Will you withdraw?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Mr STEWART: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has finished? I just want to make sure. Have you finished your contribution, Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I haven't finished with you lot, I tell you that.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have not finished with those members opposite. Let me quote what the shadow Attorney-General said—

We know there will be serious discussions about the validity of these laws ...

That is what he said. That is a quote.

Ms Trad: So he knows they are likely to be invalid.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, and now we hear they are modelling them on the member for Kawana's previous laws that were found to be invalid. That protects absolutely no-one. There will be time for debate on this later, but I tell you what: we have put in place robust, workable laws and we have a track record—

(Time expired)

Business Confidence

Mr STEWART: My question without notice is of the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how important business confidence is in the Queensland economy and outline any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that very important question. We know how important business confidence is for the creation of jobs. As the Treasurer has stated this morning in this House and as I have stated in this House previously, 177,500 jobs have been created across our great state. This compares with the record of those opposite, who sacked 14,000 in their first budget. Let's not forget that the member for Nanango has stated that she sat around the cabinet table and made those decisions.

We also know that our government is absolutely focused on growing the economy of many regions across our state. Townsville is one of those regions. I am proud to go to Townsville. I love going to Townsville. In fact, every time I go to Townsville I drive past and see the Townsville stadium coming out of the ground. That is backed by our government—I cannot wait to see the first game that will be played there, in 2020—and is creating jobs.

It came as no surprise to me when I heard once again the reckless comments of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, when she visited Townsville. She said, ‘... what we need to do is make it a livable city’.

The member for Nanango and those opposite are reckless again. She wants to make Townsville livable. I think Townsville is very livable. I love Townsville. I know that the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa love Townsville. We are going to widen the port. We have money going into the port. The Minister for Education opened a new school in Townsville. We have the channel widening. We put the money in and the new Prime Minister has finally come to the party. We had to drag him kicking and screaming. We on this side of the House back our Queensland regional communities. I urge those opposite to not make any further reckless comments when it comes to issues such as the great cities across our state.

We will always support Townsville, unlike those opposite, who cut from the health services. We saw the sackings that happened in Townsville. We are rebuilding that economy. We are working with the community to enhance Townsville as much as we can and we are delivering programs such as Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work and delivering the new Townsville stadium and the new pipeline to ensure water security.

(Time expired)

Fardon, Mr RJ

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. Every time Robert John Fardon has walked free from prison he has—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right. The question will be heard in silence.

Mr MANDER: Every time Robert John Fardon has walked free from prison he has brutally raped and assaulted numerous women and a child, one incident just 20 days after his release. Since then, Fardon has been diagnosed by multiple psychologists as having antisocial personality disorder with an antagonistic attitude to supervision. Why is Labor’s policy an honesty system that relies on Fardon self-reporting his whereabouts to authorities?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, I am not going to jeopardise the appeal. I am not going to talk about the facts of the case. I take my responsibility as Premier of this state incredibly seriously. Unlike those opposite, I will not make reckless comments in this House. I will not make reckless comments outside of this House. If those opposite want to be reckless, let them do it at their own peril. Queenslanders expect us to do everything we can. That is what my government is doing. That is what we are going to deliver for the people of our state.

Aged Care

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier outline what action the government is taking to improve the safety and care of those living in state owned aged-care facilities?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for that very important question. I watched *Four Corners* last night, as I think hundreds of thousands of other Australians would have. I was shocked and dismayed to hear those bitterly upsetting personal stories about some of the treatment of some of our most senior and most vulnerable community members. I think every single story would have struck a chord.

I honestly believe that as a state and as a nation we need to do more. We all need to take responsibility. That is why at our last state conference I spoke extensively about having an end-of-life-care discussion, which we will forward to the committee once our abortion law reform issues are resolved in this House. We need to look extensively at aged care. For example, are there enough staff? This House has enacted nurse-to-patient ratios. That is something that I know the member for Greenslopes, as a former nurse, very strongly advocated for. I thank the Queensland Nurses’ Union.

At the end of the day, nurse-to-patient ratios are about the quality of care we give to individuals in hospitals. Why is it so hard to apply those standards to the most vulnerable in our community in aged-care homes? I think this is a debate we need to have nationally. It is a debate we need to have at a state level.

My own grandmother is in aged care at the moment and I know that she receives good treatment, but I also know that there have been horror stories from other people about what has happened in other places. I also know that it is an incredibly troublesome time for families making those decisions. Often they have to sell their homes—their family homes that they have lived in for generations—to be able to pay for the bond to go into aged-care retirement. We know that as we are an ageing community there is going to be a huge need for more retirement and aged-care facilities. Dementia and Alzheimer's are also other very important issues. This is an issue that I have seen as I have visited my grandmother on a regular basis.

I think we need to do more for the care of our most vulnerable people. People who have worked hard their whole lives to better our community and who have to go into aged care should have good quality care to the end of their life. That is something that my government is keen to back and keen to pursue and I hope that our inquiry will also complement the royal commission that the Prime Minister has announced.

Sex Offenders, GPS Tracking Devices

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier support the LNP's policy to enforce permanent GPS tracking of each and every repeat serious sexual offender from the day they are released to the day they die?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have not been briefed on the LNP laws, but I thank the member for the question because this is the same shadow Attorney-General who does not even believe his laws will stack up in a court of law. He does not even believe in their validity, so I am not going to entertain anything from those opposite when their own shadow Attorney-General does not believe that they are valid laws.

Townsville City Deal

Mr HARPER: My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise how the Townsville City Deal is delivering on jobs and infrastructure for Townsville and how other regions in Queensland are in line to benefit from city deals?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Thuringowa for that question because I know what a passionate advocate he is for Townsville and North Queensland. In fact, he was part of the relentless Labor front that went to the federal government and petitioned for the genesis of what is the Townsville City Deal, and that is the Townsville stadium. This side of politics put money on the table and campaigned endlessly to get the federal government to commit to the Townsville stadium. In the dying days of the last federal election it finally committed to it but on the proviso we have a Townsville City Deal, which we signed up to because we are very happy to support Townsville and North Queensland in their pursuit of economic development, economic growth, jobs for the region and a new economic chapter for that community.

We are very proud of the work that has been undertaken in the Townsville City Deal and we want to see that work replicated in other regions, particularly the South-East Queensland region. We know that a whole range of local governments will benefit from a South-East Queensland city deal, and that is why I have partnered with the Brisbane Lord Mayor and the Council of Mayors (SEQ) to write to the federal government—whoever is the cities minister right now—to petition for its support for a South-East Queensland city deal because we know it will benefit all regions within South-East Queensland, particularly Toowoomba. Toowoomba has been very supportive of a South-East Queensland city deal.

I am reminded of the comments that the Premier referred to in the chamber earlier today from the member for Nanango, the opposition leader, in relation to Townsville when she said, '... what we need to do is make it a livable city'. These are shameful comments because, like the Premier, I go to Townsville and I find it a wonderful city. When we look at Townsville and all of the investments made in Townsville by this Labor government and former Labor governments, we know how wonderful a city it is because of its people and because of its investments—the stadium which we are building and the channel widening project, which we finally got the federal government on board with.

Then there is the Haughton pipeline duplication. If we want to make the city livable, I reckon the city needs water security. If those opposite think that Townsville needs to be a bit more livable, maybe they need to do something about it. Maybe they need to pick up the phone to the federal government—their conservative colleagues—and ask them to put money on the table for the pipeline duplication. This is just a simple first base step. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to go out there and preach about livability, maybe she should do something about it.

Child Sex Offenders, Housing

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Premier. Yesterday the Police Commissioner said that child sex offenders would be directed where to live. Premier, which neighbourhoods has Labor chosen to house child sex offenders and when will Queenslanders be told who their new neighbours are?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: No. You have directed that question directly to the Premier, not through the chair. I have given sufficient warnings. I rule the question out of order.

Aged Care

Mr RUSSO: My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline what the Queensland government is doing for aged-care residents in light of the *Four Corners* expose last night?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Toohey for that important question. I do not think anyone with a heart would not have been moved by what they saw last night on *Four Corners*. The neglect—cruel neglect—was nothing short of sad, tragic, an indictment on the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison governments. I watched that program and personally found myself regretting that I had not spent more time visiting my own Pop while he was in an aged-care facility in the final months of his life and regretting the fact that I drove past my Grandma's retirement village every day and there was always something more urgent than stopping in and seeing her.

What I have not done and what government has not done is driven past the neglect that we know is happening in aged-care facilities. I have spoken in this House repeatedly about it. I have spoken publicly about it. I wrote to Minister Wyatt about it in March. He wrote back to me in June to say that he was setting up a task force. The outcome of that task force was an ad campaign. I table the correspondence.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 March 2018, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Commonwealth Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Indigenous Health and member for Hasluck, Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, MP regarding aged care funding [1367].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 June 2018, from the Commonwealth Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Indigenous Health and member for Hasluck, Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, MP, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding aged care services [1368].

I raised this at the last COAG meeting, and of course just two weeks ago the Premier announced an inquiry. I met with industry leaders on 26 April—six months ago—and I said to them then that if they did not clean up their industry they were headed for a royal commission just like the banks, and it is tragic that that has happened. *Four Corners* showed us that this is not just a few bad eggs; this is widespread neglect under the watch of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison governments, because you cannot rip billions of dollars out of an industry without consequences. You should not need a royal commission to tell you that. You do not need a royal commission to introduce proper funding, proper regulation, staff-to-patient ratios—finally.

I am sure most members of this House were moved but one was not. One was so cruel, so heartless. The member for Mudgeeraba on the eve of her own party announcing a royal commission posted on her Facebook page that it was more important to take care of the profits of the big aged-care corporations than to introduce ratios. Why is that? Is that because of the tens of thousands of dollars of donations those opposite have taken from those corporations? You should be ashamed and you all should be ashamed of her. I table an extract.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 14 September 2018, from the Facebook page of the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, regarding aged care [1366].

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. Minister, I ask you to put your comments through the chair. Those comments were directed at the member for Mudgeeraba.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, I am giving a ruling. I would appreciate your cooperation and silence.

Sex Offenders

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier explain whether the government's rushed laws will apply to all violent sexual predators of women and, if not, why not?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, there has been extensive collaboration across the government in the development of these laws.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Nicklin, you have been repeatedly interjecting this morning. I warn you under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we have said, we are targeting our laws to the worst kind of offenders in our state and that is child sexual offenders. Our children are our most vulnerable. That is why our laws will address this issue. As I said, we have not taken these issues lightly and there has been extensive consultation. We have taken the best legal advice—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, your interjections have been repeatedly causing disruption this morning. I warn you under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said earlier, these are tough new laws to protect our most vulnerable and ensure that those child sex offenders coming off DPSOs will be monitored for life. There will be extra resources given to the police to ensure that they are monitored for life. I cannot be any clearer than that.

This government brings into this place laws that are robust, workable and protect our most vulnerable—unlike those opposite, whose track record is to not just bring in laws that do not stand up to the scrutiny of the courts but also—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Your comments are not helpful.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you again to put your comments through the chair. That is the last warning for all members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We had an earlier question about reporting obligations. I clarify to the House that, in 2014, the Newman government reduced by more than a third the number of convicted sex offenders who had to report to police after conviction and reduced the period for which they had to report. The then police minister Jack Dempsey told the parliament that, by reducing the periods that offenders had to report and by eliminating more than a third of the people who are reporting, somehow Queensland would be a safer place for children. That is their track record. In fact, the member for Mudgeeraba might also have been a minister during that time, but I might need to check that.

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order on relevance. I asked specifically about sexual predators of women—

Mr SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity to repeat the question. If you are seeking me to rule on relevance, I will. I believe that the Premier is being relevant and I will continue to listen to her answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. These are child sex offenders. They are predators. That is why we are doing something about them. We are going to protect our most vulnerable people in this state. These are robust, workable laws and I commend these laws to the House.

Regional Export Distribution Centre

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on the status of the regional export distribution centre and whether the minister is aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cairns for his question and his great advocacy for Far North Queensland in this parliament. Since his election to this House, the member has demonstrated that he is a great champion of the Far North. As all members know, Queensland's fruit industry is facing a very difficult time, but primary producers know that, in this dark hour, the Palaszczuk government will stand with them and we will get through this current challenge.

Mr Furner: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take that interjection from the minister for agriculture. We have a plan to showcase Queensland's renowned agricultural produce to the world through our regional export distribution centre. We made an election commitment to invest \$10 million in regional Queensland to ensure that we can get produce off farms to the port and then to markets as quickly as possible. We back our farmers, because Queensland farmers back Queensland. They make a vital contribution to our economy—\$20 billion in added value—supporting around 300,000 jobs.

Export distribution centres are dedicated facilities that can offer temperature-controlled warehousing and the specialised handling of produce that is ready for export. They coordinate biosecurity, transport logistics and deliver the product and administer export regulation procedures. A new Queensland export distribution centre will assist regional communities by boosting rapid access to international markets, improving productivity and creating regional jobs—and that will be welcome.

While the Labor government focuses on farmers, the LNP continues to focus on itself. At the federal level, we see the Prime Minister posting hip-hop videos and LNP women being bullied out of the federal parliament. At the state level, we see LNP members of this House defying their leader and not even turning up to work and, to top it all, we see the member for Surfers Paradise taking social media lessons from Donald Trump.

Farmers deserve better from the LNP but they will get the full support of the Labor government. Queenslanders deserve better than what they are getting from the LNP and, as sure as I am standing here, Australia deserves better than the rabble in Canberra that calls itself an LNP government.

Child Sex Offenders

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Premier. The Attorney-General said that offenders will need to display concerning conduct that poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more children before police can seek additional court orders for protection. Why is Labor's policy to wait until a repeat convicted child sex offender commits yet another concerning act before police can even go to court to try to intervene to keep our kids safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps the member has not heard us state this publicly, but we have been saying it at length. They will be monitored for life. When they come off the DPSO, from day one, they are monitored—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, your interjections not only are designed to disrupt but also are repeatedly disrupting me in listening to the answer. You are also not directing your comments through the chair. You are warned under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, there have been extensive discussions between the Attorney-General and the police minister to get these laws right, to get these amendments right—unlike those opposite, who are canvassing invalid laws to be introduced into this House, which is reckless to say the least. In fact, I think this is a real test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. Today, we have seen, I think, the worst questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite. They have been negligent and reckless.

Queenslanders deserve better. In fact, I think the LNP deserves better and people who vote for the LNP deserve better. They deserve to have better leadership from someone who can ask better questions and understand the implications of their reckless questions in relation to an appeal that is currently before the court.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Gold Coast

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on some of the Palaszczuk government's great achievements on the Gold Coast in the last month?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for her question. As we know, I am really proud to be a friend of the Gold Coast. In actual fact, I was there on Sunday with my children visiting my mother-in-law, who is 88, because her home is down on the southern Gold Coast. I love going to the Gold Coast. I like spending heaps of time on the Gold Coast and who does not? I can answer that question. Ironically, someone who does not like spending time on the Gold Coast is the member for Burleigh, who is from the Gold Coast. I thought I owed it to my good colleague and friend—a fellow member in this parliament standing up for the Gold Coast—to let the member for Burleigh know what happened on the Gold Coast when he was in Canada when parliament was sitting.

Parliament sat and, for the information of the member for Burleigh, while he was away we passed three laws. This included the Plumbing and Drainage Bill, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill and we also worked on the Disability Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. That is what the rest of the Queensland parliament was doing when he decided that he would be better off serving the people of Burleigh in Canada instead of representing them here in the Queensland parliament.

Mr Dick: Defying his leader.

Ms JONES: Defying his leader. We do know that the only authority that the Leader of the Opposition has in her party room is to sign leave forms. She can sign leave forms, but she cannot grant them a conscience vote on abortion law reform.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is a bill before the House. I caution you to be careful with your comments as you pursue them.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is the third or fourth time that the particular minister has talked about that bill before the House and as I understand it—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Tourism, you are warned under standing orders. I am hearing a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: My point of order is that the minister has been advised and warned on numerous occasions, as far as I can recall, about the bill before the House and she continues to go down that line of attack.

Mr SPEAKER: I have given the minister some caution. Simply mentioning that a bill is before the House does not warrant anticipation. I want to ensure that the minister's contribution going forward does not go over that fine line.

Ms JONES: Those opposites do not like it because they know what we all know, which is that those on the other side are deeply divided. There was a time when the Liberal Party stood up for the conscience of individuals, but they are d-e-a-d, dead. The Liberal Party is gone. We know that the Leader of the Opposition, who is clinging onto leadership by her fingernails, does not have any authority in her party room. In actual fact, when the member for Burleigh was overseas it was revealed in the parliament that Gary Spence is actually the Leader of the Opposition here in Queensland.

Ms Trad: The boys run the show!

Ms JONES: The boys run the show. I take that interjection. You can dress in red all you like, but the boys will run the show. While the member for Burleigh was overseas and we were all sitting here in parliament, he may want to catch up on some news: Scott Morrison is the new Prime Minister of our country; Peter Dutton is not; and the member might risk his preselection if he votes with his conscience on something that I am not allowed to talk about.

Today we have also seen quite clearly, as the Premier has said, how unworkable the LNP in Queensland is. Not only are they deeply divided, because if you get elected as a member you do not get to have your say, but also they come into this parliament advocating for unworkable laws that will not protect one single child.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. I remind all ministers to be relevant to the question asked. I think that question got away from us.

Minor Parties and Independents, Staffing

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Premier. The Newman government imposed changes to the non-major party members of this House, reducing staff and the monetary return on electoral votes. Given the government advocates for equality, will the Premier ensure that the minor parties and Independents receive the equivalent allocations that the major parties receive to best serve the people of their respective electorates?

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are requirements in this House that for a party to have party status they must have a required number and also they must have a certain percentage of the vote. That is all I will say in relation to that matter.

Aged Care

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. Will the minister please explain to the House what is being done by the Queensland government to advocate for changes to the aged-care system?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. Like many Queenslanders and, indeed, Australians, I, along with my colleagues on this side of the House, shared the distress that was felt last night about the information that we heard and the cases that we saw during the *Four Corners* story on aged care. What we heard is inexcusable. It is a reflection on all Australians in regard to how our elders are treated. There can be no greater call to action than what we saw and heard last night.

On 16 March this year I made a submission on behalf of the Queensland government to the Australian Government Standing Committee Inquiry into the Quality of Care in Residential Aged Care Facilities in Australia. In this submission Queensland specifically addressed the need for appropriate safeguards to be in place that establish expectations for providers and their staff to deliver high-quality care. The submission highlighted the work that the Minister for Health is doing on staff-to-resident ratios, including nurse-to-resident ratios for public aged-care settings in Queensland.

In our submission we also called on the Commonwealth to introduce nationally consistent requirements for staff-to-patient ratios. We saw last night just how clear it is that for a service to operate safely and to an acceptable standard there must be enough staff with the right skills and the right attitude to care for our seniors. We cannot forget that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison federal government is responsible for this system and since 2015 has cut almost \$2 billion in funding.

We need to remember these cuts when we reflect on the stories about poor quality meals or food being taken away from our residents before they have time to eat it, residents not being showered and not being helped to get out of bed. These are the daily indignities happening across our country that are unimaginable, but they can be easily fixed by having enough staff who care and have the permission to take their time to look after the residents. I simply cannot understand why the federal minister Ken Wyatt still will not commit to staff-to-patient ratios. The evidence is already there. I have raised aged-care issues with the federal minister and will continue to do so as we move into the royal commission into the aged-care sector.

The Premier's announcement two weeks ago of the parliamentary inquiry into aged care and end-of-life care across Queensland shows that this government will apply maximum pressure and effort to make things better for our seniors and the change can simply not come soon enough.

Member for Woodridge, North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. With hundreds of jobs on North Stradbroke Island at risk, the member for Woodridge has been stripped of his responsibility for the task of managing the island's economic transition. Will the Premier tell the House is this not a reflection of failure and a lack of confidence in Minister Dick's ability to get the job done?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. We on this side of the House love North Stradbroke Island. In fact, I love it so much I go there every year for my annual holiday.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the ministers' interjections. Tens of thousands of years of generations.

Ms Jones: And you do it during recess; you do not do it during sitting weeks.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: I do it on the break. I do not do it during a sitting week. My government has committed to the transition.

Mr Crisafulli: It is not transitioning quickly.

Mr Dick: You transitioned quickly enough.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, bye Townsville, hello Gold Coast.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, your comments are not appreciated across the chamber. I appreciate you are the subject of the question.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I am providing a ruling. I would ask you not to be interjecting. I warn you under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, we are working collaboratively as a government in terms of that transition and that includes the Deputy Premier, the Minister for State Development, the Minister for Tourism, Minister Lynham and Minister Fentiman. In fact, I think that is a great combination of ministers working together on the success of the transition.

The last time I went to North Stradbroke Island, I saw a great willingness among everyone on that island to work together, because there are so many opportunities, whether that is in terms of reskilling the workforce for new tourism opportunities, walking trails—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms Trad: It is interesting that tourists like going to Stradbroke Island. It is interesting that there is an economy in tourism.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is. We on this side love North Stradbroke Island. We see enormous tourism potential into the future. We will be remembered as the government that ended sandmining on that island. That will be one of the legacies of this government and it is one that I am proud of, just like when they stopped logging on Fraser Island.

Ms Jones: That's where the prince is going.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; where the prince is going. We are very proud that we will be ending sandmining and working with the workers to transition to the new economic future of North Stradbroke Island.

Mr Hart: Someone help her; she's dying.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I find that offensive, Mr Speaker. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Burleigh, I ask you to withdraw your comments. I find them unparliamentary.

Mr HART: I withdraw.

Regional Queensland, Industrial Relations

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister please advise the House of key industrial relations issues for workers in regional Queensland that require the attention of the new Prime Minister?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Cook for the question. Coming from a regional centre, she knows how important the take-home pay is for people in those areas. When staff and take-home pay rates are cut, no matter how good the business or how good or bad the coffee may be, it is very difficult to survive in those areas. After hearing the comment from the member for Burleigh, I can understand why the women in the federal LNP are dropping like flies.

After the farce that we saw in Canberra several weeks ago, our new Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has promised to do things differently. In a spirit of cooperation and goodwill, I am more than happy to provide a few suggestions to the Prime Minister and the new industrial relations minister, Kelly O'Dwyer. Kelly O'Dwyer is the third IR minister with whom I have dealt in as many years. However, I have a feeling she may be busier as Minister for Women, because we know that in the federal LNP women are dropping like flies. They are making claims of all sorts of intimidation, harassment and bullying. I wonder how busy she is. I wonder whether she picked up the phone and called the member for Surfers Paradise, after he just could not help himself. I wonder whether she rang him up and said, 'Member for Surfers Paradise, uh-uh'. You could not help yourself, but I believe—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, through the chair, please.

Ms GRACE: I believe that his wife, a very good woman whom I know very well, served it out to him at home. It is good to know that he was sorted out.

At the top of the list of things we might do to help regional communities is stopping the cuts in workers' penalty rates. Those cuts come straight out of the take-home pay of low-income workers who rely on penalty rates to make ends meet and provide some compensation for missing out on time spent with family and friends on the weekend. Last year, it was a five per cent cut; in future years, we may see annual cuts of 10 to 15 per cent; and, in total, penalty rates have been slashed by 25 to 50 per cent in the space of three years. Per worker, we are talking about cuts of \$40 to \$127 a week. That adds up to between close to \$2,000 and up to \$6,000 a year. Those amounts are ripped out of regional centres.

I urge all regional members on the other side to pick up the phone, call Kelly O'Dwyer and tell her to support stopping those cuts, because they will hurt communities throughout Queensland. On this side of the House we will do all we can. I look forward to raising the issue with the federal minister, but I urge all regional members opposite to pick up the phone and stand up for Queensland workers once and for all.

North Stradbroke Island

Dr ROBINSON: My question is to the Premier. Under Labor's plan to rush to end mining by 2019, North Stradbroke Island has suffered hundreds of lost jobs and hundreds of indirect jobs have been put at risk. With only two of 23 promised projects completed under the former minister, Mr Dick, will the Premier finally be honest with the people and admit that Labor's green dream has become a nightmare for North Stradbroke Island residents?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. On this side of the House, we are very proud of our environmental record and I am very proud of my government's commitment to end sandmining on North Stradbroke Island. As I said previously, we also know that there was some criticism about ending logging on Fraser Island under the Goss government, but now it is a World Heritage listed area—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater and member for Oodgeroo, in particular, you have asked the question and I would like to hear the Premier's response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On 1 September 2016, we announced 23 projects to be implemented over five years with \$24.75 million in state funding and \$3.87 million in additional and in-kind funding. We are working with the Quandamooka, as we should be, on one project and the remaining 22 projects we have either contracted or otherwise commenced.

In relation to workers, I can advise that, as at 30 June this year, \$317,000 has been paid to 59 former and current Sibelco employees and one employer under the scheme. The employment service manager has met with 121 workers. Of the former workers, nine have gained employment: three full-time, three casual and three on contract. Of the nine in employment, five are based on North Stradbroke Island and four are based on the mainland. We will continue to work with those workers—

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, you are warned under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we know, incredible tourism opportunities will come to this state. We need only look at the tourism figures to see the growth in Chinese tourist numbers. With the development of Queen's Wharf, discussions are already underway about linkages to North Stradbroke Island, to take tourists there. In 2020, the opening of the second runway will see a doubling in the capacity of the number of airlines that can come into Queensland, through Brisbane. We are going to see a huge influx of tourists.

I see a very proud environmental and tourism legacy for North Stradbroke Island. We will work collectively with everybody for the very best for the island, now and into the future. I urge those opposite to open their minds and their hearts to a better future for North Stradbroke Island—a future that is focused on tourism and that will deliver even more tourism economic benefits to Queensland for many years to come.

(Time expired)

Northern Gold Coast, Traffic Congestion

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to reduce traffic and congestion on the northern Gold Coast?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am sorry, Minister; please resume your seat.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I think that is a good idea, member for Coomera. The minister had not even got to his feet and there were interjections. Members, I ask you to allow the minister an opportunity to answer the question.

Mr BAILEY: This government is committed to the M1 and to dealing with the transport challenges of the northern Gold Coast. After not a single new dollar was spent on the M1 under the previous government, this government has four upgrades fully funded and we are also dealing with short-term issues.

I was very happy to meet with Deputy Mayor Donna Gates recently to discuss these issues. I am very happy to announce today that this government is investing \$1½ million in works to start later this month on the Pimpama exit 39 northbound off-ramp.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: One would think that those opposite would want to listen to the details of the investment in the M1 and the northern Gold Coast, but apparently the opposition do not want to do that. These works will create more capacity at the northbound off-ramp and also involve the installation of roundabout metering at the Rifle Range Road and Yawalpah Road roundabouts. Roundabout metering technology will control the flow of traffic at the roundabouts and reduce the need for motorists to queue on the M1 shoulder, which we often see at peak hour.

We are investing in the M1 and investing in the growth of the northern Gold Coast corridor. I am also happy to announce today that last week I signed off on the program of works that will lead to the gazettal of the final section of land required for the Coomera Connector. This means that we are on track to gazette this whole corridor—one that was stopped and blocked by those opposite when they were in government. We will not be doing the same thing.

What we see is investment in the Gold Coast and the M1 by the Palaszczuk government. This is unlike the member for Burleigh, who has been exposed for holidaying in Canada and the United States instead of looking after the residents of the Gold Coast. I quote from his interview with Steve Austin yesterday. He said—

I did a cruise and I have got to tell people it was wonderful.

It gets better. He also said—

I don't think I've particularly done anything wrong.

He is skipping parliament for a cruise in Canada and the United States. I understand he ran into Christine Smith in Seattle. That has just been released on social media. What are the odds of it? You would think you would run into the member for Burleigh in Burleigh, not in Seattle.

The damning part of this is when the member for Burleigh said, 'I kept in touch with the opposition office.' The question is: did he have permission from the Leader of the Opposition to skip parliament or did he just defy the leader? We have a weak Leader of the Opposition who will not do anything about a frontbencher who is on holidays, cruising and having a wonderful time, when he should be representing the people of Burleigh in this place. He is arrogant and out of touch. He should resign.

(Time expired)

Fardon, Mr RJ

Mr SORENSEN: My question is to the Minister for Women. With the Labor government about to set Queensland's worst sex offender into the community on an honesty system, will the Minister for Women say what message this sends to the victims of Robert John Fardon that Labor prioritises his civil liberties over women's safety?

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.42 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 44:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 46:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad.

Pair: Whiting, Perrett.

Resolved in the negative.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.47 am), by leave, without notice: In accordance with sessional order 2B, and notwithstanding anything in the standing and sessional orders, I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time for each bill and motion specified:
 - (a) the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 6 hours to complete all stages on this day's sitting, with the following changes to today's program applying should the bill not complete all stages by 6.30 pm:
 - i. the sitting will extend beyond the automatic adjournment,
 - ii. the House will break for dinner from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm today,
 - iii. 2(a), (b) and (c) of this motion will apply at the expiration of the time allocated for this bill, and
 - iv. the automatic adjournment will commence upon completion of all stages of the bill.
 - (b) the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages;
 - (c) the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-In Tariff) Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages; and
 - (d) the motion standing in the name of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts proposing the revocation of protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, a maximum of 30 minutes for debate.
2. If the nominated stage of each bill in (1)(b) and (c) or motion has not been completed by the allocated time specified or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 20 September 2018, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (b) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (c) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

At the outset I would like to acknowledge that, despite the uproar by those opposite during debate on this motion in the last sitting week, the subsequent cooperation of all honourable members to get on with the bills at hand and undertake the debate in a civil and cooperative manner should be commended. The time to debate all bills in the last sitting week was less than what was set in the Business Committee motion which is a positive early indication that the new process is working.


In setting the time frames outlined in the motion for debate which will occur this week, consideration has been given to the contents of the bills, the outcomes of the relevant parliamentary committees' consideration and any proposed or likely amendments.

The committee report on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 had one recommendation—that the bill be passed—and no statement of reservation. Additionally, there will be amendments moved in consideration in detail which were foreshadowed yesterday and this morning. I also note that the opposition and members of the crossbench have had the opportunity of a briefing on these amendments. Following the discussion at the Business Committee meeting last night, the motion before the House has incorporated additional time for this bill at the request of the non-government members due to the amendments which will be moved in consideration in detail.

Additionally, due to the significance of this legislation we will be debating today, the House will sit past the scheduled adjournment to ensure that the bill reaches its conclusion today. As much as we have taken on board the views of those in the committee to expand the time for this debate, we also recognise the importance of having this legislation passed in a timely way and the government's program to have this legislation completed today.

Finally, the committee report on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill had one recommendation and a statement of reservation, which I understand the minister will be addressing. Finally, the committee report on the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill had one recommendation—that the bill be passed—and a statement of reservation, although it was attached to the former parliament's consideration of the legislation.

In setting the time for the revocation to be moved by Minister Enoch, consideration has been given to the contents of the revocation and the previous four revocations which were moved in this chamber over the past two years which averaged approximately 35 minutes. I look forward to a constructive and fruitful contribution to this debate by those opposite and I urge all members to support this motion. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.52 am): Again we see that this parliament has become the personal plaything of the Premier and the Palaszczuk Labor government as they come in here and do as they please with disregard for every other member in this House. That is what they do. The Leader of the House has just said that it worked so well last sitting that it is a good indication that the new process is working. If it is such a good indication that it is working, why are we now back, as we were two sitting weeks ago, not having an automatic adjournment? We are sitting past when the House is meant to adjourn. It is chaos in this place. It is absolute chaos because they cannot get their act together.

Early on in the year we had the family-friendly hours so members of parliament can go home. Then we have had three debates since where we extended the sittings past the family-friendly hours because it was important to be here. Then last sitting week we went back to the important family-friendly hours. Now we are going back to sitting past seven o'clock because family-friendly hours do not apply today because it does not suit the government. It is an absolutely chaotic, shambolic mess.

Then the Premier stood in here this morning and tabled, during a ministerial statement, amendments that the minister is supposedly going to make to legislation dealing with the worst of the worst child sex offenders in the state of Queensland and said that the legislation must be passed today, but they say that it has nothing to do with a particular individual in our community or in supervised detention. They say that it has nothing to do with that individual but we must pass it today. We must have it urgently debated, not as a bill on its own but as amendments tagged on to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that we are going to be debating later today.

We have just seen the Leader of the Opposition try to move a motion without notice in this House to introduce really tough legislation dealing with all sex offenders.

Dr Miles: Invalid legislation.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. 'Invalid', he calls, like he is sitting in the High Court in Canberra. The Minister for Health was yelling out, 'Invalid.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, Minister for Health! Order, members! While this debate can be quite lively, we need to respect the speaker on his feet.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will tell the Minister for Health this—

Mr Mander: He's a doctor. He'd know!

Mr BLEIJIE: He is a doctor of unions. He wrote his thesis on the union movement. I will tell the good doctor this: the LNP will do whatever we can to keep violent sexual predators and offenders off our streets and out of our communities. If that means going before the courts and trying and trying and trying, we will because we will not—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take personal offence at the hand gesture the Minister for Tourism just made. I ask her to withdraw.

Ms JONES: I withdraw but I do not think you should have invalid law.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister—

Ms JONES: I withdraw unconditionally.

Mr Mickelberg: You're a disgrace—absolutely disgraceful behaviour!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, the Speaker this morning gave a warning across the chamber that that will not be accepted. Member for Buderim, you are now warned under standing orders. Minister for Education, you have withdrawn. You do not need to add anything further to it. Do you have anything to add?

Ms JONES: No.


Mr BLEIJIE: The government cannot get their own house in order. We have seen amendments just tabled by the Premier and the government will not even afford the opposition the opportunity to cogently debate the tough laws that we will introduce into this place. The only reason they need to finish their bill tonight dealing with child sex offenders, not all violent sex offenders—as was noted by the member for Mudgeeraba, women who are raped by sickos in this community will not be covered by Labor's laws. Yes, they are targeting child sex offenders, but they are not targeting all violent sex offenders. The LNP's laws will target all violent sex offenders including child sex offenders.

I ask the government: why are they okay to target child sex offenders but they are oblivious and okay with the idea that violent sex offenders against adult women are able to roam free in the state of Queensland and are able to live next door to people? The Attorney-General was once asked in this place when she announced the bail-house law, 'Would you be happy for one of the offenders in the bail house to live next door to you?' and she replied, 'Yes.' Would the Attorney-General be happy for one of these sicko, violent, monstrous sex offenders to live next door to her or to live next door to the Premier? I suspect it will be a very different answer to the one she gave about the bail-house offenders.

The whole point is that the opposition should be able to introduce this law today. We will keep at the forefront of our minds the safety of the Queensland community. The safety of the Queensland community should be paramount and the priority of all governments and all members of parliament. We will continue to do that and we will continue to put laws in place to keep the community safe. This parliament is chaotic under the Premier.

(Time expired)


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, there are a number of members who have already been warned, and I will read through that list. They are the members for Redcliffe, Mundingburra, Nanango, Nicklin, Glass House, Everton, Cooper, Woodridge, Oodgeroo and now Buderim.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.59 am): At the last sitting during this debate I urged the member for Kawana, for the benefit of his own backbench, to come to the parliamentary Business Committee meetings with some feedback about which bills the opposition would like to spend more time on—which bills there would be more speakers on. I am pleased to say that he has taken that on board. As a result of his contribution as well as the very valuable contribution of the member for Noosa, the government has adjusted the times for debate this week based on that feedback. As the Attorney-General and Leader of the House has outlined, that will allow proper debate on three important bills including extra time for the police powers bill and proposed amendments as well as a revocation motion to be moved by the environment minister as well as the regular parliamentary business of the week. The last time we debated such a motion the member for Kawana said—

Never in the history of this parliament have we had to debate a motion that outlines what we are allowed to speak about and how long we are allowed to speak about it.

He said 'never in the history of this parliament' but, in fact, during the term of the Newman government 17 such motions were moved, six of them by the member for Kawana. The member for Kawana moved six such motions that he said had never before been moved. The value of these sessional orders were proven last sitting and they will be proven even more effective this sitting week. I congratulate the Leader of the House for her leadership in introducing them.

In opposing them, the member for Kawana consistently says that he wants members of his caucus to be able to speak about whatever matters to their electorates. We just finished question time. There are three big issues facing Queensland right now and there was not a single question on the drought, there was not a single question on aged care and there was not a single question on the strawberry contamination crisis facing our farmers. The member for Glass House sat silent and did not ask a single question. If they cared so much about the issues affecting their electorate, why would they not ask questions about those electorates? That was the worst question time performance we have seen from this opposition yet. No doubt it will only get worse this week. I commend the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.02 pm): I rise to speak in this debate about the ongoing quest by this Labor government to have a part-time parliament. Today we will be talking about amending laws which are incredibly serious. This is a piece of legislation which every member of this House should have the right to speak to. The Attorney-General and Leader of the House has allocated six hours for this debate. Six hours, on a quick calculation, means if we are lucky we will have 30 speakers. That means less than one-third of this parliament can speak on what is an incredibly significant bill.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. This is a bill that has not been to a committee. It has not had any scrutiny whatsoever. The only scrutiny that will take place is in the debate today—six hours on an incredibly serious bill. We saw during question time today that there are so many questions left unanswered by the government about this law and these amendments.

According to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the embattled police minister comes here today to say that these serious child sex offenders could have GPS trackers. Under the LNP's proposed laws they will have GPS trackers. That is the difference between people who talk tough but who do not back it up. They could have GPS tracking whereas with us they will have GPS tracking.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Minister for Police! Member for Mudgeeraba! Member for Everton, you have the call.

Mr MANDER: That is the first point of contention. As the Manager of Opposition Business has already mentioned, the government's legislation importantly targets child sex offenders but we believe that it should go beyond that. All serious sexual offenders should be under the same tough laws. They should also have GPS trackers on as a matter of course.

The other point of contention is that the Labor government's proposed laws talk about self-reporting. These are people who have been in jail for the most despicable crimes and this government is expecting them to follow an honesty system—that they are going to report voluntarily to the authorities. Despite the fact that they have evil desires which they cannot control, they are expecting these people to self-report. Under the LNP's proposed legislation we would have supervision orders. We would know where they are and we would know that the public is safe from these people.

An opposition member: Real-time tracking.

Mr MANDER: And have real-time tracking—I take that interjection as well. The other issue that is a real concern, as the Manager of Opposition Business has already brought up, is where these people are going to go. Where are they going to put these people? What communities are going to have living next door to them people who have spent 20 or 30 years in jail—people whom most of the community believes should never be released? We have to make the laws that we have at the moment tougher. We have to make them more stringent. Labor talks tough. It talked tough on the bikie laws and what do we see now? The bikies are operating in total defiance of this government's supposedly tough laws, and the same thing will happen under these laws as well. All we are asking for is an opportunity to exercise our democratic right to represent our constituents in what is a very serious debate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek advice on that before making a ruling. Member for Everton, your motion is out of order.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 48:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.


Pair: Whiting, Perrett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 June (see p. 1422).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services)
(12.14 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has examined the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and tabled its report on 9 August. I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its consideration of the bill and for the valuable work that that committee undertakes. I also express my gratitude for the work undertaken by the committee secretariat, key stakeholders who made submissions to the committee, and Commissioner Ian Stewart and the entire Queensland Police Service team who took part in the public briefing on this bill and the preparation of the work associated with it. In its report, the committee made one recommendation, namely, that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support of the bill.

I propose to move amendments to the bill during the consideration in detail of the bill. These amendments relate to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 and have been circulated in my name. These proposed amendments are required to ensure that those offenders who will no longer be subject to orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 and who have ever been convicted of a reportable offence will automatically be required to report under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004.

This government steadfastly believes the safety of the Queensland community is paramount. The amendments that I intend to move are not intended to be punitive but, rather, are about community safety. We will not tolerate a situation where an offender who has committed serious sexual offences against a child and who has, additionally, been determined by the Supreme Court of Queensland to be a serious danger to the community transitions from the stringent control of a dangerous prisoner detention or supervision order to no monitoring or control whatsoever. The amendments will ensure that any dangerous prisoner with a history of child sex offences is captured under the Queensland child protection scheme and will be a reportable offender for the remainder of their life.

Further, the amendments will require these offenders to make an initial report to the Police Commissioner within 24 hours. This will ensure a seamless transition of offenders from monitoring and supervision by Queensland Corrective Services to the Queensland Police Service. This category of offenders will also be required to report any change of residence or locality where they can generally be found within 24 hours of the change occurring. We are acting decisively and quickly to ensure that into the future an appropriate level of protection for the Queensland community is maintained.

Mr Speaker, I will now return to the bill as it stands, and I thank you for the opportunity to outline the benefits of these new laws in keeping Queenslanders safe. One of the most significant features of this bill is the new legislative power for police to apply to a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate for a high-risk missing person warrant. A missing person warrant will allow police to search a place for a high-risk missing person or for information about their disappearance. The bill provides that a high-risk missing person is a missing person who is under the age of 13 years or who is categorised as high risk as they may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible.

In determining whether a missing person may suffer serious harm, police and the courts may have regard to factors such as: the person's age; any disability or impairment they may have; evidence the person may commit suicide; any history of domestic violence; whether the missing person is experiencing any financial problems; and any suspicious circumstances relating to the person's disappearance, for instance, if the missing person suddenly stopped their normal banking or social activities.

The judge or magistrate, when deciding the application for a missing person warrant, must have regard to: the nature and seriousness of the disappearance of the missing person; the likely extent of interference to be caused to the occupier of the place; the time for which it is reasonable to maintain a missing person scene; and any submissions made by the occupier of the place. The judge or magistrate may issue the missing person warrant if satisfied the missing person is high risk; and for a place that is the person's residence, place of employment or vehicle, they must reasonably suspect the person may be at the place, or that an inspection of the place may provide information about the person's disappearance; or for any other place, they must reasonably believe the person may be at the place, or that an inspection of the place may provide information about the person's disappearance; and the judge or magistrate must also be satisfied that it is reasonably necessary to exercise the missing person powers at the place.

In urgent circumstances the missing person warrant, which is in force for up to 48 hours, can be applied for as soon as reasonably practicable after establishing the missing person scene. Prior to applying for a missing person warrant or establishing a missing person scene in urgent circumstances, investigating police must obtain the prior authorisation of a commissioned police officer. A commissioned police officer is a police officer above the rank of inspector.

It needs to be stressed that in most instances relatives, friends and employers of high-risk missing persons freely provide police with every assistance to enter and search the missing persons residence, place of employment or vehicle to locate the person or obtain information as to their whereabouts. The bill before the House simply provides police with the legislative option to search a place for a high-risk missing person or for information about their disappearance when police are unable to establish that an offence has been committed against the missing person or when consent to search those places cannot be obtained or is not provided. It is about ensuring that our front-line police investigators have the necessary powers and tools to investigate high-risk missing person cases, particularly in the early critical stages of a disappearance.

This government always strives to strike a reasonable balance between the need for police to investigate and solve crimes and the protection of the community and individual rights and liberties. We have achieved this balance in a number of ways. The bill requires police to obtain authorisation from a commissioned police officer prior to applying to a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate for the missing person warrant or to establish a missing person scene in urgent circumstances. Where practicable, police will be required to electronically record the use of these new missing person powers. Further, the Crime and Corruption Commission will conduct a review of the new system five years after commencement.

Queensland has been a leader among other Australian jurisdictions in developing these amendments. This legislation will enhance police investigations into high-risk missing persons. Importantly, it has the potential to save lives—the lives of members of our community when they are most vulnerable, and I have every confidence that these laws will do just that.

Another significant feature of the bill is modernising the manner in which crime scenes are dealt with by front-line police. This bill dispenses with multiple definitions of crime scenes and introduces the new term 'crime scene threshold offence'. The crime scene threshold offence will be an indictable offence punishable by a maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment or an offence involving deprivation of liberty. Currently, police are only allowed to exercise crime scene powers for offences that impose a maximum penalty of not less than seven years imprisonment. This will ensure that police on the front line are able to secure and protect scenes for serious crimes such as stalking or discharging a firearm through public places. These offences are not captured under current crime scene legislation.

These amendments will not affect existing crime scene legislative safeguards. For example, police must apply to a Supreme Court judge or magistrate for a crime scene warrant. Further, in relation to crime scenes the bill provides that police will be able to seek a judicial order for access information to storage devices such as mobile phones and computers seized at crime scenes. Access information is information such as the PIN code or password to the storage device. This will ensure that police have access to storage devices seized at crime scenes so they can properly investigate these serious crime scene threshold offences. This aspect of the bill reflects the existing power police have under a search warrant to require specified persons to provide access information to their storage devices.

The bill will also strengthen the information requirements contained in the evasion offence notice under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Currently, if a driver of a motor vehicle fails to stop for a police vehicle, police can serve an evasion offence notice on the registered owner of that vehicle if it can assist in the investigation. This bill places additional information requirements on the registered owner of the vehicle when served with an evasion offence notice such as: where the owner was when the evasion offence happened; the usual location of the vehicle when it is not being used; the name and address of each person, including a potential driver known by the owner to have access to drive the vehicle when the evasion offence happened; how each potential driver has access to drive the vehicle; how frequently each potential driver normally uses the vehicle and for how long each potential driver normally uses the vehicle; and whether each potential driver uses the vehicle in connection with a business or for private use. On occasions where the owner of the vehicle is not the driver, this additional information will assist police in ensuring that offending drivers are brought to justice.


Having drivers held accountable for their actions is a key factor in making our communities a safer place. This additional information is part of the government response to the 2011 recommendation in the then Crime and Misconduct Commission's report *An alternative to pursuit: a review of the evade police provisions*. The bill also includes a new simple offence where the driver or nominated person fails to provide a statutory declaration in response to an evasion offence notice. The new offence is punishable by a maximum of 100 penalty units.

Our government makes no apologies for strengthening the powers needed by front-line police to investigate and solve evasion offences. Drivers who wilfully evade police interception place all road users at serious risk of harm, and the amendments in this bill go a long way to addressing this concern. It is important to note these amendments have also received a strong endorsement from Professor Geoffrey Alpert, who is an international expert in his field. Professor Alpert says, among other things, 'It is such an important bill and it will protect the police and the public.'

The remainder of the bill modernises police powers and provides efficiencies for police and Parole Board Queensland. These remaining amendments include: clarifying that a numberplate confiscation notice can be attached to a vehicle subject to impoundment even if the vehicle has no numberplates attached; a new simple offence for owners of vehicles subject to a numberplate confiscation notice not to modify, sell or dispose of the vehicle; allowing police to search a person detained for breaching the peace when they are to be transported by police; allowing police to transport a person in order to photograph them for a police banning notice; a new simple offence when a person assaults or obstructs a civilian watch-house officer; separating the offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer into two distinct offences to improve information capture; including unlawful bookmaking offences under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 as controlled operations and controlled activity offences in schedules 2 and 5 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act; including 10 Commonwealth child sex offences as reportable offences under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004; including two child sex offences as prescribed internet offences under section 21B of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act; allowing a notice to appear for traffic offences to be posted to the most recent address; removing the necessity to prove instruments of delegation for police, transport and state penalty prosecutions; standardising the issue of a fail to appear warrant by the court under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act; enabling Parole Board Queensland to directly consider and decide a request from the chief executive for immediate suspension of parole; enabling the cancellation of a prescribed prisoner's parole order by Parole Board Queensland sitting as three members rather than five; and for life sentence prisoners whose parole has been refused, extending the period of time in which the prisoner can make a further application for parole from six months to not more than 12 months.

Every part of this bill serves to protect the community and provide police and Parole Board Queensland with stronger, better legislative tools to do what they do best: keep us all safe. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Toowoomba North, I acknowledge that we have in the gallery today student leaders and the principal of Craigslea State High School in the electorate of Aspley, represented by Bart Mellish.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, introduced to the House by the police minister on 12 June. That date is very relevant. I will come to the substantive parts of the bill, but first I want to address the amendments that have been foreshadowed. These amendments should have been part of this bill from the start and, ultimately, this bill should have started a long time ago. The community has known for a long time—in fact, for the entire term of this government—that Mr Fardon would be released. The government should have been taking action to protect the people of Queensland, particularly the children of Queensland, who are vulnerable to a predator such as this. For many years the government has sat on its hands rather than deal with this issue.

Interestingly enough, this came immediately following our shadow Attorney-General releasing a plan for how to protect the most vulnerable in our community—a robust plan, a plan that has real teeth and does not include the words ‘could’ and ‘may’ but ‘will’, a much more definite plan for how to deal with this kind of offender. What we see with the foreshadowed amendments is a last-minute, last-ditch attempt by the government to look tough on crime, but the community of Queensland knows differently. It knows, as all people have known, that Fardon will be released—we have known at the very least for the three years and eight months of this government—yet government members walk in here today and present some last-minute amendments that have not been scrutinised through the committee process. People were not able to make submissions to test the robustness of the amendments. They have done a slapdash job to come up with a plan that is much more about spin than action.

With the impending release of one of Queensland’s most notorious sex offenders, Robert John Fardon, Labor has been caught out without a plan. The Attorney-General can dress it up any way she likes, but the fact is that unless something is done this week Labor is relying on an appeal to keep Fardon under a strict supervision order. Otherwise, he will be released into the community unsupervised on 3 October. That is the real reason we have seen this charade today of standing orders being changed yet again, after having the automatic guillotine fall on our heads on every other occasion. This is an important issue. This is an issue that should be debated. This issue should have been addressed by this government over the past three years and eight months, because we have known the release date for as long as this government has been in power. Yet this government has come into this House with amendments at the last minute, after it has heard that we have a substantive plan with some teeth to deal with this kind of offender.

If these amendments are not related to Fardon, why are they being rushed through the House today, without going to committee and with an extension to Labor’s family-friendly hours? Why has that all happened today if it is not to deal specifically with Fardon? We all know that it is—and so do all of the journalists. What have we seen with Labor’s proposed amendments? We have seen a lot of spin and a lot of tough talk but not very tough laws. What we have seen here is symptomatic of a government that has been caught out trying to play catch-up and trying to compensate for its inaction over its entire term.

Interestingly, the embattled—as described by the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—police minister has hidden away while the Attorney-General does all the talking on Labor’s amendments, despite the fact that they are amendments to a police bill and we see further police acts amended. It speaks volumes about how little credibility this minister has, not only in the community but also with the Premier’s office, that the Attorney-General has taken the media lead in this campaign. We have seen a lot of additions to the government’s media team, but the police minister’s media team can take a back seat while the Attorney-General has to do all the talking on the public sales pitch.

Mrs D’Ath interjected.

Mr WATTS: Don’t get me wrong: what Labor is proposing is an improvement on the current laws, but they are not as tough as government members are making out in the media and they are not as tough as the LNP’s laws. They certainly will not solve this problem in the long term.

What we know is that under Labor’s proposal GPS monitoring is not guaranteed. It will only happen once it has been court sanctioned, after a dangerous prisoner has been released and the person has satisfied a police application that they have committed ‘concerning conduct’, and that conduct is to be captured by the police. I want to be very clear here: there is an offender who we all know is due to be released on 3 October who previously took just 20 days after release to commit a most heinous crime. I am concerned that these laws would not deal with someone who was so

obsessed and so deranged that they would go and commit this type of offence. To say in the media that these offenders will be GPS tracked for the rest of their lives is a complete fabrication. It is not guaranteed at all, and it needs to pass a number of tests to be court sanctioned. That can only occur once the police and the courts are satisfied that the offender has committed concerning conduct.

Also, amendment 2 provides that a reportable offender may apply to the Supreme Court to suspend their reporting obligations after 15 years since a DPSO order lapsed or they were released from detention. That means Fardon could be free from any reporting obligations 15 years after 3 October. If his supervision order expires on that day, he could be free of any obligation in 15 years from 3 October. It is not for the rest of his life, and that is certainly not a guarantee.

Labor's proposed amendments are an honesty system for the worst of the worst repeat sex offenders, who regularly thumb their noses at police, the courts and the laws that this House has passed. These are not people who comply and follow guidance. This is an honesty system—a system where they have to self-report various changes. As I said earlier, these amendments do slightly improve on current laws but they are not as tough as is being made out in the media. That is why Labor is so desperate to block the LNP's much tougher legal framework.

The other part of the amendments—it has been spoken about—is that there will be some funding, but my concern is that we have seen cut after cut to police funding by this government. It has slashed the Police budget. It has not kept pace with the population growth in Queensland. It certainly has reduced the Police budget from when the LNP was in government as a percentage of overall revenue.

At the moment I am very concerned that the police will not have the resources to be able to manage this kind of offender in an appropriate manner. Those are some things that concern me greatly about the amendments that have been put here today. These amendments should have gone to the committee and should have been put through a rigorous process because these are the most heinous criminals in our system, yet coming in here at the last minute to try to fix it up is not the government doing its job. If the government was doing its job then it would have been dealing with this at least three years ago, knowing the impending date is approaching. It comes in here at five minutes to midnight with a stopgap measure that has not gone through a robust process, that has a great level of concern for the community and that has a great many holes punched in it.

Let me go to the substantive part of the bill because, principally, the bill will help our Police Service do its job in Queensland. I note the committee's recommendation that the bill be passed and I thank the committee for the work it has done in relation to this bill. The objective of the bill is to enhance the efficiency and the quality of our front-line police services and ensuring the Police Service remains responsive to contemporary community needs. The bill makes a number of amendments to various pieces of legislation and, as the minister has said, the majority of the amendments go towards altering the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

If the bill is passed the Queensland Police Service can access a number of additional powers. Police will have greater powers when investigating a missing person, and that is a good thing; to establish a missing persons scene before obtaining a missing persons warrant, so to establish a crime scene their powers will be increased and enhanced; to access a locked storage device such as a locked mobile phone or a laptop; and to detain and transport a person who is subject to a police banning notice to a police vehicle, watch house or police station to take their photograph. These are just some of the increased powers police will have access to.

There are also amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 which will assist the Parole Board Queensland to undertake its business more efficiently. These amendments will allow the Parole Board Queensland to consider a request for immediate suspension of a person's parole order and issue a warrant, and that is a good thing; remove the requirement for a prescribed board member to issue a warrant for a prisoner's arrest if the prescribed board member decides to suspend the parole order; and allow the Parole Board Queensland, sitting as three members, to consider the cancellation of a prescribed prisoner's parole order.

There are new offences in the bill, such as the offence for assaulting or obstructing a civilian watch-house officer, as well as the separation of the offence of assaulting and obstructing a police officer into two distinct offences. These are all good things that the police obviously would like to have. This bill provides for those things and that is why we will be supporting the bill. Amendments have also been proposed to enhance parole powers and these will include, as I have already said, allowing the Parole Board Queensland or a prescribed board member to consider an immediate parole order suspension and issue a warrant.

Several people provided submissions to the committee. It would have been nice if the amendments that were brought in today were available for those people to provide submissions on, because I think their comments and submissions would have been very useful in testing their robustness and potentially finding ways to strengthen those rushed, eleventh-hour amendments. As I will discuss in more detail later, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association expressed serious concerns that the proposed amendments go towards inflating police powers and urged for limits to be placed on these powers to ensure they are not misused. I clearly hear the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association, but I do support the increase in these powers.

One of the proposed amendments, as I mentioned earlier, introduces a new framework to assist police in a missing persons investigation. The bill seeks to insert a new high-risk missing persons provision which empowers officers to establish a missing persons scene for a high-risk missing person without first obtaining a warrant, and I think that is a good thing. The person may be considered high risk if they are under 13 or there is a reasonable suspicion the person may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible. An example of the factors that may be taken into account include a person's financial circumstances, a reason the person may want to go missing, or any suspicious circumstances relating to the person's disappearance. Both the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland hold serious concerns about these amendments, considering them to be broad and subjective, creating the potential for misuse, and a policy that fails to be backed by evidence. It will be incumbent on the police to make sure they have robust procedures so that their concerns do not come to fruition.

Concerns were also raised about the civil rights and liberties of owners and occupiers that may be unduly infringed—for example, where a resident is displaced from their home for four days or where a business owner is adversely affected because of restricted access to their business. The Queensland Police Service has stressed that in balancing police powers with the rights and liberties of individuals the balance will be achieved as a result of police electronically recording the use of high-risk missing persons powers by the use of body worn cameras or audio recorders. The police need far more body worn cameras and audio recorders to be able to do their job safely and effectively around Queensland. I would urge the minister to ensure that every one of our serving officers has a device such as that as they go about their job.

The crime scene threshold offence has been proposed to be reduced to an indictable offence with a maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment instead of the current prescribed seven years imprisonment. The Bar Association of Queensland has serious reservations about broadening the range of suspected offences, stating that it will result in most offences in the Criminal Code being included rather than only the most serious offences. Ultimately, broadening the range of suspected offences will enliven the crime scene powers. Applied correctly by the police, this is a good thing because the police will be able to do their job more effectively with these powers.

The widening of powers relating to police access to a locked storage device has also caused some debate. Under the proposed amendments, police may apply for a judicial order requiring access approval for a locked storage device that has been seized under a crime scene warrant. The Bar Association of Queensland has serious reservations about investigating police being able to access information on storage devices located at a crime scene without first obtaining a search warrant, placing emphasis on the low threshold proposed for a crime scene threshold offence. That is just a caution from the Bar Association of Queensland and I am sure the police will take the appropriate measures to ensure those cautions are heeded.

The Queensland Law Society also did not support the proposed amendment, placing emphasis on the lack of the words 'only accessible' which would therefore broaden police powers further, allowing them to demand access to passwords for applications and subscriptions for any computer connected to the internet, whether or not it had a connection to the place or to the device.

This legislation contains some broad powers for the police and I support the police getting these powers. They need to be used in a considered way and I think they will lead to a safer community. Again, that is why we will be supporting these powers.

At face value, police powers are certainly commendable. However, the police need more than just legislation and they need more than just words; they need to be funded. We know that the number of police in our Police Service has dropped from 245 police per 100,000 people when the LNP was in government to 242 police per 100,000 people under the current regime. Police numbers are not keeping pace with population growth. The LNP has a vision to ensure that the police have the ability to deliver a safe and secure community.

Ms Boyd: Relevance.

Mr WATTS: I take that injection. The relevance is that police not only need to have the powers but also need to have the numbers and the budget to be able to use those powers. It could not be more relevant that the police have the budget and the powers to be able to apply the laws that are passed in this House. There is no point passing laws in this House if the police do not have the financial capacity to use those powers to investigate matters. The budget is absolutely relevant.

I thank the member for Pine Rivers for embarrassing herself by not understanding and for clearly articulating Labor's position that it does not care about the budget because it does not think it is relevant to the police officers being able to do their job. If I were the member, I would talk to the minister. According to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the minister is 'embattled'. Throughout the state, we see the crime rate rising, but the member for Pine Rivers comes into this place and tells us that the Police budget is not relevant. The number of police officers per head of population is going down. The Police budget as a percentage of overall revenue is going down yet, according to the member for Pine Rivers, that is not relevant to the increase in the crime rate in Queensland across-the-board. I advise the member for Pine Rivers to go back to her community—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order, members!

An honourable member interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said 'Order' and you are talking over me.

An honourable member interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need your direction, thank you very much.

An honourable member interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate that and I do not need your direction.

Mr WATTS: The Labor government stripped \$44 million from this year's budget for the police. We also know that it underspent last year's budget for the police, causing across the two years, on its own budget outcomes, an \$80 million shortfall. We also know that, if this Labor government had maintained funding at the same percentage of the overall budget of the former LNP government, there would be \$137 million per year more in the Police budget.

I believe very much that, although these police powers are important, that \$137 million per year would mean that the police would have a discretionary budget to pursue the crime drivers. By the time the electricity, the offices, the overtime, the fuel for the cars and all the other fixed costs are paid for out of the Police budget to run the Police Service, the discretionary budget that is left is where the police can really attack the crime drivers, where the police can run an operation that will make a difference.

This year's Police budget has been reduced by \$44 million compared to the Police budget last year. However, in comparison to the former LNP government's budget, the Police budget has been reduced by an equivalent \$137 million a year. That shows that Labor is not really serious about addressing crime. It shows that crime is not a priority. The minister has shown himself to be weak at the cabinet table when the budget is being divided up between the various ministers. As a percentage of overall revenue, this police minister's budget is going down whilst the crime rate in Queensland is going up. The unlawful use of a motor vehicle has risen by 19 per cent, homicide has risen by 14 per cent, unlawful entries have risen by 12 per cent and assaults have risen by 11 per cent. In Townsville alone, armed robbery offences have jumped 126 per cent. These are the government's own statistics and I am talking about the government's budget.

We know that law and order is not a priority for this government. Although elements of this bill are good for our police in that they will help our police do their job, they really need to have the discretionary budget to resource themselves both with personnel and equipment to do their job in the most effective way. The minister needs to get back to the cabinet table, go back to the Treasurer, and fight for those funds to ensure that the police can keep our community safe. In Queensland, being tough on crime means the government prioritising crime and not cutting the Police budget by \$44 million this year, let alone cutting the \$137 million from the Police budget of the former LNP government.

I am glad the member for Pine Rivers interjected, because not everybody would see clearly the link between legislation that helps the police and the financial resources that allows the Police Service to employ the people it needs to do its job. The minister can say that there is no correlation between those two issues, but, since the Police budget has gone down, across the state we have seen the crime rate go up. We have good people trying to get to work, dropping their kids off at school and having their car stolen.

The police need these powers. The enhanced evade police powers in this bill are a good thing because we know that particularly recidivist criminals have been using the current evade police powers as a way to escape. We know that it has been difficult to identify the driver who evades police. This element of the bill is important, but the police also need the resources to be able to pursue these people. They need to have the financial capacity; they need the officers on the ground to make sure that our community is safe.

I will refer to some of the amendments but, before I get to that, I want to talk about the prison system in Queensland. We know that the prison system in Queensland is operating at 131 per cent—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is not relevant to the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, Leader of the House. I am listening very closely and it seems that you have strayed into a completely different portfolio area. For the remainder of your time, I ask that you keep your contribution relevant.

Mr WATTS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The reason our prison system is relevant to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is that, when people commit a crime, we put them in prison. If they are found guilty of an indictable offence that carries a prison penalty, that is where we put them.

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I continue to listen closely to the contribution. I am hoping that you can finish it by the one o'clock lunchbreak. I know that the member for Surfers Paradise will be keen for his one o'clock lunchbreak. I ask you to continue staying on point.

Mr WATTS: I am absolutely happy to be staying on point and be relevant. It looks like everybody wants me to come back at three o'clock for my final couple of minutes. That must be why they are interjecting. Prisons are the appropriate place to keep our most dangerous and restricted prisoners. When they get out of prison, it should not be because our prison system is overcrowded and cannot cope. Our community should not be put in danger because our prison system has not had the investment that it needs. Making sure that people are released on probation and parole in an appropriate manner and they are supervised in the community is incredibly important for the safety of our community.

These rushed amendments relate to our most heinous prisoners who are on supervision orders. At the eleventh hour, this government has rushed in this legislation to try to ensure that it can be seen in the community to be doing something. We know that this legislation could have been introduced at any time during the past three years and eight months. We also know that this legislation is weak and proves that Labor is soft on crime.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Public Safety



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): It is my firm belief that the first responsibility of any government is to protect the public. It is a principle that is supported by the Liberal National Party. It is a principle that is supported by millions of Queenslanders. Modern governments have a huge number of responsibilities, but the safety of the public remains the most important to them. The public expects politicians to keep them safe from those who would harm them. The Liberal National Party will always keep our families safe, our streets safe and our communities safe.

In government we recruited more than 800 extra police and we gave them the tools to fight crime, we gave the victims a voice, we introduced the toughest sex offender laws in Australia, we increased the non-parole period for murder to 20 years and we smashed Queensland's outlaw motorcycle gangs. We made community safety a priority. When the Supreme Court rejected an application to extend the supervision order on Robert Fardon, the LNP was deeply concerned. We immediately urged the government to pursue all available avenues to ensure his supervision continued. The Attorney-General and the Premier dithered for days before saying they would appeal the decision. When we asked the Premier what she would do if the appeal failed, the Premier refused point blank to answer that question.

There was no valid reason for the Premier not to respond. The Premier chose—let me say that again: the Premier of this state chose—to say nothing. That is what we have come to expect from this open and apparently transparent government. What a joke!

While Labor dithers on crime, the LNP acts. We all know urgent action is needed. The Labor Party is reluctant to link legislation with any identified individual. Let us be open and transparent. The bill we had hoped to put before parliament today has been prompted by the possible end of the supervision order imposed on Robert John Fardon. Labor seems to have forgotten that the Attorney-General herself has already made a public statement on this case naming this man. The Attorney-General's statement said, 'I want Robert Fardon to be strictly supervised in the community.'

Mr Bleijie: She didn't?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She did. I take that interjection. That is the quote from the Attorney-General.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When the opposition wants to talk about this individual, Labor says that this topic should be off limits. The LNP will discuss this problem and we will act on it, too, because that is our job. I am not worried by Labor's lectures, but I am afraid about what might happen if this man is released unsupervised into the community. Let us put the facts on the table: Fardon has sexually abused and raped children. Fardon has wounded children. Just 20 days after he was released from prison in 1988 he raped and brutally assaulted a woman. The women and children of Queensland—all of them—have the right to be safe from offenders like this man. The rights of victims should matter. The rights of victims should matter more than the rights of repeated rapists.

The LNP will defend those rights with the Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill. Unlike the legislation the panicking Palaszczuk government announced yesterday, the LNP's bill will keep people like Robert Fardon's supervision order in place. Our bill will apply to all violent repeat sexual offenders. I am happy to repeat that: the LNP's bill will apply to all violent repeat sexual offenders. That is the distinct difference between what is in our bill and what is contained in the Labor bill.

The LNP bill will also include indefinite GPS tracking of all violent repeat sexual offenders. We heard in this chamber today the police minister say that under the Labor bill it could have a GPS tracker. Under the LNP's bill it would have a GPS tracker. That is the difference. While Labor may think that introducing this bill is a step in the right direction, it simply does not go far enough. If Labor's bill is enacted it will still allow Fardon to be freed from the strict supervision he is now subject to. The LNP's much stronger bill has rattled the Palaszczuk government but they protest too much. They are so sensitive because they know that they have dropped the ball on protecting the public.

If those opposite were honest with Queenslanders it would not have been down to the opposition to have to initiate this legislation. Labor should have been faster. What have those opposite been doing? They should have been first out of the blocks. This is a government that rests on its record and that record is being soft on crime. The government is so out of touch with community sentiment, so out of touch with community, it is soft on crime.

The evidence is overwhelming. Under this Palaszczuk government assaults have increased by 31 per cent. Under this Palaszczuk government robberies have increased by 63 per cent. Under this Palaszczuk government armed robbery is up by 47 per cent. That is what Labor has achieved in its four years. It is a shocking record of failure. Is it any wonder that the bikies are back under this Palaszczuk government? It was the LNP that ran the bikies out of town, but under Labor they are back and they are doing doughnuts in front of our police stations.

Mr Mander: Open defiance.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. Those people, those thugs, those criminals, are laughing in the face of these incompetent Labor members. Again we saw the dithering of Labor when the brute who fatally bashed toddler Mason Jet Lee was jailed for a non-parole period of just six years.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a matter of sub judice. It is before the courts on appeal.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, order! I am taking advice from the Clerk. Members, thank you for your patience. We want to make sure that we get these decisions right before we make a ruling. Under the advice I have received from both the Clerk and the Attorney-General, I suggest we do not make reference to that case.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 233 with respect to sub judice. My understanding is that in the case mentioned judgement has been given. The Attorney may well have appealed it, but the Court of Criminal Appeal has not referred it back to the trial division for a new trial. I fail to understand how it is sub judice when it clearly refers to if a judgement has been made—which it has—and standing order 233(2) states—

This Standing Order shall cease to have effect when the verdict and sentence have been announced or judgement given—which was the case in the original sentence—

but shall again have effect should a Court of Criminal Appeal order a new trial.

That has not happened.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney, can you please advise at what point we are at with that particular decision?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am still seeking advice, to which you will listen as well.

Mrs D'ATH: I am aware that the appeal has been lodged. I am not aware that the matter has been listed, at this stage.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I have made very clear my expectation. I was taking advice and I needed you to listen in silence. That will continue. Attorney, do you need to add anything?

Mrs D'ATH: I was also going to draw attention to standing order 233(1), which talks about members exercising care 'to avoid saying inside the House that which would be regarded as contempt of court outside the House and could jeopardise court proceedings'. The Leader of the Opposition, as a former lawyer, should know better than to be talking about these matters.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, you will not debate across the chamber when I am taking advice. I was still taking advice from the Attorney. That was continuing. You do not need to discuss that. Members, thank you for your consideration. I have taken extensive advice, as you have seen. The Clerk has advised me that the sub judice rule will not apply in this situation.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, once I have made a decision I do not need you to affirm that decision. I make it very clear in my rulings. I will make sure that we conduct this debate with the respect that it needs. The decision has been made. My apologies, Leader of the Opposition. A decision has been made. There is no further discussion around that.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Unlike those on the other side, the law school I went to was at the university for the real world. It was a university that actually gets out and listens to the people in our communities. Whose side are they on?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I see the minister laughing at the Attorney-General behind her. She is going, 'You should've gone to the university that I went to.' The community has spoken. The community demanded action. The community and the LNP demanded action. It took the dithering Palaszczuk government way too long to step up and do something. It is no wonder they are laughing on the other side. It is no wonder they are embarrassed. They should be embarrassed, because this government is soft on crime and does not understand community sentiment.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Leader of the Opposition. I am specifically speaking to those members on the non-government side.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Not only is the Palaszczuk government embarrassed about how soft on crime they are and the effect on our community; they are so arrogant that they will not even allow the LNP's alternative legislation to be discussed here in this parliament. That brings shame on this government. It is a shame they are so soft on crime.

Wage Theft

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.17 pm): On 11 September, I was pleased to attend the state parliament's wage theft inquiry when the committee undertaking that inquiry came to Ipswich. The inquiry is being undertaken by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, chaired by the member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard. The committee has been tasked with investigating the incidence of wage theft in Queensland; the impact of wage theft on workers, businesses, the economy and the community; the reasons why wage theft is occurring; the effectiveness of the regulatory framework; and the options for ensuring that wage theft is eradicated.

Already we know that this issue has been affecting a large number of people not just in Ipswich but also throughout Queensland. Wage theft can involve payment under the minimum wage or appropriate award, non-payment of overtime or penalty rates, non-payment of superannuation, the use of sham contracting arrangements to misclassify employees as independent contractors and a range of other means of denying workers their due wages and entitlements. The more evidence that the committee can gather from people affected by wage theft, the better equipped it is to advise the Palaszczuk government how it can tackle the problem and move forward.

At the Ipswich hearing, witnesses included Ronnie Weston and James Cottrell-Dormer of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union, the AMIEU, which represents meat workers. As Mr Weston advised the committee, the meat-processing industry is the largest manufacturing industry in Australia and the largest in Queensland. The industry contributes \$16 billion yearly to our national economy and \$5 billion to the Queensland economy. In Queensland, it employs over 18,000 people and very often is the largest employer in regional centres of Queensland.

Mr Weston advised the committee that AMIEU has been involved with many cases of blatant wage theft. He shared with the inquiry various examples of wage theft and the problems the AMIEU had to deal with to seek justice for its members. Sadly, as Mr Weston said, these examples were just a snapshot of the widespread problem of wage theft in Queensland.


Time and time again the AMIEU has had to confront employers about wage theft claims on behalf of its members. While the AMIEU has had considerable success in reclaiming stolen wages for its members that have amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, they submitted to the inquiry that there needs to be strong punitive measures in place to stop wage theft.

Mr Weston also advised the committee that there is one common denominator when it comes to wage theft from AMIEU members, and that is labour hire. In most cases it almost always involves overseas visa workers. Too many labour hire workers are being treated like second-class citizens with lower wages, worse conditions and no job security.

Insecure labour hire work makes it harder for these workers to pay their rent and their bills. Without a permanent job with decent wages, labour hire workers are often locked out of the housing market and unable to buy their own family home. In addition, labour hire workers are especially vulnerable to having little or no say at work, being ripped off or paid less, missing out on workplace training, being easily fired and, when they are injured at work, not being permitted to return to their place of work when they recover.

I want to encourage anyone who might be interested in sharing their experience with regard to wage theft to speak up and tell their story. A public survey on this issue will remain open on the inquiry website until 4 pm on 30 September 2018. I am very pleased to be part of a government that is addressing this very important issue through this inquiry. I would like to thank Ronnie Weston and James Cottrell-Dormer of AMIEU and the other submitters to the wage theft inquiry as well as the committee members, the committee secretariat and Hansard. I look forward to reading the wage theft inquiry report, which is due to be tabled by 16 November. In closing, I would like once again to thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for bringing the wage theft inquiry to Ipswich and for putting a spotlight on this very important issue.

CFMEU

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.22 pm): The union movement, particularly the CFMEU, is running amok around construction sites all throughout Queensland. We have seen time and time again in the courts—both in the Federal Court and the Federal Circuit Court—unions described by judges as lawless. Essentially now their modus operandi is to break the law. I am glad the federal government and the new Prime Minister are looking at completely deregistering the CFMEU in Australia because their modus operandi is to disrupt construction sites. We know that Queenslanders pay an extra 30 per cent on their hospitals and their schools when the CFMEU is involved. It is industrial sabotage.

We have seen in the last two weeks former CFMEU official Jade Ingham appointed to the lofty office of the Building and Construction Commission—another job for their CFMEU mates. We have seen him appointed there. We have also seen him negotiating the salaries in the EBA for the Queen's Wharf development. An average carpenter will start off at \$203,000 a year. If they work past three o'clock in the afternoon their salary goes to \$288,000 a year. The only reason that EB has been negotiated is because the CFMEU said to the construction industry, 'You give us this in the EB and we will not have industrial action against your company.' It is blackmail. It is a rort. It is verging on criminal activity.

We have seen a situation in the last few weeks with a company called Enco. They have a few jobs doing federal government work like the Caloundra Road interchange and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. Enco does precast material. They have never had the CFMEU on their site. All of a sudden, because they have a contract to deliver services for the federal government, the CFMEU rocks up at their door and tries to shut down their site. The CFMEU knows that if they shut down that site they shut down the project that the federal government and the taxpayers are paying for.

What is more concerning, particularly as a former minister for workplace health and safety and industrial relations, is that it seems now that Workplace Health and Safety are on speed dial to the CFMEU in Queensland. In particular, a director named Helen Burgess is now rocking up at construction sites and workplaces. Not only that, she is taking action against employers in the Industrial Relations Commission of Queensland and doing the union bidding. It is happening with Enco.

I was told the other day that a CFMEU official turned up to a Sunshine Coast construction site having had his permit deregistered by the Fair Work Commission. He was rightfully refused entry. They got on the phone to Workplace Health and Safety and 10 minutes later director of Workplace Health and Safety, Helen Burgess, turned up from Brisbane. That is the quickest trip on the Bruce Highway from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast. Helen Burgess was around the corner waiting for the CFMEU call to get them onto the site. That is wrong.

The department should be investigated. It is wrong when the union movement is using Workplace Health and Safety directors to do their dirty work on construction sites in Queensland. Is it any wonder people are walking away from the union movement? A key finding in the Menzies Research Centre policy brief released this month states—


- Membership in the union movements former blue collar strongholds in manufacturing, transport, warehousing and construction has sharply declined in the last 40 years
- Union membership has declined from a peak of 65% of the workforce more than fifty years ago to 14.55% per cent ...

People are voting with their feet and walking away from the union moment. We have 15 per cent of the total workforce in unions and less than 10 per cent in the private sector.

The Heart Foundation reported recently that 14 per cent of Australians smoked daily and another two per cent irregularly between 2014 and 2015. This confirms that more people smoke in Australia than are members of the union movement. That shows that the courts are seeing action against the CFMEU. The Labor Party should dissociate from the unions. The Workplace Health and Safety office should be investigated for interference in the independence of workplace health and safety.

(Time expired)

Regional Projects Forum

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.27 pm): Last Thursday, on behalf of the Minister for State Development, I had the honour of officially opening the Regional Projects Forum for the South-East Queensland west region. This is the fifth annual event for the region held by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The forum highlights the significant regional

projects providing strong foundations for new industry, regional economic growth, supply chain opportunities and, importantly, jobs for local businesses and workers. More than 200 representatives from regional businesses attended this year's event, and why wouldn't they? The South-East Queensland west region is in a prime position.

According to recent data from Cordell Connect, more than 2,000 construction projects are in the proposal-to-commencement stage in the South-East Queensland west and Brisbane region, ranging in value from \$130,000 to \$6 billion. The Palaszczuk government is committed to strengthening the region's economy by creating jobs and growth and ensuring that those businesses are aware of upcoming opportunities and how to best take advantage of them.

From this year's budget, the Palaszczuk government will directly support the Ipswich region with more than \$1 billion for productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works, estimated to support around 2,000 jobs. We will spend \$607 million on the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service and \$63.8 million on maintenance and capital works projects for schools in the region.

We have delivered \$21 million for training over the past three years to increase workforce participation through the \$420 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. We are spending \$59 million for Back to Work in South-East Queensland, including an additional \$20.5 million to support employment in areas facing significant labour market challenges. Ipswich will also benefit from \$679 million for redevelopments at the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals.

One of the biggest game-changers coming to this region is the development of our nation's next generation defence production facility at Redbank. This \$170 million Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, known as the Milvehcoe, will support 300 jobs during the two-year construction period and 450 once operational. This state-of-the-art manufacturing facility will be an asset of national significance.

The Milvehcoe will be Rheinmetall Defence Australia's headquarters for Australia and New Zealand and the company's largest presence outside of Germany, right here in the heart of the largest heavy vehicle manufacturing and sustainment precinct in the country. The Milvehcoe will manage the delivery and sustainment of the 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles under the \$5.2 billion Land 400 phase 2 contract and will also accommodate Rheinmetall's other defence projects.

The Palaszczuk government's vision of a 10,000-person-strong, \$7 billion defence industries sector by 2028 is being driven by our government's Defence Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, which underpins \$15 million in industry development programs. The Milvehcoe and the corridor of capability stretching from the Brisbane Airport through to RAAF Base Amberley will be compelling support for Rheinmetall's bid for the Army's \$15 billion phase 3 Land 400 contract due to be decided early next year.

This was but one of the major projects highlighted at the forum that is driving jobs and growth in the Ipswich region. Of course, these projects are about more than just the very valuable jobs they will create. They are also about training opportunities, expanded skills and more supply chain expertise that will serve our region well into the future. This major projects forum held in our region has been replicated across the state and is helping to advance Queensland's regional communities.

I want to pay tribute to the Minister for State Development for the work that his department is doing in this area. We actually believe in supporting regional communities, not through empty promises and talking down the economy like those opposite but through actively supporting real and meaningful major projects that are strengthening regional economies and through important programs like Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work—valuable programs that we know are supporting Queenslanders to find jobs and real opportunities across our state.

GPS Tracking System



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.31 pm): The *Gold Coast Bulletin* has been running a chilling investigation into the GPS tracking system in Queensland. As this investigation progressed, every day a new flaw and a new failing in this system is coming to light. Labor is putting victims and the community at risk. The investigation revealed only two Gold Coast perpetrators have been fitted with a GPS device, and across the state only 10 tracking devices have been placed on DV offenders. This is despite the police compiling a 'long list' of thugs capable of killing their ex-partners.

On the Gold Coast the police are aware and are monitoring at least a dozen women living in fear because predators are not being tracked. Accused criminals ordered to wear GPS ankle trackers while on bail have been walking free for seven days because police cannot get the device to the Gold Coast

in time. The minister has continually proclaimed that the trackers are 'available whenever and wherever the courts order'. Recently two magistrates in the Gold Coast DV court ordered trackers to be fitted in two different cases only to be told it would take seven days for police to get one from Brisbane. The Gold Coast is Queensland's second largest city. We all know the M1 is in traffic gridlock due to Labor's failure to lay even a metre of tar over the past 3½ years in government, but it does not take seven days to drive the M1!

We learnt that offenders are being monitored by a private operator in the United Kingdom, and it is unknown if this monitoring is 24/7 because the minister refused to divulge the staffing arrangements of the contractor and the GPS operates in only near real time. These facts directly contradict the embattled Minister for Police, who has repeatedly claimed that the GPS trackers were 'monitored around the clock, every second of the day'. Clearly, he does not know what he is talking about.

Why would we expect the minister to show any initiative on this issue when his own leader chooses to play the blame game? When asked why these devices are being monitored from overseas and why they are not readily available on the Gold Coast, the Premier chose to blame the court. She said, 'It's actually the court that directs that and not the police minister.' It is disappointing but not surprising to see this government pass the buck on domestic violence.

Given the response and the minister's refusal to acknowledge the flaws identified, it is clear that domestic and sexual violence is not a priority for Labor. Perhaps the most worrying revelation to come out of the *Gold Coast Bulletin's* investigation is that not all offenders are subjected to prohibited areas. Some may only be as a condition of bail and can remain just 100 metres from a victim's home. Worse, victims are not monitored by police when they move out of an alleged offender's no-go zone and, when network access is unavailable, the device cannot communicate the location of the tracked person.

Women contact me all the time because they do not believe or trust Labor with domestic violence matters. They are in fear of their lives and all say that more needs to be done to protect them and their families. The GPS tracking system for domestic violence offenders was initiated by the LNP as part of our landmark domestic violence legislation. This legislation proved to be some of the toughest domestic violence laws in Australia. We recognised the importance of tracking DV thugs who are granted bail as a way of ensuring victims and the community as a whole are safe.

In my time dealing with DV issues I have heard too many horror stories of perpetrators harassing, intimidating and threatening their victims after they have been granted bail. Even after the LNP brought in stricter bail laws following the death of Teresa Bradford, we are still seeing dangerous offenders released on bail and without GPS trackers to protect victims. Labor could not even get the rollout of our tough DV laws right and are concentrating on giving additional leave to wife bashers instead.

The member for Gaven, instead of shamelessly championing wife bashers on the Gold Coast, should be concentrating on keeping women safe. Maybe the member for Gaven should meet the families of murdered Gold Coast women as I have—women whose names should never be forgotten such as Kym Cobby, Teresa Bradford, Shelsea Schilling, Melinda Homer, Karina Lock, Tara Brown, Fabiana Palhares, Renee Carter, Anthea Mari and Sherelle Locke.

As a survivor of domestic violence myself, I understand the lifelong effects which these families live with on a daily basis. GPS tracking systems are a lifeline for scared victims and their families. It is too important for Labor to bungle, as they do most other things. I refuse to sit back and watch this government mismanage this scheme. There are lives on the line.

Maryborough Electorate



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (2.36 pm): I rise to give a snapshot of the Maryborough electorate since the Palaszczuk government came to power in 2015—and what a difference! First, I will talk about the Maryborough Hospital. The Maryborough Hospital has had significant upgrades since the Palaszczuk government came to power. That is what the Palaszczuk government is doing—reinvesting in regional Queensland.

I see the former minister for health here today. I put on the record my thanks to him for his great support for the Maryborough Hospital when he was the health minister. He started the ball rolling with all of the upgrades and his continual support of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service district. The current health minister, the member for Murrumba, has picked up the ball and run with it as well. It is all good news for the Maryborough Hospital.

While I am on my feet talking about the Maryborough Hospital, on 31 August I was privileged to go with the CEO of the WBHHS and flick on the switch for the new CT scanner for the Maryborough Hospital. That CT scanner will make a huge difference to the people of Maryborough. This CT scanner was an LNP election promise in 2012. They promised it but did they deliver it? No! It was the Palaszczuk government that delivered the CT scanner in 2018. It was an election promise in 2017 and we delivered it in 2018. That is how quickly we on this side of the House act in regional Queensland.

This CT scanner will save 500 people a year going to Hervey Bay for CT scans. The big thing about that besides inconvenience is that it costs \$1,200 every time they have to send a patient to Hervey Bay. It took staff away from the hospital and it tied up resources. Now with this investment from the Palaszczuk Labor government we have a great CT scanner in the hospital. Not only that, the \$10 million upgrade to the A&E is on track. It started with the removal of the asbestos from the building. That is what this government is doing.

We hear from that side of the House all the time that we are not delivering. Maybe they should come and have a look at what we are delivering in Maryborough. I would also like to thank the chair of the WBHHS, Peta Jamieson, and her board. I have a fantastic board. There are two great members from the Maryborough electorate in Simone Xouris and Trevor Dixon, who work well with the CEO. We are delivering great health care in the Maryborough electorate. I am proud to say that since the Palaszczuk government came to power the Maryborough Hospital has gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

When looking around the Maryborough electorate we see the Works for Queensland projects happening in the Maryborough CBD. The Maryborough CBD was in all sorts of trouble until the Palaszczuk government came in with the Works for Queensland program. With Works for Queensland working in with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, the footpaths are being done up and the CBD looks absolutely brilliant now.

You know as a government when you are doing something right. A few weeks ago I was walking to the markets and a lady came up to me on a wheelie walker. Since the Palaszczuk government came to power, she has been able to come into the CBD because we have new footpaths and new parking bays. That is what we do: we improve the lives of people.


Then we move on to Howard and Torbanlea. The Palaszczuk government is investing about \$10 million into a new Howard police station and fire station. If members want to see a great police station in a regional town, they should come and have a look at Howard. I see the police minister nodding. It is an absolutely fantastic facility.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection from the police minister. It is a modern-day police station. This station replaced a station that was built in 1893, and it is absolutely magnificent. We have a great fire station beside it. We will have rural fire and eventually we will move up to an auxiliary station there. The SES is involved also. This will service the Burrum district for the next 40 years or so. It is a fantastic facility. I was happy to drive past it the other day. I took a photo of it and posted it on Facebook. Everyone in Howard is jumping up and down and cannot wait for it to open.

Another thing happening in the city of Maryborough is the \$4.5 million performing arts theatre at Maryborough State High School. I was at Maryborough State High School on the weekend for the HPV technology challenge. What a great asset this building is going to be not only for Maryborough State High School but for all schools in the Maryborough electorate. This is what the Palaszczuk government is doing. We are delivering for regional Queensland and creating jobs. We are not being negative Nellies.

Strawberry Industry

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.41 pm): The strawberry contamination is a terrifying sabotage campaign that has far-reaching consequences across an industry that contributes around \$130 million to the Queensland economy. We are all angry and I am sure that we in this House will all ensure the full weight of the law is brought down on the culprit or culprits behind this sabotage. They will be brought to justice.

This direct sabotage has sent the strawberry industry into chaos. Jobs are at stake and livelihoods may be lost. Queensland grows about 600 hectares of strawberries each year and there are approximately 150 growers involved in the industry in our state. Their farms range in size from 5,000 to five million plants. This is big business for some and the livelihoods of so many. This has to be the most soul-destroying situation ever faced by the strawberry industry.

The first discovery of a needle in a punnet of strawberries was in Burpengary, just down the road from my electorate. Since then reports of needles or pins in strawberries have occurred in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT and, more recently, Western Australia. Two of the farms affected by this sabotage are located within my electorate of Pumicestone, these being Oasis Berries and Delightful Berries.

This morning a young woman by the name of Stephanie, the daughter of the owners of Donnybrook Berries, posted a video of tonnes of beautiful strawberries being dumped. Stephanie wrote a gut-wrenching message which I would like to read. She said—

This is no doubt the worst thing to ever happen to my family. This here is a video of our strawberries being dumped, this here is worth more than you could ever imagine and within 3 days we lost it all.

My mum and my step dad have worked years to build the empire they're sitting on now, they put all their money and effort in to build such a successful business.

They work hard to make the money for our family and to have these selfish individuals destroy it is just so upsetting.


My mum works day through to the night, controlling the shed and her 250 employees, making sure her strawberries are packed to perfection.

This will not stop my family from doing what they do best. If anything they're going to do better.

Indeed they will, Stephanie. Stephanie's post and video have now made their way to the *Courier-Mail* where it is reported a strawberry graveyard has been captured on film and this tragic reality of the needle sabotage crisis continues to unravel. I urge all members to watch this video which depicts the stark reality of what has occurred.

I, like many other Queenslanders, was pleased to see the opposition leader, Deb Frecklington, on Sunday urging the public to support our strawberry growers by continuing to buy strawberries. I want Oasis Berries and Delightful Berries in my electorate to know that my family will continue to buy, eat and enjoy their luscious fruit grown not far from our home. I call on everyone in the Pumicestone electorate to continue to support these businesses—to buy and eat locally grown strawberries. We know, as the growers do too, that we must be vigilant and cut the berries up before consuming them just as I did over the weekend for my family. The Queensland government needs to stand beside our strawberry growers—don't let them go—just as the LNP will be.

Central Queensland, Works for Queensland

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.45 pm): The availability of secure, fairly paid jobs is central to the wellbeing and future of every Queenslander. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a growing economy that delivers jobs, infrastructure and a better quality of living for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government's \$600 million Works for Queensland program is delivering just that in the Central Queensland region. This program has created or supported 990 jobs so far across Rockhampton, Livingstone, Woorabinda and Central Highlands regions.

The latest data underlines the value to our local economies of this important initiative. Works for Queensland has pumped \$32.8 million into 124 approved local government projects in Central Queensland including \$1.37 million towards the redevelopment of the 42nd Battalion Memorial Pool in North Rockhampton—local children, teenagers and even the big kids amongst us are absolutely loving the new water slides; \$1.7 million towards the Svendsen Road upgrade which is now fully sealed and open to cars and trailers accessing the Coorooman Creek boat ramp—which, might I add, the Palaszczuk government invested \$550,000 in to double the number of lanes at the ramp; and \$590,000 in the latest round of Works for Queensland and almost another \$400,000 in the previous round, taking us to a total of almost \$1 million to improve the resilience of rural roads to flood, including Dairy Inn Road, Mount Chalmers Road, Dry Weather Road, Glen Prairie Road, Hoys Road, Madges Road, Sleipner Road and Thompson Point Road. There is a whole raft of others that I could mention as well. I am sure that the residents along those roads are very pleased, and some of them have told me that they are very impressed by the works.

A total of \$1.15 million has been allocated to build the Fraser Park Canopy Walk at Mount Archer, which is a new elevated boardwalk up the mountain which sits cantilevered 7.5 metres off the side of the mountain and provides a breathtaking view of Rockhampton and surrounding areas. It is thanks to Works for Queensland that locals and visitors alike are enjoying this amazing new attraction. I am excited to open stage 2 of this project next week.

Every one of these Works for Queensland projects are making our communities more attractive and a better place to live and work. Works for Queensland continues to enhance facilities, stimulate the economy and provide jobs for hundreds of people across the region—990 now, in fact. Across the state more than 11,500 regional Queenslanders have gained jobs as a direct result of the program and that number continues to grow. The program is great for council workers, great for tradies and great for the businesses that supply the materials used. It has funded essential infrastructure upgrades across our region and enabled local governments to bring forward ambitious plans for new facilities.


Works for Queensland delivers on one of our key election commitments to create and support jobs. Since the 2015 election, the Palaszczuk government has worked with business and industry to create 177,500 jobs across Queensland. The ABS's latest labour force data shows that in the past month we have created another 7,100 jobs across Queensland. This is the strongest rate of jobs growth in the country this month. This is the 23rd straight month of trend jobs growth with thousands more people finding work this month alone.

It is also very encouraging to see a significant rise in full-time jobs across Queensland. We know that having a secure, reliable full-time job is important to not just the health of our economy but also the wellbeing of working people. I am very proud that the latest data shows the trend unemployment rate in the Fitzroy region has dropped by 0.7 per cent to 6.7 per cent. The best news is that the Fitzroy youth unemployment rate has dropped by 1.7 per cent to 11.9 per cent. There is still work that needs to be done, but we are heading in the right direction.

NAB's Monthly Business Survey, released this week, shows trend business conditions in Queensland to be the highest of the mainland states and trend business confidence the second highest. The Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland program is growing jobs and stimulating our local economy in Central Queensland. The program has already supported over 990 jobs, which is well in excess of the 816 jobs that local government forecast the program to generate. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more jobs, more infrastructure and more funding for regional Queensland. Works for Queensland supports these jobs and builds stronger local economies, and we are seeing evidence of that in Central Queensland at the moment.

The Works for Queensland program is unashamedly a program about growing jobs and our local economy. This is about jobs. This is what Queenslanders want to hear about. They want to hear about our government's plans for jobs and that is what we are delivering. My No. 1 priority is growing jobs in Keppel and growing our local economy. The Palaszczuk government is getting local people in Keppel back to work through programs like Works for Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the LNP when they were in government. We hire Queenslanders; all the LNP did was fire Queenslanders.

Access to Justice

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.50 pm): Disputes are an inevitable part of life, whether personal, business or within community organisations. We do not seek them. However, they can be difficult to avoid. At times it is just an annoyance. At other times, it is much more than that. It is a house for which someone has saved for a lifetime to build, a pool that they have finally gotten the loan for or an amount of money that will bankrupt them or leave them destitute.

In the vast majority of disputes, residents manage to resolve the situation themselves. However, there is the other side. It is called the insurmountable wall: refusals to negotiate, cooperate or mediate; operators that simply disappear or ignore phone calls; loss of sleep through worry about their and their family's financial wellbeing; anger and frustration; physical and mental health begins to suffer, leading to loss of capacity to work and even marriage breakdowns. Where do they turn to get help? For many, a lawyer can be too expensive. However, their income disqualifies them for the limited legal aid available. Being an unrepresented litigant in a court or tribunal of first instance in Queensland can be a daunting, emotive and confusing affair. Many of us do not even know where to start when we have run out of all other options dealing directly with a person or organisation we are in dispute with. It is tough to clearly articulate the relevant issues when you are so emotionally invested in the outcome and are already under heavy duress.

These heartbreaking issues come across electorate desks daily in Queensland. I need to emphasise that I have the utmost respect for the judiciary and our judicial officers. I am not here to criticise or comment on their decisions and role in what is an increasingly disputing society. The issue I want to raise today is access to the justice system and the knowledge and access to information needed to traverse an ever-increasing difficult space. We have constituents who have let statutes of limitation run because they did not know they existed or have suffered due to procedural irregularities of a government decision and did not know where to go.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Sorry, for the interruption. Members in the chamber, there is far too much audible conversation. Take your conversations outside or cease them please.


Ms BOLTON: By the time constituents seek help from us they are angry, exacerbated and often broken in mind and spirit simply because they did not have access to the resources they needed to help themselves effectively.

The crux of this issue is twofold: one, legal aid funding and access to legal aid; and, two, funding for first instance tribunals and courts. First, there is a massive gap in legal aid funding. This relates both to access under current eligibility rules and the scope of eligibility. Perhaps it is time to review legal aid and develop access options. This could include working out partial subsidies based on income for those who are not eligible for a full subsidy or even a flat rate advice fee. However, that cannot be addressed until those who are currently eligible to deliver these services receive adequate funding. Legal aid should be viewed as a social service with social and economic benefits, rather than simply a sunk cost. Resolving disputes quickly and economically retains productivity and prevents anguish and mental health issues that ultimately cost our society so much more.

Second, there is a lack of funding for first instance courts and tribunals. These bodies offer an extremely valuable resource to our residents at limited or no cost to users. Often first instance courts and tribunals provide alternative dispute resolution services such as mediation to avoid the need for costly litigation. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal annual report for 2016-17 makes reference to falling clearance rates, static funding and an ever-increasing case load. We need to be investing more resources into bodies such as QCAT to ensure Queenslanders have access to effective, economical justice. Prevention is much more cost-effective than the alternatives we are currently seeing.

We all want to believe the best in the people we deal with on a day-to-day basis, and the majority are wonderful. However, sometimes we encounter those who do not have our best interests at heart. In these instances we need help. In Queensland that help is getting harder to access without stronger, better funded services such as legal aid and QCAT.

Space Industry

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.55 pm): I can report today that things are looking up for the space industry in Australia and Queensland. The space industry provides a whole new level in advanced manufacturing, and Queensland is leading the nation in the development of space support services. The space industry is part of the knowledge economy and it is already creating the jobs of the 21st and 22nd centuries right here for Queenslanders. Today we have heard that 177,000 Queenslanders' jobs have been created during the term of the Palaszczuk government, and we can help create many more jobs for Queenslanders in this industry. This industry is one that already generates revenues of between \$3 billion and \$4 billion in Australia and it already employs 10,000 people throughout Australia.

The space industry means jobs for Queenslanders. That is the central focus of the space industry inquiry announced by the Minister for State Development last week. I thank him for that opportunity; I am going to be really proud and excited to chair this inquiry. My first task was to attend the space industry forum at the University of Queensland on Tuesday, 11 September, hosted by the Space Industry Association of Australia. I found there the first indication of the enormous jobs and business potential of this industry for Queensland. At that forum, attended by well over 100 Queenslanders, I announced that my plans were to have the first public hearing of that committee at the University of Queensland on Friday, 19 November. I called on them to put in submissions, which are now due by 11 October. I think it is a fitting location as the University of Queensland has been at the centre of space research and education for well over 30 years in this state.

The speakers at this forum spoke of the opportunities that will open up for industry in Queensland. We heard from Ms Pam Melroy, former NASA space shuttle commander and Director of Space Technology and Policy, Nova Systems Australia, who shared her insights into the space industry. She reminded us that Canada had set themselves the task of dominating the robotics part of that industry, and they are well on the way to doing that. She pointed out that in a similar fashion, Queensland and Australia could be world leaders in remote access assets for space given our expertise in mining in harsh conditions and remote mining. There is also an opportunity for Queensland industry to 'space qualify hardware', that is, putting equipment through every possible harsh test before it is sent into space.

We also heard from Dr Jason Armstrong from Boeing Research & Technology in Brisbane, as he described the opportunities with virtual reality labs, centred here in Queensland, that can be used to train personnel for space. We also heard from Professor Michael Smart from the HyShot program and Hypersonics at the University of Queensland, who outlined what Queensland has already achieved with scramjets. For 30 years we have led the world in the development of this new technology which one day will put small payloads into space with reusable rockets. Some of these satellites are just 25 kilograms or smaller in weight. He said that we can expect to see 6,000 launches over the next 10 years around the world for these kinds of instruments. These satellites generally have a life span of two to four years. Honourable members should think about the opportunities that that presents.

At the forum I met so many other Queenslanders who are really keen to develop this industry. Crucially, I found many were educated in Queensland. They want to come back and create their own start-ups and build their businesses. Some have gone on to study at other universities including Harvard, and others have worked at NASA. All believe we can create a space industry right here in Queensland. All these people at the forum wanted to play a role in the inquiry. They want to tell us how Queensland can develop the supply chains for the Australian space industry. At the forum it was very clear that there can be regional opportunities for Queensland from this industry as well. We want to hear where we have space based sensing services and support, data analysis and space system design and manufacturing opportunities here in Queensland.

Let me conclude by pointing out how quickly things are moving in the space industry at the moment. We have to move quickly to capture these job opportunities. We now have a federal space agency that is just 12 weeks old. In Queensland we now have a space industry reference group to guide the development of the Queensland space industry. The inaugural aerospace advisor and chair of the space industry reference group is Air Vice-Marshal (Ret) Neil Hart AM, and he will really help out with our inquiry as well. Let us not forget that the Queensland Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan was launched in June 2018. The space industry means jobs for Queenslanders now and in the future. We are going to make sure we grab these opportunities for all of Queensland.


POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2489, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, there is far too much audible conversation. Take it outside or cease.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.01 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As the daughter of an ex-Gold Coast police officer, I know how important it is that we give our men and women in blue the powers they need to keep our communities safe. However, I am also very mindful of the need to have legislation that is consistent with our Constitution and strikes the right balance between a person's rights and the need to hold offenders to account. I believe that this bill addresses both of those points.

My office has received a number of complaints about hooning over the last few months. We have had some horrible incidents in my electorate where hoons have smashed into homes and stationary vehicles and then fled. People are rightfully concerned about their safety, both on the roads and in their homes. I know that our police do a great job with the resources and legislative framework they have, and this bill aims to strengthen those powers in relation to the evade police provisions. We know that police investigations into offences where the driver of a motor vehicle fails to stop at the direction of a police officer in a police vehicle often results in the offence remaining unsolved. This is primarily due to police not being able to identify the driver at the time of the offence.

Between 2014 and 2016 the number of reported evade police offences has increased from 3,249 to 5,031. In 2017 there were 4,628 reported instances of evade police offences. From the period 2014 to 2017 the percentage of unsolved evade police offences increased from 46 per cent to 63 per cent. We know that drivers evade police interceptions for a number of reasons. For example, the driver may be unlicensed, intoxicated or have committed an offence and is evading police to prevent capture. Research suggests that drivers who evade police tend to have extensive traffic and criminal histories, and these types of offences are more difficult to deter than drivers with no offence history.

The QPS pursuit policy encourages alternative options for apprehension other than pursuing drivers who evade police interception. This is due to risk based factors including the potential danger posed to members of the public, police officers and occupants of the fleeing vehicle. While I can certainly see the validity in this policy, the issue has been that when police allow a vehicle to flee—and in doing so avoid a potentially dangerous pursuit—the police may not know or be able to positively identify the driver at the time of the incident.

To address this concern, this bill provides police with investigative powers and tools to identify the driver of a fleeing offending vehicle without the need to engage in a pursuit. These include the power to serve an evasion offence notice on the registered owner of the vehicle that requires the owner to provide certain information to investigating police. In particular, when the owner is served with an evasion offence notice by the police and they do not know who the driver was, the owner will now be required to provide additional information in a statutory declaration including: who had access to their vehicle; how they had access to that vehicle; and how frequently each driver uses that vehicle. In effect, this bill places a stronger onus on the owner or nominated person of a vehicle to assist police in the identification and successful prosecution of offenders. The maximum penalty for the new offence is 100 penalty units.


In order to balance these new information requirements, the bill increases the time an owner has to respond to an evasion offence notice from four business days to 14 business days. The bill also addresses the current situation where the owner of a vehicle used in an evasion offence is able to rely on the defence that they were not the driver at the time, even if they did not provide a statutory declaration as required. Under the bill, an owner will not be able to rely on the defence in circumstances where they have not provided a statutory declaration to police as required by an evasion offence notice.

The bill balances this restriction on the use of the defence with the ability of the owner to raise in court that they had a reasonable excuse for not giving the statutory declaration as required, or evidence in their defence came to their knowledge more than 14 days after the person was given an evasion notice, or it is in the interests of justice that the person be able to rely on the evidence in their defence. These provisions were subject to a review in 2011 by the then Crime and Misconduct Commission, which made 13 recommendations for change. Of these, seven required legislative amendments. The Palaszczuk government's tabled response supported the recommendations, and this bill gives effect to the seven legislative recommendations of that review.

I make no apology for strengthening the powers needed by front-line police to investigate and solve evasion offences. Drivers who wilfully evade police interception place all road users at serious risk of harm, and the amendments in this bill go a long way towards addressing this concern.

The other point I wish to speak to today relates to the monitoring of child sex offenders. It was a Labor government that had the foresight to introduce the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act in 2003, and these laws are working. Queensland has the strongest laws in the country to monitor dangerous sex offenders who have served their jail terms. The Palaszczuk government stands with these victims and we stand with the community and against those who prey on our children. That is why we are strengthening our tough laws to protect the community from child sex offenders.

These changes will ensure that child sex offenders who have completed their supervision under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act will be monitored for the rest of their lives. When their DPSO order ends, a child sex offender will automatically be subject to reportable offender provisions under the Child Protection Act. That means that if they are living in the community they will have dozens of reporting conditions including where they live, where they travel, any contact with children, any changes to their name or appearance, what phone and internet companies they use, and their social media accounts and passwords. If they breach any of these reporting conditions they face up to five years in jail. This bill supports the Palaszczuk government's priority to keep our communities safe. It is a bill worthy of support and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I will limit my comments to the amendments that have been proposed by the minister today.

The Labor government is pretending. They are great pretenders. They are pretending that they are standing alongside the community and with the victims of crime. They are pretending that these amendments are a panacea to the risks involved with serious sexual offenders who are on the street without any supervision whatsoever. There may be a couple of members with law degrees over there, however—as we have learned again today with these amendments—they do not understand how to draft laws that work for, and with, the people of Queensland.

Let me start at the very beginning with respect to the difference between monitoring and supervision. We have a supervision regime under DPSO and we have the monitoring process that has been proposed by the minister today. Under DPSO, Queensland Corrective Services dedicate considerable resources to strictly supervise offenders. Queensland Corrective Services closely monitor Queensland's most dangerous sexual offenders under DPSO orders. How do they do that? They do that through 24/7 GPS tracking, surveillance, case management and intervention. In the event of a critical GPS monitoring alert, Queensland Corrective Services officers immediately advise the Queensland Police Service to take action. The truth is that, by introducing new monitoring arrangements that apply only to child sex offenders coming off a DPSO order, Labor is basically legislating an honour system that requires some of the worst criminals in Queensland history to send an email to the police to let them know how they are going.

It is a disgraceful approach to what is a most serious problem. I repeat: these are offenders who have repeatedly—some over 50 years and multiple offences—proven themselves incapable of reforming. They have gone on to commit serious offence after serious offence and then, beyond that, gone on to breach repeatedly the supervision orders that have been issued under DPSO. Now the Labor government simply expects them to check in and voluntarily provide information to the Queensland Police Service. The opposition will watch with interest and, can I say, great trepidation and fear as these provisions roll out.

It is worth reflecting just for a moment on how many reportable offenders there are in Queensland already today. We have about 2,800 in the community and 500 in custody. We understand that some additional resources have been promised by the minister. I did not hear the particular resources that have been promised, but my understanding is that at this stage there are just over 20 police officers across Queensland who are responsible for monitoring child protection act reportable offenders. Throw into the mix some of the worst criminals in Queensland's history as they come off DPSO orders and I fear that the resources are currently not there to give the police the help they need, bearing in mind that most of the monitoring undertaken by the Police Service in this area is conducted online and remotely. They do not have easy access to get in cars, go out, 'kick the tyres' and keep an eye on these reportable offenders. How are they ever expected to keep up with the excess of child sex offenders when their supervision orders end? It is colossal complacency to think that the amendments that will be moved here today will in any respect provide meaningful protection of the people of Queensland from these most serious, and in many cases repeat, sexual offenders.

These amendments, in the way they have been brought into this House and drafted, also show colossal complacency on the part of the Attorney-General. What has been going on for the past 3½ years? What has been happening? What preparations have been made? These are not new problems. Here we are, at the eleventh hour, seeing these amendments tacked on to this bill. We are again contemplating these most serious questions that have wideranging consequences for the safety of Queenslanders. This is being done at the eleventh hour, in a mad dash.

I believe that most of the amendments have been brought about by the pressure brought to bear by the opposition to this question; however, it has always been this way. I will take a very quick jaunt down history's path. DPSO was introduced—the member for Gaven reflected on the introduction of the DP(SO) Act—in 2003, so this has been a 15-year cycle. Labor did not like the Criminal Law Amendment Act that did apply in 2003. The then attorney-general in 2003, when introducing the DP(SO) Act, actually called the Criminal Law Amendment Act outmoded. They were never happy with having to introduce DPSO.

I reflect on the fact that the Criminal Law Amendment Act permits the court to declare, based on medical evidence, a person convicted of a sexual offence to be incapable of exercising proper control over their sexual instincts and direct that they be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. This was the bill that was already in force when the Labor government of 2003 introduced DPSO. If we recall correctly, it was Dennis Ferguson who was the precipitating factor of DPSO. Would you believe that the first application made under the DP(SO) Act in 2003 was for one Robert John Fardon? He was due for release in June 2003, having served a 14-year sentence. These offences were committed within 20 days of his release on parole after an eight-year sentence. These are facts on the public record. This is the backdrop to the introduction of DPSO and the concepts of continuing detention and supervision orders that had been introduced into Queensland law.

By 2009 the Labor Party had again lost its way. It introduced a bill to amend DPSO but let it sit on the *Notice Paper* for over 12 months. During that period Mr Fardon was jailed for rape—again—but it was quashed on appeal. It was the circumstances of this jailing that prompted the attorney-general at

that time to overturn the initial drafting of that bill which limited supervision orders to five years. They came back in and made an amendment to make it a minimum supervision order of five years. Labor has been all over the place on these amendments for many, many years.

In 2011 we had a backflip by then premier Bligh, who saw at last the merits of GPS tracking devices for monitoring our most serious sexual offenders. They were late converts all the way to these necessary legislative provisions, which they have fought all the way to today's amendments.


Although the members for Redcliffe and Morayfield have failed to identify any one person, I think it is safe to say that we all know the catalyst of these amendments—that is, Mr Fardon. Why is Labor not willing to fight for laws to protect Queenslanders—to put it on the line, to show Queenslanders that it is truly serious about protecting the community? We know that those opposite do not care, and Queenslanders will start to understand that too.

This Labor government will not fight for victims of crime and it will not fight to safeguard the community, but it will fight to entrench its established political power in Queensland—whether it be ignoring the advice of the CCC chairman that there could be successful challenge to the electoral laws in Queensland or whether the Attorney-General tramples on 25 years—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to this bill. We are now straying way outside the scope of this bill. The member should be brought back.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member, could I urge you to stay relevant to the bill.

Mr JANETZKI: While the Labor government will not fight for the safety of Queenslanders and for laws that protect them, the LNP opposition will. We always will. Why are we left debating this bill at the very last minute, when the Attorney-General and the government have had hundreds of lawyers at their disposal and 15 years to get these laws right? Finally today we see a damp squib of a bill that will do nothing to safeguard the community from serious repeat sexual offenders. Those opposite will always put the civil liberties of some of the worst Queensland criminals in history above the rights of the community to safety.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.17 pm): I rise to recommend that the House pass the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee tabled its report during the 30th anniversary of National Missing Persons Week. Over 38,000 missing persons reports are submitted to police every year in Australia. The family and friends of those people are left to deal with the uncertainty of not knowing what has happened to their loved ones, and it falls to the police across our nation to try to find these missing people or, sadly, where they have met with foul play, to find the person or persons responsible and bring them to justice.

In its examination of this bill the committee's task was to consider the policy aims to be achieved by the legislation as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles, including whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals.

Among the measures proposed in this bill are increased powers for Queensland police to search properties associated with high-risk missing persons such as young children or prior victims of domestic violence. The committee is aware that there is a trade-off between increased police powers and the rights and liberties of those persons whose homes might be searched. However, we consider that the safe return of vulnerable high-risk missing persons must be given priority and police must be given the legislative tools they need to locate them or find answers as to what has happened to them. Accordingly, the committee recommended that the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 be passed.

On behalf of the committee, I thank those organisations that made written submissions and gave evidence at the public hearing. I also thank the Commissioner of Police and other officers from the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services who assisted the committee at the public hearing. Finally, before dealing with the amendments proposed by the bill, I want to thank our Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance.

The objectives of the bill are to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act; introduce a new concept to missing persons investigations; introduce the term 'crime scene threshold offence' to simplify when a crime scene may be established; enable police to apply to a Supreme Court judge or magistrate for an access approval order for a storage device that has been seized under a crime scene warrant; allow police to inspect electronic storage devices; allow a police officer to search a person who has been taken into custody to prevent a breach of the peace; introduce a new offence to deal with a person who assaults or obstructs a civilian watch-house officer; separate the offence of assault or obstruct a police officer into two offences; include offences to unlawful bookmaking and to opening,

keeping, using or promoting illegal betting places; to create an offence for the use of a service or facility at an illegal betting place; give effect to the seven legislative recommendations of the 2011 Crime and Misconduct Commission review into the evade police provisions; introduce a new offence with regard to vehicles subject to a numberplate confiscation; allow police to take a person issued with a police banning notice from the scene for the purpose of taking their photograph; widen the methods by which service of a notice to appear may be effected; make amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act to include 10 child sex offences under the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act as reportable offences in Queensland; make amendments to the Corrective Services Act relating to the Parole Board; and amend the Police Service Administration Act, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act, the Maritime Safety Queensland Act, the Motor Accident Insurance Act and the State Penalties Enforcement Act to remove the obligation for proof of a delegation to accompany an evidentiary certificate.

The bill proposes to introduce a new framework to assist police in missing persons investigations. At present, in most missing persons investigations police are given permission to enter the missing persons home, workplace or vehicle to search for the person or to seek information that may help them find the missing person. However, if an owner or occupier does not permit police to enter, the police cannot apply for a search warrant or a crime scene warrant to enter or search the premises unless there is some evidence that the missing person is the victim of a serious crime. The minister highlighted the uniqueness of the new powers when he said—

These are important and potentially lifesaving powers and this parliament should be proud to have a bill before it which provides an Australian first in respect of enhancing community safety and providing our police with those potentially lifesaving powers.

While no Australian jurisdiction has similar missing persons powers to those in this bill, some Canadian provinces have missing persons legislation.


I will now move on to another part of the bill that will make it safer for police officers to go about their everyday duties in keeping Queenslanders safe in our communities. If a police officer reasonably suspects a breach of the peace is happening or has happened, or there is an imminent likelihood of a breach of the peace or there is a threatened breach of the peace, the police officer may take reasonable steps to prevent the breach of the peace, including receiving a person into custody. According to the explanatory notes, taking a person into custody 'often calms a situation and is an alternative to arrest in many instances'. The bill proposes to provide police with a power to search a person who has been detained in relation to a breach of the peace and is to be transported by police. The police would be able to take and retain, while the person is in custody, anything that could endanger the person or police.

Turning to another aspect of the bill, persons dangerously driving to evade capture by police is a safety issue for not only police officers but the unsuspecting public going about their day. The CMC conducted a review of the evade police provisions in the PPRA in 2011 and the bill before the House proposes to give effect to the seven legislative recommendations of the review.

I will now deal with some other amendments which I will describe as sensible amendments to make the PPRA legislation workable for both police and the community they have contact with. The bill proposes to amend the PPRA to allow a notice to appear for an offence against the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act or the heavy vehicle national law in Queensland to be served on a person by registered post to the person's place of business or residence last known to police. This is in addition to the current service options that allow for service at an address stated on the person's driver's licence or current certificate of registration. The intent of the amendment is to ensure that the most current address can be used by police for service of a notice to appear for certain traffic matters. The amendment to the methods of service would enable service of a notice to appear where an alleged offender has recently moved to a new address and has not updated his or her licence or registration.

I will now move on to the proposed amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 to be moved by the minister, highlighting our Labor government's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe and delivering laws that are enforceable and valid. Offenders are placed on orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act due to the serious nature of the offences they have committed, including child sex offences, and the serious danger they pose to the community. The amendments will ensure that post-DP(SO)A reportable offenders will be subject to a continued appropriate level of monitoring upon their integration back into the community. Additionally, when it is deemed necessary because a post-DP(SO)A reportable offender has exhibited conduct of a concerning nature, the Police Commissioner will be able to make an application to a magistrate for a prohibition order.

I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.28 pm): As deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I begin by thanking my colleagues on the committee—the member for Toohey, who just spoke in this debate, and the members for Mirani, Lockyer, Macalister and Mansfield and of course all of the committee staff who unfailingly do a fantastic job for us. Well done to them.

The LNP supports this bill. Its objective is to enhance the efficiency and quality of front-line police services and ensure that policing services remain responsive to contemporary community needs. The bill makes a number of amendments to various pieces of legislation, most specifically the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. There is also the question of the government's amendments which were introduced just this morning, and I will deal with those later in my contribution.

This bill makes amendments to a number of acts, including the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and its associated 2012 regulations, the Corrective Services Act 2006 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. The proposed amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act give our police the powers they need in order to protect our community.

There are several effects of the amendments proposed in this bill. They will introduce a framework to assist police in missing persons investigations. The bill enables police officers to establish a missing persons scene within which they are able to exercise the powers that are analogous to crime scene powers. As part of this amendment, the crime scene threshold offence has been proposed to be reduced to an indictable offence with a maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment instead of the currently prescribed seven years imprisonment. The effect of this amendment is to reduce the severity of a crime that is necessary for police to be able to prepare a crime scene. This amendment was asked for by the police. I believe in giving the police the powers that they need to keep us safe.

Under this bill, police may apply for a judicial order to access a locked storage device that has been seized under a crime scene warrant. This access approval order for devices such as USB sticks, mobile phones and computer hard drives is useful when investigating or detecting offences involving prohibited material like child pornography and also revenge porn offences.

The bill proposes to change the parole system to allow the Parole Board Queensland to consider a request for the immediate suspension of a person's parole order and to issue a warrant for their arrest. It also introduces a requirement for a prescribed board member to issue a warrant for a parolee's arrest if a prescribed board member decides to suspend the parole order. The bill also creates the new offence of assaulting or obstructing a civilian watch-house officer as well as separating the offences of assaulting and obstructing police into two separate offences. The bill also creates an evasion offence relating to high-speed car chases. The effect of this amendment will be to require registered owners of vehicles to cooperate with police in providing information that will allow them to investigate the offence.

Eight submissions were made to the committee. They were from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees, the Queensland Police Union and the State Coroner. I thank all groups and people who contribution submissions and made appearances before the committee.

There is a divide between protecting the rights and liberties of individuals who are subject to the proposed changes in the bill as they relate to the enhancement of police powers and the needs of the community. In their submissions, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland expressed similar concerns. Many of those concerns related to the establishment of the missing persons scene, and they expressed the view that the draft provision was, in their words 'broad and subjective', created the 'potential for misuse' and was a policy that failed to be backed by probative evidence.

The Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland were also very concerned about the rights and liberties of owners and occupiers being infringed because of the excessive powers of police, as they put it, in establishing a crime scene without a warrant where residents, or potentially a business owner if it is their premises, could be forced from their premises for up to four days. I was speaking to a retired policeman in my electorate of Southern Downs who is now a farmer. When we discussed these submissions, he rather dryly observed that he would have been much more impressed if he saw those lawyers out the front of Parliament House protesting the infringements on the rights of farmers when it comes to the absence of a warrant as a requirement for the tree police to go in and inspect their properties. When I mentioned this issue at the hearing, I think it fell on deaf ears.

The Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Council of Unions and Protect All Children Today generally supported all of the amendments, as did the Queensland Police Service. The Queensland Police Service welcomed the changes and consistently mentioned that the proposed amendments will be beneficial to police operations. Along with the member for Toohey, I would like to acknowledge the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service and his staff for making an appearance before the committee. I congratulate the police on the work they do, particularly in my electorate of Southern Downs. I firmly believe that we need to give the police reasonable powers in order to protect our community. They do a very difficult job and I take this opportunity to say hello to all of the police I know in the electorate of Southern Downs.

The LNP supports this bill. It has some concerns about the infringements on the rights and liberties of owners in response to crime scene declarations but, in terms of public interest, it is to our advantage to have police able to cordon off a crime scene to properly investigate it, particularly when life or limb may be at stake. We have already heard from my good friend the member for Toowoomba North, our shadow minister for police, speak about the cuts that the Queensland Police Service has endured under the current administration. The government wants to give the police more powers to undertake their role in preventing and detecting crime and apprehending offenders. That is great but, if the government is taking away their resources, the net result is zero or less. That concerns the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition expressed very eloquently her concerns about rising crime rates at the same time that the Queensland Police Service is being starved of resources.

I turn to the government's amendments that were circulated this morning. As my friend the member for Toowoomba South, the shadow Attorney-General, pointed out, these amendments are a thinly veiled attempt to catch up with the LNP in its announced intention to protect Queenslanders from recidivist sexual offenders. On the surface, these amendments look as though Labor is proposing something similar, but they certainly do not go far enough. It is clear that Labor had no plan B ready in the event a certain offender, whose name has been mentioned a number of times today, is released. It is obvious that, over the weekend, Labor has rushed to cobble together amendments to deal with that eventuality.

The Attorney-General claims that Labor's amendments are not Fardon specific, yet they are being rushed through as part of this bill. These amendments have not been examined by a parliamentary committee. The members of this House are expected to intelligently assess very wide-ranging amendments without them being put before a committee. They are unlikely to get the scrutiny they need. This is typical of Labor. It talks tough, but does not back it up. The community sees Labor as being weak on crime, wringing its hands over the rights of offenders whilst not really looking after the victims.

Labor's claim that offenders would be GPS tracked cannot be guaranteed. In fact, under Labor's amendments, for a GPS tracker to be applied a reportable offender must engage in concerning conduct that is intercepted by police, brought before a court and sanctioned by a court as part of a prohibition order. That leaves a lot of room for offending against vulnerable people. Labor's laws also do not apply to all repeat violent sex predators. In particular, Labor neglects the safety of vulnerable women, because these amendments do not relate to all repeat violent sex offenders such as serial rapists whose victims are adults rather than children.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Order! Before I call the next member, ministers, you have had a running commentary for the last five minutes. If you would like to take it outside, please do so.



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (3.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to start by thanking the committee—the chair, the member for Toohey; the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs; the member for Lockyer; the member for Mansfield; and the member for Mirani—for their time and deliberation on this bill. I would also like to thank the secretariat for their ongoing professional assistance and diligence in this process. I would also like to acknowledge the officers of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services who prepared briefs and appeared before the committee. I would like to thank all the stakeholders who prepared submissions and attended the public hearings.

Our police officers throughout Queensland are charged with performing a service that is vital to our broader society and, more specifically, to the communities in which we live, work and play. They are required to preserve the peace and good order of our state, protect all communities within the state and the members thereof, prevent crime, detect offenders and bring them to justice and uphold laws generally.

Queensland is in the envious position of having a highly trained, modern and professional policing service for which we can be justifiably proud. It is incumbent upon us as legislators to ensure that our police have the legislative tools to carry out their important functions but also balance this with the transparency and accountability that a modern society demands.

A missing person job, a 524, is a relatively common job for police to attend. Thousands of people will be reported missing in Queensland each year. The number on average is over 8,000. Thankfully, in Queensland around 99 per cent of these people will be found without further incident. However, for the remaining one per cent police will have to deploy a range of investigative techniques to determine the person's location and the outcome of the missing persons report.

Whereas most police investigations start with the commission of a crime and work back to find the identity of the unknown perpetrator, a missing person investigation starts with a known identity and works back to determine whether a crime has or has not been committed. The absence of certainty over the commission of a crime means that several police powers are not available for police during a missing person investigation. The introduction of powers surrounding the investigation of high-risk missing persons will close the gap and provide our front-line police with the ability to investigate and gather evidence at the first available opportunity.

Currently police may search for clues surrounding the disappearance of a person with the consent of the occupier of a place. In most cases this may be freely given, however, in some cases this consent may not. Police currently have to meet a threshold in order to obtain a search warrant—that is, they must be able to demonstrate a level of suspicion that a crime has occurred in order to collect the evidence of that crime. In cases where there has been a crime committed it may take some time for police to reach that threshold of reasonable suspicion, and in the intervening period valuable time and evidence may have been lost forever.

This amendment bill provides for the first time a legislative definition of a high-risk missing person. In clause 27 a person may be classified as a high-risk missing person if they are under 13 years old or a police officer, judge or magistrate reasonably believes that the person may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible. In determining whether a person may be at risk of serious harm, the officer may take into consideration the person's age, any disability or other impairment, mental or emotional state at the time of disappearance, dependence upon medication, recent behaviour and history of domestic violence among a not-exhaustive list.

One aspect that probably should be highlighted is that under this new definition of high-risk missing person and the new powers that are associated with it, it is not restricted to the suspicion of offences alone. This is an important point. Not all people who go missing are victims of a crime. The figures from the financial year 2016-17 show that of the 8,292 people who were reported missing to Queensland police, two were the victims of homicide and a further 31 had committed suicide.


In those instances where a person has gone missing and there is a concern that they are likely to self-harm, police would have struggled to establish the requisite reasonable suspicion of a crime in order to search a place without a warrant for clues of their whereabouts. This amendment will provide police with the ability to establish a missing person scene if the officer is satisfied that the missing person is a high-risk missing person and that the matter is of such urgency that the otherwise required procedures of returning to the station, completing a missing person search warrant application and applying to a judge or magistrate would cause a significant delay in finding the person.

Do not be mistaken: the first hours of any investigation of a missing person, particularly a vulnerable one, are paramount to the final outcome. I believe that there are sufficient safeguards surrounding the use of such a power. A police officer in the first instance must apply to a commissioned officer of the QPS in order to establish the missing person scene and exercise such powers. Then, as soon as is reasonably practicable, the officer must apply for a missing person warrant.

The establishment of a missing person scene will allow the officer or any other officer acting under the responsible officer to enter the scene, perform any necessary investigation, search or inspection to obtain information about the person's disappearance, open anything that is locked, use electricity at the scene, photograph anything at the scene and seize anything that may provide information about the missing persons disappearance. These powers will now give police the power that they need to better assess the risk of each missing person case and potentially commence an investigation immediately upon determining that the person is high risk. Delays which further endangered a missing person can now be addressed.

During my time on the road, a missing person job would have been, and still is, considered bread and butter general duties. I would have taken several reports in any given week, most of these resulting in a positive outcome. I have searched for and located innumerable missing persons, but I can tell members firsthand the feeling of frantic desperation that pervades when a person is considered high-risk, especially when they are a child or a vulnerable person. At the time I had the powers of the PPRA as it stands, but if I had these powers available to me, my colleagues and I could have potentially located high-risk persons sooner or otherwise determined their status to alleviate the concern and heartache of their loved ones.

Backing our general duties officers, backing their judgement, trusting in their years of experience and their finely honed investigative skill is a vote of confidence in our officers. They are doing their best out there every day, often in trying circumstances. This government is about giving them the tools that they need to better protect Queenslanders and perform their vital functions. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.46 pm): I stand today to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Like my colleagues, I stand in favour of this bill and support the enhanced powers it will give to our state's police officers. Before continuing, I thank my colleagues in the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: the member for Toohey, the member for Southern Downs, the member for Mirani, the member for Macalister and the member for Mansfield.

The bill seeks to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in order to ensure that policing remains responsive, efficient, effective, up-to-date and meets our community's expectations. It is clear that Queensland has changed a great deal since 2000, and as such it is critical that our police are provided with the powers to rise to meet these changes. The amendments detailed in this bill range from introducing concepts such as a high-risk missing person to increasing the power police have to establish missing person or crime scenes and providing officers with greater seize and search powers, with particular emphasis on electronic storage devices. It also separates and introduces new offences and provides additional powers to deal with evade offences.

Each of these proposed amendments was informed by recommendations made in relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 since its inception and from consideration of the submissions received by the committee. A total of eight submissions to the bill were received from a variety of organisations. These organisations ranged across the full extent of Queensland's judicial system, from those dealing directly with policing—I thank each of those organisations: the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees—through to legal associations, such as the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. Submissions were also received from the Crime and Corruption Commission and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Though predominantly supportive of this bill, some of the submissions made to the committee held reservations in relation to certain amendments. Of particular note were the concerns held by the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland about the amendments in relation to crime scene powers and the introduction of the concept of a high-risk missing person.

Each of the submissions expressed some concern over the broad nature of the proposed powers and the definition of the high-risk person, stating that the proposed powers and definition created the potential for misuse. They also raised concern that these amendments may impinge on the rights and liberties of owners and occupiers who may become caught up in the establishment of a crime or missing person search scene. I remind the House that these are some of the worst-case scenarios and police need the powers to deal with and locate persons early.

Though we on this side of the House share some of those concerns and agree that the rights of innocent parties should be protected, it is felt that the benefits that these powers and their safeguards would have for police investigations far outweigh the concerns raised by the Law Society and the Bar Association. The LNP trusts in the professionalism of our dedicated police officers and respects their ability to utilise the powers in this bill as they see fit. Ultimately, for any who may be concerned, I say: if you have done nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear.

The Queensland Police Service has been a strong supporter of these amendments and has consistently mentioned how they will be beneficial when conducting police investigations. Our officers would be overjoyed to receive the powers outlined in the bill, but without the proper resources that would be required to employ the powers to their fullest extent they may not be as effective as possible. It is commendable that the government has made a commitment to providing our officers with these

powers, but we all know that they need a leg up after having their funding in this year's budget slashed by \$45 million, so the powers will not be as fully effective as they could be. It would be wonderful for our officers to be able to utilise the powers, but due to the budget cuts and the laissez faire attitude towards public safety adopted by those opposite, that opportunity will remain nothing but a pipedream.

Section 50 of the PPRA allows police to prevent a breach of the peace by taking reasonable steps to prevent that breach, including taking a person into custody for a reasonable amount of time. Breaches of the peace can lead to some serious and even violent offences, and these powers will assist police to resolve a breach of peace at the earliest possible time. This additional power allows police to search persons being transported as a result of a breach of the peace. As we heard in the committee inquiry process, this provides clarity for officers who have been concerned about the specific authority to conduct a search of a person taken into their custody or, should I say, taken into their care without the person being arrested. This is a sensible amendment that allows police to use their power to search without having to arrest a person in order to do so. It also assists in maintaining the safety of officers, because sometimes those persons intend to harm the officers or themselves with concealed objects.

The new offence of assault or obstruct a civilian watch-house officer will be welcomed by many in watch houses across Queensland. It means that civilian watch-house officers who have been assaulted do not have to rely upon the Criminal Code. The bill introduces a new simple offence to deal with offenders for lower level offences. The clarification of section 790, where a person assaults or obstructs a police officer in the course of their duties, enables a separate offence for assault and obstruct. This will allow improved statistical collection and also provide clarity around what offence has been committed by the person without having to refer to the facts of a court brief or an offence report.


I turn to the evade offence provisions. I remember when the new police pursuit policy was introduced. I must say that I was cautious and concerned that the number of offenders who escape police would increase. I stress that I fully support our officers in making the choice not to pursue, and I recognise that the safety of the community and our officers is of paramount importance. Police investigations into evade police offenses, where the driver of a motor vehicle fails to stop at the direction of a police officer, have grown and the percentage of unsolved offences has increased. Between 2014 and 2016, the number has increased from 3,249 to 5,031. In the same time, the number of unsolved offences has increased from 46 per cent to 63 per cent.

When police allow a vehicle to flee and avoid a potentially dangerous pursuit, the police may not know the identity of the driver at the time of the incident. The bill will assist officers in identifying more offenders by issuing an evasion offence notice to the registered owner of the vehicle. The notice requires the owner of that vehicle to provide certain information in a declaration. This includes, if they do not know who was driving the vehicle: where the owner was when the evasion offence happened; the usual location of the vehicle when it is not being used; the name and address for each person or potential driver known by the owner to have access to the vehicle when the evasion offence happened; the way that each potential driver has access to drive that vehicle; how frequently and for how long each potential driver normally uses the vehicle; and whether each potential driver uses the vehicle in connection with a business or private use.

The person also has to outline if the vehicle has been sold. I note that, if the owner believes that the vehicle was stolen when the evasion offence occurred, they also need to declare that. I look forward to keeping an eye on these changes, particularly the evade offences, in order to see an improved clear-up rate.

The bill outlines 10 child sex offences under the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act that are to be included on the register and schedule in Queensland, which brings me to that topic in the amendments to the PPRA that are before the House today. I call on the government to put politics aside, focus on the safety of the community and accept the LNP's plan to ensure that the worst violent sex offenders are fitted with GPS trackers for the rest of their lives. There is no guarantee that the proposed amendments will deliver that outcome.

(Time expired)

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.56 pm): Today I rise to speak about Labor's strong child sex offender laws. I thank the committee for their work on this bill. The Palaszczuk government understands the community's concerns. This government knows that the community wants action to protect our precious children. That is why we have introduced these new laws: laws that will protect our community; laws that will ensure dangerous child sex offenders will continue to be monitored, even at the expiration of supervision orders; and laws that ensure those child sex offenders remain reportable offenders for the rest of their lives. Laws must not only protect the community but also be robust enough to withstand challenge in the courts.


You cannot be strong on child protection if you are weak on the law. Labor has a strong track record legislating laws that stand the test of time. It was a Labor government that brought in the toughest, strongest and most effective laws to deal with dangerous sex offenders once they had served their sentence. In 2003, it was a Labor government that introduced the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. Under that act, the court decides whether an offender receives a continuing detention order or a supervision order on their release. Since 2003, those laws have been strengthened. All new orders must contain conditions, including curfew and electronic monitoring. Further, the court can extend those orders if deemed necessary, as you well know, Mr Deputy Speaker. There are consequences for breaches, including jail time for the removal of monitoring devices.

In 2016, this government took GPS tracking devices to the next level through the use of geographic information systems that more accurately track sex offenders and pinpoint their exact location on a map. We took that tough action to keep Queenslanders safe. Our dangerous prisoner and sexual offender legislation means that sexual deviants are stringently monitored with around-the-clock GPS tracking and tough reporting conditions. When they leave jail, they are subjected to strict 24-hour curfews, drug and alcohol tests, and surveillance so that the authorities know their every move. Senior managers keep watch over the worst offenders through targeted and tough supervision. If they breach the order or in any way are not compliant, swift and immediate action is taken. They are sent back to jail. This government brought in GPS tracking for sex offenders and we make no apology for using that Big-Brother tactic to track down offenders.

With these new laws we are introducing yet another layer of community protection. Dangerous child sex offenders will be monitored by police for the rest of their lives. Our laws will withstand challenge. They are strong laws. They are laws that our Queensland community deserves.

Let us consider how we got to this point. Who bought in GPS tracking devices? A Labor government did. Who introduced the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act? A Labor government did. Who improved the ability for GPS trackers to pinpoint the exact location of a sexual predator on the map? A Labor government did. Who introduced new laws to keep track of dangerous child sex offenders for the rest of their lives? A Labor government did. That is right—when it comes to protecting the community it is a Labor government that Queensland can rely on to get the job done.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the police officers of the Holland Park Police Station and the Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station for their commitment and responsiveness to the community of the Mansfield electorate. Whether it be their response to critical and emergency situations or preventative and proactive community policing, the officers in my electorate, under the leadership of Sergeant Murray Chrone and Sergeant Leonie Scott, are always willing to assist. Their support of our community is immensely appreciated. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.00 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the subsequent amendments introduced by the government this morning. Of all the responsibilities vested in those who sit in this House, none is more important than protecting Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve a government that provides the resources and enables their police and corrective services personnel to maintain a safe environment that the community can have confidence in.

That is why I am so disappointed in the Palaszczuk government's kneejerk reactive response to community concern regarding the unsupervised release of recidivist deviants. Queenslanders should be able to have confidence that egregious predators such as Robert John Fardon are tracked for the rest of their natural life. The rights of perpetrators should come second to community safety.

We have seen considerable community concern over recent years when repeat offenders have committed rape and murder while on parole or shortly after release. It is not good enough. We owe it to the people of Queensland to do whatever needs to be done to protect the vulnerable. It is clear that the government is unwilling to make the hard decisions to protect Queenslanders and instead have sought to put a bandaid on the issue by introducing their weak amendments today.

Let us be clear, despite the Attorney-General's assertions that suggest otherwise, these amendments, introduced by the government today, seek to stop Robert John Fardon from roaming unsupervised within the community after his supervision order expires on 3 October. I wholeheartedly support that objective. Frankly, steps should have been taken months ago in anticipation of the fact that such a situation may occur.

All that aside, I welcome the fact that the government has finally decided to do something about an individual who has proven time and again that he is a threat to vulnerable Queenslanders and is not capable of adhering to society's expectations. Unfortunately, it is too little too late. Rather than drafting

a considered piece of legislation and following the proper process of committee scrutiny, this government has slapped together a rushed and inadequate piece of legislation that does not go far enough.

It is obvious that those opposite woke up on Sunday and read the media reports about the LNP's tough measures. We then saw those opposite talking tough in the media and then today those opposite have come in here and failed to deliver. They can talk tough on crime, but when it comes down to it Labor just do not have the stomach to do what is required to protect the people of Queensland.

We have already heard today those opposite assert that under their laws serious offenders will be tracked, but the facts are that for a GPS tracker to be applied a reportable offender must engage in concerning conduct that is then intercepted by the police, brought before the court and then sanctioned by a court as a part of a prohibition order. The explanatory notes make it clear that such an order will only remain in force for five years. It is not good enough to wait until a known offender has engaged in concerning conduct before acting. If an individual is a serious danger to the community then they should be subject to supervision for the rest of their life, without question—not maybe, not could be, but will be.


What Queenslanders deserve is legislation that mandates serious offenders are GPS tracked for life, not some honesty system that will place additional strain on a police service already heaving under the weight of weak sentences and a lack of resources. I, along with other parents from across the state, demand that this government protect our children from those who will do them harm. To the point raised by the member for Kawana today, I for one would not be willing to have a recidivist serious offender living unsupervised in my street, and neither should anyone else. I urge the government to strengthen these laws to mandate the supervision of all violent sexual offenders for life, not only those who commit offences against children.

Moving on to the provisions contained in the bill which was considered by the committee. I note the concerns expressed by the Bar Association and the Queensland Law Society in relation to some of the provisions contained within the bill. In particular, they refer to the provisions that relate to the establishment of a missing person crime scene. I note the concerns in relation to the fact that such provisions may infringe the rights and liberties of owners and occupiers. While I recognise that such measures could be subject to misuse, the greater good of the community in ensuring that the police are able to investigate and deal with critical incidents should take precedence.

I welcome the changes to the parole system contained within the bill. As I mentioned previously, there is considerable community concern in relation to the parole system and measures such as those contained within the bill provide some comfort in relation to those concerns.

The new offence for assaulting or obstructing civilian watch-house officers is also welcome. Similarly, separating the offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer into two distinct offences is a step in the right direction. Our police deserve to be able to perform their important task of maintaining community safety without being assaulted or obstructed. The persistent cases of soft sentences handed down to those who think it is okay to assault our police are not in line with community expectation.

The people of Buderim deserve to feel safe in their community. The rights of the majority who do not ever, let alone repeatedly rape and assault others must come ahead of those who choose to engage in such disgusting behaviour. For that reason, I implore the government to listen to the community's voice and strengthen the provision in relation to supervision of repeat sexual offenders.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise today to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill will introduce a suite of amendments aimed at enhancing front-line policing services to the Queensland community and importantly keeping Queenslanders safe.

One key element of the bill will simplify the complicated way in which crime scene powers are defined and operated. When a serious crime occurs it is the priority of the Queensland Police Service to ensure the thoroughness and integrity of the investigation by securing the crime scene and preserving all available evidence. The crime scene provisions provide important powers to police to exclude persons from a crime scene, to avoid crime scene contamination and to minimise any obstruction of police while they examine the scene for evidence.

The amendments make a significant number of enhancements to crime scene legislation. Computers, mobile phones, tablets, smart watches and other electronic devices have become a significant part of our everyday, modern life. Previous investigations have also shown that evidence of offences can be stored and concealed on electronic devices. Access to text messages, internet searches and pictures contained on a person's device may be crucial to the investigation of a serious

offence, such as a homicide or sexual assault. Often these electronic storage devices are located at crime scenes and are relevant to the crime scene offence. The inclusion of powers which permit police to seize an electronic device at a crime scene and obtain an order from a magistrate or judge requiring access—for example, through the provision of a password or encryption code—will ensure police can thoroughly investigate offences that are subject to crime scene provisions.

The amendments will also amend the definition of ‘crime scene’ and allow for a more practical and workable meaning for our first response officers. Previously, before establishing a crime scene, a police officer had to establish whether it was a primary or secondary crime scene and whether the offence was a threshold offence due to the penalty of imprisonment or whether the offence was a serious violent offence.

The multiple definitions and lack of certainty about what was the primary and secondary scene have led to issues about whether a crime scene could be established with a degree of validity. The new singular definition of ‘crime scene’ will provide clarity to police and the judiciary in their interpretations of the provisions. It also aligns the definition more closely with other Australian jurisdictions.

The lowering of the crime scene threshold offence from a seven-year to a four-year offence will mean crime scene powers can be exercised for additional serious offences including weapons offences, offences relating to industrial accidents, and particular offences under the Criminal Code where police require immediate powers to preserve evidence and engage crime scene powers. Again, the adjustment to the crime scene threshold offence more closely aligns Queensland with police powers in other Australian jurisdictions—and Queensland is following.

A lot has been said here today by various members of the opposition. I hear the same thing: Labor is soft on crime.

Mr Mickelberg: That’s right.

Mr HARPER: Are you sure that is right, mate?

Mr Mickelberg: That is right.

Mr HARPER: Right.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Direct your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mr HARPER: The member for Buderim said it himself just minutes ago, as did the member for Toowoomba North, as did the member for Toowoomba South who is not in here, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition mentioned it this morning, and they talked down our city, which has had its fair share of crime.

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a convention not to refer to someone who is not in the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That convention is correct but continue on, member.

Mr HARPER: That is enough of talking down our city. We have had crime issues just like any other town or region in Queensland. The LNP does not have a great track record of looking after these issues either. I have two newspaper reports here. It is because of the hard work of the Labor government establishing stronger communities with more police in Townsville and more resources—and I thank the minister for his hard work and dedication. I table these two reports.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 3 September 2017, titled ‘Crime rate goes down’ [1369].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 7 September 2018, titled ‘Officers put dent in crime’ [1370].

An article in the *Townsville Bulletin* on 3 September 2017 titled ‘Crime rate goes down’ stated—

Property crime across the city has tumbled in the year since Townsville was labelled “crimsville”—
by those opposite—

in State Parliament.

During that period the city has seen significant changes in how young offenders are dealt with, from the creation of the Townsville Stronger Communities Action group to operations targeting young criminals.

Let’s fast forward to September 2018 to an article titled ‘Officers put dent in crime’—and I thank Sam Bidey. I was just talking to him earlier. The article states—

Property crime has dropped in Townsville with major police operations dragging down the number of offences as the city recovers from a spate of car thefts and break and enters.

...

Unlawful use of motor vehicle offences dropped 17 per cent.

Do not come in here and lie and tell us that we are not doing anything about crime.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you cannot use that word. Please withdraw it.

Mr HARPER: I withdraw it. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, but I will not have members of the opposition—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you must withdraw unreservedly.

Mr HARPER: I withdraw unreservedly. Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your guidance, but I am a pretty proud North Queenslander and I will not take people coming in here—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, with respect, please just withdraw and move on. Do not use the word 'but' to start the next sentence.

Mr HARPER: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am a proud North Queensland MP who is fighting to stand up for our city. It is because of the hard work of the three Labor members in Townsville that we have two articles one year apart telling us that we are getting on with the job. Yes, we have more work to do but do not come in here—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, though I share your passion for Townsville—a wonderful spot, I have no doubt—

Mr HARPER: Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:—but can you please draw it back to the bill before the House in some manner.


Mr HARPER: I will. The crime rate—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is directly responding to speeches from those on the other side on this bill. He is directly responding to them. At the time the Deputy Speaker did not question their relevance in talking about crime statistics in Townsville in relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Attorney. Member, please keep within the confines of the bill.

Mr HARPER: I will. Again, Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your guidance. I think the point is made. We have members of the government working closely with the community, establishing programs like Project Booyah and Yinda, an Indigenous cultural mentoring program. We are still holding people to account. We are investing money in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre as we speak. We are expanding it with more beds. We are still holding people to account, but we are also investing in programs to stop people offending. That is key to the work we have to do in North Queensland.

I will not have members come in here and tell us that we are not doing it right. Clearly, from the two articles one year apart in the *Townsville Bulletin* showing a downward trend we are, and we will continue to work hard to keep that trend going down.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.15 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, a bill which will provide hardworking police officers with the powers necessary to perform their job in a modern and fast-changing police environment.

In 2016-17, 8,292 people were reported missing to the Queensland police. That is an astonishing number of people across Queensland who were reported missing. Unfortunately, as we now know, two of these missing persons were later found to be murdered and 31 were later found to have committed suicide. This bill will introduce a new concept to missing person investigations; namely, searching places for high-risk missing persons. A person is considered a high-risk missing person if they are under 13 years of age or if there is a reasonable suspicion they may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible.

When a person goes missing, time is of the essence, particularly if that person is a young child. There are a number of cases around Queensland over many decades of people who have gone missing and, because a period of time had elapsed before resources were devoted to searching for those missing persons, they were never found. In my patch of the Burdekin the previous officer in charge of the Ayr Police Station, Senior Sergeant Mick Isles, went missing and has never been found.

Police officers need to be able to access a high-risk missing persons residence or place of employment as soon as possible in order to carry out their investigations. Obviously if foul play is involved this consent may not always be forthcoming, thus putting at risk valuable and potentially incriminating evidence or information; hence the need to expand the powers of police officers to be able to enter premises in a timely manner.

The bill will allow a police officer investigating the whereabouts of a high-risk missing person to establish a missing person scene at a place to search for the missing person or to search for information about the person's disappearance. With the advent of technology and, in particular, DNA evidence, it becomes absolutely crucial that the crime scene or the potential crime scene is preserved as soon as possible to allow forensic officers and staff access so they can conduct the necessary searches. Importantly, a police officer will be able to establish this scene under a missing person warrant issued by a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate. As a further safeguard, before applying for the missing person warrant, the investigating police officer must obtain the authorisation of a commissioned police officer.

Other amendments in the bill address the complicated manner in which crime scenes are defined under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Over a period of many years, those crime scenes have grown and have certainly become more complicated to the extent that it is now very difficult and time consuming for police officers to establish those crime scenes. The dispensing of multiple definitions currently in use and the introduction of a new term of a 'crime scene threshold offence' will simplify how crime scenes are established.

The bill will define a crime scene threshold offence to mean an indictable offence which carries a maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment or an offence involving deprivation of liberty. Investigative impediments associated with accessing locked storage devices which have been lawfully seized under a crime scene warrant have also been addressed in the bill. Of course, I am talking about devices such as mobile phones and computers which have become an integral part of our lifestyle and in a lot of places prove invaluable when investigating offences. The bill provides police with the opportunity to apply to a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate for an access approval order for a storage device that has been seized under a crime scene warrant.

It was not that long ago that mobile phones—I am probably showing my age—iPads and storage devices did not exist. However, we now live in a world where it is a rarity if we do not own one of those devices. Hence, there is a need to update our PPRA provisions to reflect that these days most people have those devices and when it comes to the commission of offences, they often prove invaluable.

In line with changes in technology, it is important that our police officers are given the necessary tools and support by way of legislation to enable them to carry out their duties and, importantly, appropriately investigate the commission of offences. This includes providing police with the power to inspect electronic storage devices in the possession of a person who has been convicted of an offence of administering a child exploitation material website and/or encouraging the use of a child exploitation material website.

Police currently have powers to take a person into custody for a reasonable period following a breach of the peace. However, police have no capacity to search a person who has been taken into custody to prevent a breach of the peace when they are required to be transported by police. Obviously this poses a significant safety risk to both the person being transported and police officers involved in the incident. The search provision allows police to remove any items which could endanger the person or police prior to being transported.

The increasing numbers of civilian watch-house officers has meant that, unlike police officers, assaults against these staff members fall under the provision of the Criminal Code, which subsequently makes it very difficult to prosecute offenders under those provisions. I note the bill will introduce a new simple offence to appropriately deal with offenders who assault or obstruct a civilian watch-house officer in circumstances that are not so serious as to warrant charges under the Criminal Code.

The bill also extends the scope of schedule 2 of the PPRA to include offences under sections 221 and 223 of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 relating to unlawful bookmaking and to opening, keeping, using or promoting an illegal betting place. As honourable members would appreciate, in order to investigate those types of offences it is quite often necessary for a police officer to go undercover or to conduct covert operations in which to gather evidence. Additionally, the bill also extends the scope of schedule 5 of the PPRA to include section 225 of the Racing Integrity Act, which prohibits the use of a service or a facility at an illegal betting place. This will allow authorised police to undertake controlled operations and controlled activities when investigating these offences.


One of the more frustrating aspects of policing is dealing with offences where the driver of a motor vehicle fails to stop at the direction of a police officer. The percentage of unsolved evade police offences has increased from 46 per cent to 63 per cent for the period 2014 to 2017, and those figures confirm the extent of this problem. Of course we all know the inherent dangers involved in police pursuits. Whilst I may not necessarily agree with the current Queensland Police pursuit policy, I do see

merit in the proposed amendments that provide for police to issue an evasion offence notice to the registered owner of the vehicle that requires the owner to provide certain information to investigating police regarding the identity of the driver. Of course, this does not help in the case of stolen vehicles, but it will go some way towards identifying offending drivers.

The transportation of an offender for the purposes of taking a photograph or a banning notice makes practical sense. Police need this power to enable offenders to be transported to a police station, a watch house or a police vehicle as is necessary to ensure the continued effectiveness of police banning notices. Of course, they have come into their own in recent years with safe night precincts and ID scanners at nightclubs and those types of venues where intoxicated persons, for example, are banned from a precinct for a certain period.

I now move on to the amendments to be moved by the police minister during consideration in detail. There is no more heinous crime than the commission of sexual offences against members of our community. Queenslanders need to know that reportable offenders are being appropriately monitored and supervised upon their release from prison. Our most vulnerable deserve to be protected from these animals, and that is what they are; I am calling it for what it is. I have had the misfortune, as I say, to come across some of these animals in my policing career, and they do need to be supervised and they do need to be monitored. If we are to protect our citizens—and that includes women and children in our communities—we need to make sure that we are keeping a very close eye on these offenders when they are released from custody.

There is a fundamental difference here between the position put forward by the government and that put forward by the LNP. Certainly there needs to be GPS tracking of repeat violent sex offenders until they die. The power to extend supervision orders and constant monitoring absolutely needs to be in place to ensure that these people are being monitored at all times. The safety of our community comes first.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.25 pm): I rise to also address the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. From the outset I state that the objective of the bill is detailed as 'enhancing the efficiency and quality of front-line policing services' and 'ensuring that policing services remain responsive to contemporary community needs'. The bill makes a number of amendments to various pieces of legislation, specifically the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. At the outset, as many other speakers have mentioned, the LNP supports this bill as it stands unamended. I will come to the amendments that are being proposed a little later on.

What I do have concerns about—and I am not going to go into the forensic analysis of the bill as the previous speaker, the member for Burdekin, has detailed his personal experience as a serving police officer. I would refer my constituents to his contribution for the specific aspects of this bill. What flows out of those specific changes are practical impacts that could see increased police powers lead to an ever greater lack of police officers and police resources which are increasingly required. While these increased police powers are commendable at face value, it will be difficult to deliver on these proposed changes when Labor have constantly and continually underfunded and underresourced the Queensland Police Service. I would point out that when the LNP was in government we got to a position through increased resourcing, increased police officers on the beat, where we had 245 officers per 100,000—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Members, again, the level of audible conversation is increasing. Please keep it down or take it outside.

Mr POWELL: We got to a point where there were 245 police officers for every 100,000 people in the state of Queensland. Sadly, since the Palaszczuk government came to power, what we have seen is a diminution of funding for the police with respect to population growth, with respect to per capita funding, to the point where now, 4½ years later, we are looking at 242 police officers per 100,000 head of population.

Mr Minnikin: A cut in services.

Mr POWELL: It is a cut in services, a cut in front-line services. Despite all the rhetoric of those opposite, we see a very real situation where front-line police officers are being pushed into a situation where they are unable to service the growing community needs, which as I read in the objective, this bill sets out to achieve. For the benefit of the members in the House today let me give a local example of this.

The electorate of Glass House is admirably serviced by a number of local police stations as well as some larger regional centres just outside of the electorate. What we are seeing through increased population growth, particularly in the railway towns of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay hinterland, is the fact that existing serviced stations are unable to cope with the increasing amount of crime and the increasing size of the population.

During my last round of mobile offices, particularly in the stretch between Beerburrum and Mooloolah Valley—places like Beerburrum, Glass House Mountains, Beerwah, Landsborough and Mooloolah Valley—we heard very clearly that police response times are on the decline. Let me say at the outset that this is no reflection on the quality of work and the efforts of people like Acting Senior Sergeant Tully Anderson and his team at the Beerwah Police Station. They do a fine job and I support them in everything they do, but the list of responsibilities that this local station has—yes, it is a fully-operational 24-hour police station with some 24 FTEs, but they cover a stretch from Beerburrum to Mooloolah Valley. They also take in the Bruce Highway, and anyone who has driven that stretch on the Bruce Highway between Beerburrum and Beerwah lately will know there are a stack of roadworks going on, so that takes a number of police officers and police cars away from regular duties. We have had a number of very successful operational task forces on the Sunshine Coast, but again allocations are taken from existing policing resources rather than new allocations being given, so that impacts on the ability of the local station to provide quick and prompt service to the community.

When this was raised with me I took the liberty of writing to the minister to raise my concerns. I have heard others in this House, including the member for Thuringowa, raise their concerns specifically with the minister. I was hoping for a little bit of positive news for the community and that we might see an increase in staffing at the Beerwah Police Station in particular. Unfortunately, no. The minister replied—

I am advised that Beerwah Police Station is a 24 hour operational police station and is resourced accordingly to meet the demands for service by the community. A flexible and agile approach in meeting the needs of the community is in place across the Sunshine Coast District, including the deployment of members from neighbouring divisions and specialist police when required.

The allocation of resources is an operational decision made by the Commissioner of Police, following a detailed assessment of area growth—

Mr Ryan: That is true.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the minister. I very much accept it is an operational decision for the Commissioner of Police. The minister continued—

safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision, free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This also ensures a fair and equitable service is provided across the state.

On that note, I do hope there is a fair and equitable provision of services across the state, because on a number of occasions I have listened to the member for Thuringowa in particular lambaste the minister for not providing more services to Thuringowa and talking about petitions being underfoot. Then, lo and behold, we see that extra resources are put into Thuringowa. There is good news: we have launched a petition in Glass House calling for exactly the same additional resources—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I think I can pre-empt what you are going to say, Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: Relevance.

An honourable member interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You need to be in your chair if you are going to make a comment, member; you know that. Member for Glass House, can I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr POWELL: I am very happy to. I again refer to one of the objectives of the bill, which is to ensure that policing services remain responsive to contemporary community needs. Like the residents of Thuringowa who rightly asked the minister for additional staffing, the petition that has been launched in Glass House calls on this government and this minister to ensure there are additional resources provided to our police officers in Glass House, the Sunshine Coast and the Moreton Bay hinterland to address community needs.

Whilst the proposed legislation here will go some way to improving the ability of police officers to be more flexible and agile, there are concerns—as was raised during the committee hearing—that it may mean we have fewer resources, particularly when considering we are underfunded. I look forward to hearing the minister's response when the petition is tabled, and I am looking forward to as positive a response as the member for Thuringowa received.

As I conclude my contribution today I want to turn to the amendments that have been tabled by the Minister for Police. I want to reflect on the fact that the priority of all members in this House, but particularly the government, should be to keep its citizens safe. We have all known there were pending outcomes in terms of an appeal around the release of notorious repeat sex offender Robert John Fardon. What we do know is that until the LNP prodded and poked them, those opposite had no plan B. When they opened up the *Courier-Mail* on Sunday morning and saw that the LNP had prepared a bill in consultation with a range of stakeholders which we knew would stack up and deliver safety for the citizens of Queensland, what happened? There was a little kitchen cabinet. They sat around the cabinet table—the Attorney-General's kitchen—and thought, 'We'd better come up with something here.'

Despite the efforts of the LNP to put this bill to the House, send it off to a committee and pass it this week, we did not succeed. What we are debating this afternoon is Labor's bill and Labor's amendment. Quite frankly, they do not stack up. They do not deliver the community safety that Queenslanders rightly deserve. They claim to deliver one thing when in reality they deliver the opposite. There is no 'tough on crime' here. There is a whole lot of tough talk, but in reality the amendments being proposed by the Minister for Police are soft. They do not guarantee that repeat sex offenders like those mentioned will be monitored and supervised constantly until their dying day. That, quite frankly, is unacceptable. The government should know better. The government should do better, and if they need something to run off we are happy to provide them with our bill.


 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.36 pm): Community safety is a top priority of the Palaszczuk government. We know that Queenslanders want to feel safe in their homes and their communities without the threat of personal and property crime. We know that more can be done to enhance community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime. That is why our government is committed to advancing Queensland's priority of keeping communities safe by reducing the number of victims of crime. We also want to advance Queensland's priorities by being a responsive government. The measures in this bill will help us achieve safer communities and be a responsive government by supporting our policing service with the laws they need to respond to contemporary community needs.

I am pleased to stand here today to talk to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill introduces a suite of amendments aimed at enhancing front-line policing services to the Queensland community and, importantly, keeping Queenslanders safe by taking action for all Queenslanders. The amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act contained in the bill include a number of practical efficiencies and safety measures.

The current existing breach of peace provisions are an important tool for police. They allow police to detain persons who are having a violent confrontation or who are about to have a violent confrontation for the purpose of separating them and de-escalating the situation. In some situations the separation of parties may be all that is required; however, there may be a need for further police intervention in the form of charges. In order to effectively separate some offenders police may have to detain and transport the parties away from the location of the confrontation. Previously, the police had no power to search a person who had been detained and transported for a breach of peace. This is a critical safety issue, as the person being transported may be in possession of weapons which could be used to harm themselves or the police. The amendments will correct this issue by permitting police to search a person they have detained and are transporting for a breach of the peace.

The bill also provides a new simple offence for assaulting or obstructing a civilian watch-house officer. There are many civilian watch-house officers employed by the Queensland Police Service who are at times obstructed or assaulted in the performance of their duties. This new simple offence of assaulting or obstructing a civilian watch-house officer will ensure that offenders are charged appropriately for a minor assault or obstruction offence as opposed to the more serious charges that are currently available under the Criminal Code.

The bill will also separate the existing offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer into two distinct offences. The assault or obstruction of a police officer is unfortunately a prevalent offence. Currently, the offences are combined into one section. This has proved problematic for the Queensland Police Service in terms of obtaining an accurate statistical analysis for each offence. Separating the offences into two distinct offences will make the statistical analysis of the offences easier and more accurate. It will ensure that a person's criminal history more accurately reflects the particular assault or obstruct offence committed when the court outcome is recorded. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.39 pm): It is my pleasure to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank the shadow Attorney-General and the shadow police minister for their contributions in relation to the amendments circulated today. I will refer to them later in my contribution. I also want to thank our former police officer MPs. The member for Burdekin gave a comprehensive explanation of a number of the changes that are being brought in to enhance the PPRA. It is always very good to get the practical experience of someone such as a former police officer. Of course, we have a number on our side. I know that the members for Bundaberg, Ninderry, Nicklin and Lockyer are all former police officers. It is important to get their front-line police experience.

I note that one of my first involvements in policing matters was as a member of the Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce when I was seconded to chair the community consultative committee at the Surfers Paradise Police Station in the early 2000s. It gave me my first look into practical policing and the frustrations that many of our police feel on the front line, especially in an area like Surfers Paradise, which is often promoted as our No. 1 tourism destination. With that comes a lot of difficulties for our serving police. I have always been very pleased, especially since being in this place, to work with officers in charge and the local police officers at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise police stations. I thank them for the contributions they make. I acknowledge our new assistant commissioner at the Gold Coast who gave all Gold Coast local MPs a briefing only a couple of months ago.

I note that the opposition is supporting the bill. I want to go through some of the specific matters contained within it. The bill before us amends the PPRA to introduce a new framework that will assist police in missing persons investigations. Specifically, the bill enables police officers to establish a missing persons scene. Police are able to exercise powers similar to those permitted within crime scenes.

The member for Burdekin mentioned in his contribution that changes in technology and changes in society are reasons for the PPRA to be amended at times. He mentioned issues with electronic passwords. It is similarly the case with some of the other things mentioned in the bill. Car chases and those sorts of things really affect serving police. It is encouraging to see that the PPRA is being updated to allow for what is happening in the real world, making sure that our police have all the resources they need.

A new provision for high-risk missing persons will be added which allows officers to establish a missing persons scene for a high-risk missing person before obtaining a warrant. A person is considered to be high risk if, according to the committee report, 'they are aged under 13 years or there is a reasonable suspicion that they may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible'. The proposed new section 179C(3) may be considered when determining if a person can be considered high risk. Included are the person's need for medication, any history of domestic violence or other relationship problems affecting the person, and any disability of the person attributable to a cognitive, intellectual, neurological, physical or psychiatric impairment.

Currently, police officers are permitted to enter the missing persons place of residence, workplace or vehicle to assist with the investigation; however, in the instance that the owner/occupier does not allow police to enter the premises, there must be some evidence that the missing person is a victim of serious crime for police to apply for a search warrant. The LNP acknowledges that stakeholders such as the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland expressed concerns about the broad nature of establishing a high-risk missing persons scene and its impacts on the rights and liberties of owner/occupiers. Additionally, the bill amends the act to reduce the crime scene threshold offence to an indictable offence with the maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment, as opposed to the prescribed seven years imprisonment.

The bill before us allows police to apply for a judicial order to gain access to a locked storage device which has been seized under a crime scene warrant. Such devices include mobile phones and computers which police reasonably suspect contain evidence of the crime scene offence. Currently, if a person refuses to provide a password or PIN for the device, police may not be able to access incriminating evidence. Under the bill, a person who contravenes an order made under the new provision would face a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. Police were generally supportive of the amendments, saying that it would alleviate frustration of front-line police to access locked electronic storage devices that have been lawfully seized under a crime scene warrant but the person in possession refuses to provide police with the password or other information to access the device. The Queensland Law Society did not support the amendment, saying that it considered the amendment has potential for abuse.

The bill also proposes changes to the parole system. I am concerned that just a couple of days ago in the *Sunday Mail* the Treasurer, as I understand it, was considering a Productivity Commission inquiry because Labor cannot manage our prisons. I know that my communities of Surfers Paradise and the Gold Coast are very concerned. Contrary to what the Treasurer said in the article about improving community outcomes, these proposed changes are not for the betterment of my community, which rightfully expects a functioning and fair justice system. Letting people back into the community because Labor cannot manage our prisons is a slap in the face for my community and the victims and families of victims of crime.

Speaking about the changes to the PPRA—I note page 1415 of *Hansard*—the introduction of this bill brought to my mind the strengthening of police resources through the PPRA that has happened in my time in this place. In 2007 I introduced a private member's bill to amend the Liquor Act. That bill was about the consumption of alcohol in private residences. Especially during schoolies and school holidays, students were going over to Straddie and there was no control over what they could consume in private residences. Whilst that bill was rejected, subsequently the government of the time did bring in amendments to the PPRA because that change was needed due to changes in our society, as we have already heard today. That is, parents were increasingly sending a number of their students to my electorate—to Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach—during schoolies.

When I was first on that Surfers Paradise police community consultative committee, local residents asked the serving police why they could not stop young people in residences drinking and partying in the way they were. The advice given at the time was that police could not go into private residences. It is a proud legacy of mine that I instigated this reform in the Queensland parliament. While it was rejected when put to the vote, it was subsequently brought in by the government. As a father of three children, I believe that this bill has made children on the Gold Coast and throughout Queensland safer. We are reminded of this as we edge closer to schoolies week, when graduates from across the state make that pilgrimage to my electorate.

We attempted to amend the Liquor Act to restrict the potential supply of alcohol to minors in private places such as holiday apartments. The changes to the PPRA allowed police to enter private residences to make judgements about how many children were there, whether there were any responsible adults present, how much alcohol was there and also whether there was any food there—so they could make a judgement about whether it was necessary to confiscate liquor. As I said at the time in my second reading speech—

... it has become obvious to authorities that parents are stocking and restocking their young school leavers' units with alcohol throughout the festivals and effectively relinquishing any responsibility.

... there are limited controls on supplying alcohol to minors following its purchase.


... there are no existing laws in Queensland relating to the supply of alcohol to minors ... from either an immediate relative or friends' parent [which] accounted for 64 per cent of supply to minors.

I recognise that there needs to be a delicate balance struck. I support the rights of parents and guardians to make decisions on sensible alcohol consumption within their families ... However, schoolies and underage teen parties have caused a high level of concern in the community.

I remind members of that, because some members from a generation ago would not be aware that this is why we have these laws and the changes to the PPRA that we are seeing today. We backed this up in government with our safe night out policy. Safe night out and public safety consultative committees in my electorate have time and again named predrinking as a factor of bad behaviour in our entertainment precincts.

I will always back laws that support our police officers so that we can make the Gold Coast a safe place to live, work and raise a family. It needs to be backed up with police resources. In this I am concerned that the Labor government has failed the Gold Coast.

In the short time available to me I want to acknowledge the contributions of the shadow Attorney-General and the shadow police minister. This bill does not go as far as the LNP's proposed bill. Community safety needs to be at the forefront of everything we are doing—for the safety of our children, young people and anyone who may be affected by terrible crimes by heinous criminals.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. At the outset I want to thank committee members for all of their hard work on the matter and those who made submissions and those who were consulted on the bill—the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Bar

Association of Queensland, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees, the Queensland Police Union and the State Coroner.

First of all I want to acknowledge the fantastic job the local officers do on the northern Gold Coast—the Coomera region and the Nerang region. As I said, those officers do a fantastic job and making their lives a little bit better through better legislation is welcomed by our local communities and welcomed by our serving officers. I want to acknowledge those former officers on both sides of the chamber who sit in the parliament now. It is a great service, it is a great organisation and those members can be very proud that they were members of this wonderful organisation.

One of the main concerns the residents of my electorate have—and it could be classed as a lack of understanding of how legislation works—is seeing individuals get off on minor technicalities. That is certainly a bugbear. Today I was talking to John, one of my constituents, about a technicality that an individual got off on. As he said, the legislation needs to be tightened up to ensure that these individuals do not get off on these technicalities—in this case, information on a mobile device. Therefore, for this legislation to work properly we need more resources on the northern Gold Coast and I bring to the attention of the House the resources of the Coomera Police Station and the Nerang Police Station. There are about 68 officers in the Coomera region. Whilst it is great to have this new legislation come into effect, there are not adequate resources for this police region.

When it comes down to it, those officers are overworked and overstressed as it is. With regard to calls for service, in the Coomera region there were 22,000 calls for service in the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018. That is a massive amount of work for 68 officers. With regard to Nerang Police Station, which, as I said, partly covers my electorate, it has 33 officers. They are great officers. They are working very hard. They are getting out there and certainly doing the Police Service proud, but they have received 10,422 calls for service. If we combine those two, that is 33,000 calls for service for about 101 officers. That is an enormous workload. The northern Gold Coast—and, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I am sure that the Townsville region is growing also—is literally the epicentre of massive population growth in this state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Just pause the clock for a moment. Member for Theodore, there have been a number of speakers who have spoken today and have been talking about capacities. They have all been brought back to the long title of the bill. I would counsel you to do the same.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. If we combine this with the DV rates on the northern Gold Coast, there have been 792 calls for service in the combined Coomera and Nerang police districts. Whilst this legislation may give police additional powers to do their job better, we need the police resources to adequately service the massive population growth. Our officers are getting snowed under. The member for Coomera is very passionate about the matter, obviously I am very passionate about the matter and I ask that all Gold Coast members—whether they are on the opposition side or the government side—be passionate about this matter. We need these officers for our region. We need them and we need them now.

Turning to the particulars of the legislation, the introduction of a new framework dealing with missing people and additionally the new high-risk missing persons provision that will be inserted will empower officers to establish a missing persons scene for a high-risk missing person without obtaining a warrant. A few weeks ago I was speaking to a police officer down my way who, by chance, is a prosecutor and he was talking about this exact same problem. He said that we need to update our laws to especially get them into the 21st century. A police officer can apply for a judicial order requiring access to locked storage devices such as mobile phones or laptops. Mobile phones these days are a very secure device and, therefore, it is critically important for police officers to have judicial powers to ensure that they can get access to these devices. I spoke about this issue previously on another bill, but security on these devices is extreme and I believe that the member for Townsville, the current Deputy Speaker, was a part of that inquiry quite some time ago.

This legislation is something that I welcome. As other members have stated in the chamber today, the opposition will not be opposing the bill. I support my colleagues in that we need to have very stringent legislation when it comes to sex offenders to ensure the protection of our young, women and the community. That is paramount for legislators in this state. It is our job to ensure that legislation protects our young people. Members on both sides have young families and I want to ensure that we do our utmost to protect women and young kids from these predators.



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. There are many important amendments in this bill, but I particularly want to focus on those which support police in conducting investigations that relate to high-risk missing persons and to the continued monitoring of offenders who have committed sexual offences against children. As the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I am acutely aware of the need to protect the vulnerable. Children need to be protected from those who would exploit them and do them harm and their safety is paramount, and I commend and congratulate the Minister for Police for introducing provisions that provide greater protection for our most vulnerable citizens and that make our communities safe.

This bill provides police with additional powers to conduct investigations relating to high-risk missing persons, particularly in those critical hours after the alarm is raised. A high-risk missing person includes children under 13 years of age and those where there is a reasonable suspicion that they may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible. The bill provides for enhanced powers to enter and search places for vital evidence.

These new powers will be of great value in relation to the disappearance of a young person in out-of-home care. They align with the recommendations in the 2016 Queensland Family and Child Commission report *When a child is missing*—a report into Queensland's children missing from out-of-home care. In its report, the Queensland Family and Child Commission stated that the Queensland Police Service—


... as the lead agency for directly responding to and investigating reports about missing children, must immediately be able to gather critical information to assist with locating a missing child.

Ordinarily, police are allowed to enter the residence of a high-risk missing person with the consent of the occupier, but such consent may not be given and any delay in gathering evidence at this stage of an investigation may well be the difference between a child's swift rescue from harm and a tragedy. The bill provides for a police officer to establish in urgent circumstances a missing persons scene at a place to search for the missing person or to search for information about the person's disappearance. During the consideration of the bill by the committee, Protect All Children Today—PACT—stated that it supported amendments that ensure that police can access the missing persons residence, place of employment, or vehicle in a timely manner.

The new regime will also assist in domestic and family violence related missing person cases. The 2012 murder of Allison Baden-Clay is an example of a case in which new powers may have assisted police to enter and search the family home and secure property and evidence earlier. The Queensland Council of Unions was of the view that the broadened police powers in relation to high-risk missing persons and crime scenes were consistent with the ongoing fight against domestic and family violence. That is so true.

I also strongly support the amendments for the monitoring of offenders who have committed sexual offences against children. Under the new provisions, an offender will have an obligation to report for the remainder of their life. These reporting obligations will commence upon the ending of the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 order. Child sex offenders will have to report to the Commissioner of Police of any change of residence or locality and where they can be found within 24 hours after the change happens. The amendments also allow for the making of an offender prohibition order and allows the court to set conditions. Such conditions can include wearing a tracking device for a stated period, residing at a particular residence, submitting to psychological treatment, or complying with any condition necessary to protect the safety or wellbeing of one or more children, or children generally.

For all the posturing of the other side—and a lot of it did not make sense, but that is not new—the LNP has form in putting together legislation that sounds really tough but does not work. We know that the community wants legislation that works. Every right-minded person in the community holds dear the principle that we need to keep our children safe. The community trusts us to put in place the right laws and to make sure that those laws work. The LNP has form in putting in place laws that do not work. We have form in putting in place laws that work. That is why these laws are so important. This bill is critical. The community is depending on us, the kids in Queensland are depending on us. These amendments are about the safety and wellbeing of our children. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.03 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The bill was reviewed by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, which tabled its report to parliament on 9 August this year. The committee made one recommendation—that the bill be passed. There was no statement of reservation provided. However, five key stakeholders raised issues with certain aspects of the bill.

The bill makes a number of amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, or the PPRA; the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation, or the PPRR; the Corrective Services Act, the CSA; as well as amendments to other acts, including the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004.

The policy objective of the proposed amendments to the PPRA is to enhance the efficiency and quality of front-line policing services and provide additional powers for the Queensland Police Service in respect of community safety. The most significant of the proposed amendments include introducing a new framework to assist police in missing persons investigations. This bill enables police officers to establish a missing persons scene within which they are able to exercise powers similar to crime scene powers. In addition, a new high-risk missing persons provision will be inserted into the legislation to empower officers to establish a missing persons scene for a high-risk missing person without first obtaining a warrant. The crime scene threshold offence has also been proposed to be reduced to that of an indictable offence with the maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment instead of the current prescribed offence with a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

The bill also contains changes to the parole system. The first amendment allows Parole Board Queensland to consider a request for the immediate suspension of a person's parole order and to issue a warrant. The second amendment introduces the requirement for a prescribed board member to issue a warrant for the parolee's arrest if the prescribed board member decides to suspend the parole order. The third amendment allows Parole Board Queensland, sitting as three members, to consider the cancellation of a prescribed prisoner's parole order.

The bill also contains an amendment that allows police to apply for a judicial order requiring an access approval order for a locked storage device such as a mobile phone or a laptop that has been seized under a crime scene warrant. New offences, such as the offence for assaulting or obstructive a civilian watch-house officer as well as separating the offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer into two distinct offences will also be introduced and will be welcomed by the Police Service.

The committee received eight submissions to the bill. The Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland, in their submissions, expressed similar concerns about the establishment of a missing persons scene in that the draft provision was broad and subjective, created the potential for misuse, and was a policy that failed to be backed by probative evidence. The Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Council of Unions and Protect All Children Today generally supported all the amendments. The Queensland Police Service welcomed the changes and consistently mentioned that the proposed amendments would be beneficial for police investigating.

Although the LNP supports the bill, I will make mention of a few issues about which it has concerns. There may be practical impacts that flow from increased police powers, such as a lack of police officers and resources that will be required when these powers come into effect. Although, on face value, these increased police powers are commendable, it will be difficult to deliver on these proposed changes when Labor has underfunded and underresourced the Queensland Police Service.

I make mention of the amendments that the minister has rushed into this House today. I can speak to these amendments as they relate to my time as a police officer of 23 years, including several years working in the Child Protection Unit where my role was to supervise those persons in Bundaberg who were on the Child Protection Offender Register. The priority of all governments should be to keep its citizens safe. It is clear that Labor had no plan B in place and was putting all bets on a successful appeal by the Attorney-General on the impending release of repeat sex offender Robert John Fardon when his supervision order expires on 3 October. Obviously, that has resulted in the rushed two amendments that Labor is proposing to add to this bill. The Attorney-General claims that Labor's amendments are not Fardon specific, yet they are being rushed through as part of this bill and have not been to a parliamentary committee.


Labor claims that GPS offenders will be tracked for the rest of their lives, but there is absolutely no guarantee that its amendments will ensure that at all. The explanatory notes to Labor's amendments state that a prohibition order remains in force for only five years, not for the rest of an offender's life, which has been stated by government members. In fact, under Labor's laws, for a GPS tracker to be applied a reportable offender must engage in concerning conduct that is intercepted by the police, brought before a court and sanctioned by a court as part of a prohibition order.

This concerning conduct is defined as a course of conduct that poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more children, or children generally, and may include preparatory behaviours that lead to actual offences against children. If that is the case, these offenders could be arrested and charged by police with committing or attempting to commit the offence that the concerning conduct is related to. Do we really want to have to watch these sex offenders preparing to commit another sexual offence on our vulnerable children before police can take action under this legislation to apply for an offender prohibition order?

What if no-one sees these sex offenders doing these preparatory acts? Whose child will be next on the list to be assaulted because the police were not able to find these predators preparing to commit their next offence? Labor claim that the police will direct where these offenders live. Again this is only done through a prohibition order that needs to be court sanctioned once an offender has engaged in concerning conduct. It is not a given. It is not a guarantee as those opposite would claim in the media.

Labor's laws do not apply to all repeat violent sex offenders, only to child sex offenders. They neglect the safety of vulnerable women in particular because their amendments do not include all repeat violent sex offenders. Under Labor's laws, serial rapists whose victims are women will be released and unsupervised in the community. They are relying on an honesty system to monitor offenders—the worst kind of offenders—whereas the LNP would have strict supervision and indeterminate supervision of Queensland's most notorious, dangerous and violent sex offenders. No wonder Labor continually blocked the attempts of the LNP to introduce tougher laws in the parliament this morning.

Labor's laws are an improvement on the existing laws, but they fall short of the LNP's tougher laws that are far more comprehensive and ensure greater protection of the community. The LNP's laws would apply to all sex offenders, including child sex offenders and violent sex offenders. Labor's proposed laws do not protect all Queenslanders. The proposed laws do not protect adults from violent sex offenders. The LNP's laws would extend supervision orders. This means a sex offender whose supervision order is about to expire may continuously be subject to their current strict supervision order. The LNP's laws mean continual strict supervision; Labor's laws mean monitoring. Labor's laws do not impose supervision on child sex offenders automatically upon their release from custody or when their supervision order expires. It only applies when a released sex offender engages in that concerning conduct that I have spoken about. What will it take for a sex offender to be monitored? Does the offender have to commit another sex offence before being subject to a prohibition order? I hope not, but what else would you expect from this soft-on-crime Labor government?

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.12 pm): It is incredible that Labor comes in here and expects to provide protection of the vulnerable by press release, platitudes and empty political promises. We have here a complete con in regard to amendments that have been tacked onto the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill without review by a parliamentary committee. The government says it is urgent but will not admit to the charade that it is due to the imminent release from a supervision order of that terrible repeat sex offender, Robert John Fardon, that expires on 3 October. Those opposite claim the urgency of these amendments is not to do with this particular case, yet the timing clearly is to do with that case.

There is a need for policy that addresses all repeat violent sexual offenders in the case of children and adults. What this Labor government has done does not address that. It fails that test. A fundamental responsibility of government is to ensure that there are laws that equip the police to do their job to keep people in our communities safe—both children and adults—and these laws fail that test.

The LNP has proposed an alternative mechanism that would allow for continual supervision of repeat violent sexual offenders. We propose to bring in these laws but the state Labor government does not want to have that debate and is hiding behind these inadequate provisions that have been tabled today.

I have heard those opposite when we have raised the real concern of the inadequate resourcing of police officers in this state to enforce the existing laws, let alone new laws. We want to see tough laws and adequate resources that support our police. I have heard Labor members muttering and even taking interjections that that is not relevant to this debate. Hell yeah, it is relevant to this debate!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, I think that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw it. The resources that this government provides to the police are entirely relevant to this debate. This morning we heard the police minister saying there would be some additional resources for police, but we have not heard what they are. When we have raised in this parliament the need for proper resourcing Labor members have complained. I think they complain too

much. We have a surging population in this state and the rate of increase in resourcing for our police has not kept pace. The Premier will tuck in more ministerial staffers and media advisers and run over budget but not resource the police. This Labor government's priorities are completely wrong.

The situation of terrible repeat sexual offenders being released onto the streets of this state once their term of imprisonment is finished without ensuring that there is continual supervision is completely abhorrent. We did not hear a guarantee from the Premier this morning when asked would her legislation ensure that there will be continuing monitoring of sexual offenders who offend against women and children. When one looks at this legislation we can see the truth. It will not provide that guarantee because there is no legal mechanism to ensure that that occurs.

If the Queensland community is to be safe in the face of surging crime rates it needs tougher laws and more police resources, not Labor government platitudes. The Police Service is not being resourced adequately despite the booming population, while the Premier continues to employ more ministerial staff. The victims of terrible sexual offences tragically live their lives in fear that they will be attacked again. They have a life sentence which is not imposed by law but by the lawless. If they survive the attack, most live with the devastating impacts for life. All too often they have been robbed of their liberty and left with physical and mental injuries that can continue to steal their right to feel and be safe and to live normal lives. We must never forget them or their families. We also must never forget that our communities demand that we, as legislators, listen and do all that we can to achieve the fundamental principle of peace and wellbeing in our communities by ensuring that the police are properly equipped with the resources and the laws to achieve that principle.

Serious sex offenders should be tracked for life, but this Labor government's laws do not achieve that. This morning in question time the Premier failed in her duty to this parliament to provide a guarantee that the laws would ensure that level of supervision. The reason that this government has not come to this parliament to do that is because it is simply not in the DNA of Labor governments to do all that it should. Rushing in these amendments on the back of this legislation and saying it has nothing to do with Robert John Fardon is a charade. Those opposite have known all along that this matter needed to be dealt with. It was only when the state LNP, under my colleague the shadow Attorney-General, proposed that we would be bringing legislation forward that suddenly they spun into action and have tacked on these amendments which are before the House at this time.

Let us be clear about the motivations of this government: it is about PR and its profile, it is not about protection of the public. Labor is weak on crime. The LNP has proposed a tougher regime. We do not believe in paper handcuffs. We believe in real justice and ensuring that the police have the resources and the legislative tools to uphold the safety, peace and wellbeing of our community.

I acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues who, as former police officers, have shared their very important and vital insights into what it means when we enact laws to keep the community safe. We have heard concerns about the inadequacy of what the state Labor government has proposed in the amending provisions that are before the House. We have seen that Labor's proposed laws do not protect all Queenslanders, as they do not protect adults from violent sex offenders.

The LNP's proposed laws would extend supervision orders, so that sex offenders whose supervision orders are about to expire can be continually subjected to strict supervision orders. The LNP's proposed laws would mean continual strict supervision—not just monitoring from afar, without the ability to ensure that resources are applied directly to ensure that the community is kept safe. We have seen Labor's reluctance to step up and do all that it can. It tries to deny that there are more opportunities, but we know that there are more opportunities and that is why we proposed alternatives in the legislation that we tabled this morning.

The community needs laws that provide police with the tools to keep people safe. The community expects us to do all that we can to ensure that we listen to their concerns and that we act. Children are the most vulnerable, but all members of our community, regardless of age, have a right to peace and safety, which can be ripped away by terrible offenders who will not cease their damaging attacks within our community. That is something that I do not think people can fully appreciate unless they have known it themselves or have family or friends who have known it. We must do all we can to ensure that no child or adult ever faces an attack from one of those terribly damaged individuals who will not give up their pattern of re-offending unless they are kept separate from the community and the opportunity, and are continually and directly monitored to ensure that they come nowhere near people they can harm.



Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (5.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. There is a clear need to continuously review the powers and responsibilities afforded to our police to ensure that they remain

reflective of contemporary practice and are best able to provide the protections our community demands and rightly deserves. The amendments before the House continue that process of continual review and improvement. I note that the committee had one recommendation, that the bill be passed.

As we have already heard, as it currently stands the bill contains amendments primarily focussed on police powers, in addition to three legislative changes to the Corrective Services Act. The primary amendment contained in the bill that has significant operational impact on police is the introduction of the new high-risk missing person search warrant scheme as part of chapter 7 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. During the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee hearings, expert testimony from Police Commissioner Ian Stewart outlined just how critical the early stages of a high-risk missing person investigation are for saving lives or determining who may be involved in a disappearance. The bill enhances the ability of police to investigate in the early critical stages by providing the ability to obtain a missing person warrant from a Supreme Court judge or magistrate to enter and search places for a high-risk missing person.

Amendments to police crime scene powers form the second key theme contained in the bill, allowing for the simplification of the definition of a crime scene from primary and secondary crime scenes to a new single definition. The bill will also enable police to apply to a Supreme Court judge or magistrate for an access approval order for a storage device, such as computer or mobile, that has been seized under a crime scene warrant, which is a power identical to existing search warrant powers.

The bill will implement seven legislative amendment recommendations made by the 2011 Crime and Misconduct Commission review of the evade police provisions. Police pursuits have long been a much contested issue across the community. However, the amendments proposed by the bill to require vehicle owners served with an evasion offence notice to provide a range of information, including where they were at the time of the offence and who the potential drivers were, are far from contentious. Rather, they will greatly assist with an issue and, dare I say, loophole that has long frustrated officers and their investigations in this regard.

Additionally, the bill introduces a new offence to deal with a person who assaults or obstructs a civilian watch-house officer; separates the offence of assault or obstruct a police officer into two offences; and introduces a new offence to ensure vehicles subject to a numberplate confiscation notice remain at the address without modification, sale or disposal until the numberplate confiscation notice period ends. The bill contains a number of additional amendments to those I have already mentioned to enhance frontline policing services and community safety. These have been outlined in detail by the speakers before me, so I do not seek to retrace their steps in any more detail now.


However, I would like to provide specific comment on the amendments contained in the bill that relate to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act to include 10 Commonwealth sex offences as reportable offences in Queensland. This will mean that persons convicted of offences such as trafficking in children and engaging in sexual intercourse with a young person when the offender is in a position of trust or authority are now rightly captured as reportable sex offenders in Queensland. These amendments are the result of the 2017 joint meeting of Attorneys-General, justice and police ministers as part of the former law, crime and community safety council. That meeting sought to provide uniformity between jurisdictions regarding reportable sex offences.

The bill also includes two additional Queensland Criminal Code offences of administering a child exploitation website and encouraging the use of a child exploitation material website as prescribed internet offences under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Importantly, this means that authorised police will be allowed to inspect the electronic storage devices, such as computers and laptops, of reportable sex offenders convicted of those additional offences. Capturing those two offences as prescribed internet offences ensures that those reportable sex offenders are appropriately monitored within the community.

We know that technology continues to evolve at a rapid rate and that there are those who will always seek to exploit those advances for their own ends. The internet has long provided fertile ground for online child abuse and child exploitation to proliferate practically free from geographical boundaries, but not from limitation. Like many before me, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding work of Task Force Argos in this regard. I note the figures provided by the minister during his introductory speech that, for the first three months of this year, Task Force Argos was behind the arrest of 251 offenders on 2,853 charges for various crimes, including rape and the possession, making, production and distribution of child exploitation material.

The amendments before us will ensure that our police investigators will continue to have the necessary powers to monitor reportable sex offenders in Queensland. This government and successive Labor state governments before it have always taken every opportunity to strengthen laws to protect our most vulnerable from those who would seek to do irreparable harm.

The additional amendments to be debated as part of this bill in regard to DP(SO)A offenders further strengthen our existing laws, which are the toughest of their kind in the country, to ensure that all offenders who are no longer subject to a dangerous prisoner order and who have committed a reportable offence will be subject to continued monitoring obligations for life and the appropriate constraint of their activities, including living within 200 metres of a school, taking photos of children or using internet platforms primarily aimed at children. This strengthening of laws will provide an added layer of protection for the Queensland community and our most vulnerable and precious. This is a bill worthy of the support of the House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (5.28 pm): I rise to speak as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I wish to thank my committee colleagues and the secretariat for the work that they have done in bringing the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to the House. I also thank the Bar Association of Queensland, the Protect All Children Today organisation, the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council of Unions for their submissions on the bill. I thank the Queensland Police Service officials for their vital contribution towards the public briefings and hearings, as well as for their submissions on the bill.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into the parliament in June 2018 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I am a member, to report back to the parliament in August 2018. One of the many amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, the PPRA, focuses on enhancing the efficiency and quality of front-line policing.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has given rigorous consideration to the details within the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the fundamental principles of law and the civil rights and liberties of people. It is my understanding that appropriate safeguards and measures have been thought out and due care and consideration has been given to ensuring the robustness of this bill. Various aspects of its operation will be reviewed by the likes of the CCC and reported on to this House.

Some concerns have been raised by submitters with regard to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Queensland Law Society has concern about police officers having the authority to enter premises without a warrant on suspicion of a crime or the presence of a missing person. With regard to these very valid concerns, in the briefing held by the committee with the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart clearly articulated that the bill enshrines the need for change. He said that the objective is to deliver an integrated missing persons warrant scheme that will assist vulnerable high-risk missing people, most notably the young and those subject to domestic violence and being held against their will. These amendments are needed to improve response times so as to secure the safety of victims of crime and ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

I cannot imagine any family not wanting to find their missing child, son, daughter, mother or father sooner and not allowing the police the powers and capability to do so. I refer to the Marilyn Wallman case in Mackay. She has been missing since 1972. The reward has just recently been increased from \$250,000 to \$500,000. It is a sad story and a crime that the family would like solved.


These proposed powers have the clear potential to establish the whereabouts of high-risk missing persons, prevent suicide, address serious medical concerns and identify suspicious circumstances to escalate the investigation to a criminal investigation sooner. This bill is pivotal in reaching this objective. It will also be the first of its kind in Australia. These amendments will deliver our police and justice system the tools needed to stay abreast of the actions and behaviours of criminals in the 21st century. As mentioned, no other jurisdiction has the powers proposed under this bill.

Another concern mentioned was that police would have the power to search persons being transported for breaches of the peace. There is no simpler reasoning for this amendment than protecting the welfare of our front-line officers within the QPS. I commend this power being given to our officers of the Queensland Police Service. It is with considerable due process, attention to the detail around the provisions and through extensive consultation with the public, the legal fraternity, the community safety committee and high-ranking officials from the Queensland Police Service that the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is before the House for debate.

There are some facets where the bill does not entirely keep pace with the challenges of our time, like the rising levels of crime and the severity of such crimes in particular regional areas. I will take the liberty to use an example of what happened in my electorate of Mirani yesterday. A man was shot and the perpetrator stole his vehicle and fled. The RACQ rescue helicopter helped search for the perpetrator and various sections of our roads were in lockdown. These types of crime are not new, though the rise in instances of such crimes is alarming. In this particular case, all resources were needed, including the assistance of the RACQ rescue helicopter, to help locate the offender by air. The man is understood to still be travelling by foot today.

Despite this legislation, the question needs to be asked: how will we resource the Queensland Police Service in the future when the severity of crimes are escalating, when emerging crimes exist entirely online and when perpetrators of crime have no physical presence within state boundaries? I believe this bill serves to go some way to addressing the changing concerns about crime in our communities and serves to better arm our police and justice system with the resources and the appropriate equipment to fulfil their roles in the best interest of our law-abiding citizens. This is a challenge.

The bill in its entirety serves the purpose to give front-line officers more power and responsibilities when it comes to its operations. The legislation is aimed at enhancing the efficiency and quality of front-line policing and will ensure the service reflects the needs of the community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.37 pm): I will make my contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill in two parts. I will firstly talk about the initial changes to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and then talk about the amendments that we have seen rushed into this place today.

Whenever a matter like this is debated and whenever we seek to change police powers and responsibilities there will always be a debate about the balance between the rights of the individual and the ability to resource the police properly. That debate should always be had. Whichever side of the debate one ends up falling on, if that debate and that contest of ideas is not had we are poorer for it when developing legislation. No society wants to see a police service that is without checks and balances. Likewise, no society wants to see an individual have so many rights they conduct their behaviour with absolute impunity.

Whilst the parties making submissions to the committee proudly put forward the views of their membership, they did so in good spirit. I support the changes the minister has put forward, particularly those that reflect changing technology—things like mobile devices. I think they are sensible and reasonable. I certainly support the changes.

What I do want to comment on is a pretty simple scenario. We can have all the legislation in the world, but if we do not have a properly resourced police service the best legislation accounts for nothing. As the shadow minister and my good friend, the member for Toowoomba North, says, one thing is for sure when it comes to the Queensland Police Service: crime is up because the budget is down. That is a direct correlation. Numbers do not lie.

In the last three years when we see the progression from 245 police officers to every 100,000 people to 242 officers per 100,000 people, the numbers do not lie. I would challenge anyone on either side of this place to tell me that crime is not more of an issue today than it was four years ago. It absolutely is an issue. At a time when we have seen crime go up, at a time when we have seen the watering down of laws, at a time when bikies have been given back the right to come into our communities, to have fewer police officers is quite frankly wrong.

Let me give members an example close to home in my own patch that I proudly represent. When we began our campaign to have the Runaway Bay Police Station properly resourced, barely over half of its entitlement was filled. That was an entitlement of just 24 police officers. Almost half of those positions sat vacant. We cannot enforce law and order if we do not have boots on the ground.

I have another example which is alive and kicking at the moment. In a part of Hope Island a group of youths are acting in a vigilante manner without any fear of the law. They are taking to social media to boast about their exploits. They are hassling people. They are being aggressive. Unfortunately, due to a lack of policing in that area, which falls into the area of the very busy Coomera Police Station, these youths are carrying on in a manner that is making the community I represent feel afraid. Do I support these changes? Yes, I do. Would I like to see more police to enforce them? The answer is absolutely.

Let's move on to the amendments. We are somehow debating amendments that are so urgent that they have to be done today. Yet the government with a straight face can say it does not relate to one individual in particular, despite the media coverage about that individual. If I name that individual, I imagine the Attorney is going to get up and wave her arms because somehow the government is trying to say with a straight face that this is not in response to: (a) the media pressure that has been mounted; and (b) the legislation that the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Attorney-General have put forward, which in my mind is stronger and is designed to get the result we want. The government says that GPS offenders will be tracked for life, but there is no guarantee of that.

Mrs D'Ath: I have not said that, but that is okay. You can mislead parliament.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We enjoyed the press conference, Attorney. There were a lot of different positions—it was back and forth and inside and out. It was tremendous.

Government members interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: For a GPS tracker to be applied under these laws, a reportable offender must engage in concerning conduct that is intercepted by the police. Labor's amendments state that a prohibition order remains in force for only five years, not for the rest of their life. I am not quite sure how we have a situation where the community is being led to believe that somehow this tough legislation will see somebody GPS tracked for life when they may not be GPS tracked at all and, if they are, it may be only for five years.

Labor claim that the police will direct where these offenders live. We would like to see these laws put the rights of the innocent home owner ahead of the rights of repeat sexual offenders. The absolute doozy in all of this is the honesty system—the pedo principles—that somehow the worst of the worst are going to volunteer where they are living and what they are doing. Hardworking police have thrown everything on the line. They have tracked down these offenders and put them behind bars. Some offenders have reoffended within 20 days before. Yet somehow we think that these offenders are going to be well-behaved citizens and tell us where they live.

No wonder Labor continually blocked attempts by the LNP to introduce tougher laws in the parliament. If these amendments are so urgent that they cannot go to a committee, you would hope that some of the things that have been put forward by the shadow Attorney-General may have been considered. You would have thought that would be the case.

In a nutshell, what do the LNP laws mean? The LNP laws would extend supervision orders. This means sexual offenders whose supervision order is about to expire may continuously be subject to their current strict supervision order. I would suggest that the everyday person on the street would say that that makes sense. The LNP laws would mean continuously strict supervision, rather than a meaningless honesty system of checking in. I would suggest that the everyday person on the street would say that that is a sensible suggestion.

Labor's laws do not impose supervision on child sex offenders automatically upon their release from custody or when their supervision order expires. It only applies when a released sexual offender engages in concerning conduct. Surely we would want to protect the rights of innocent Queenslanders against a handful of monsters. The suggestion that has been put forward by the LNP should have been embraced because it was strong, it was visionary and it enacted a plan B at a time when the government ducked and weaved and said there was not an issue and then rushed in laws that do not work.

(Time expired)



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.44 pm): I, too, rise to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. So much for openness and transparency espoused by the Premier when we have seen yet again debate being stifled in this chamber. The opposition leader tried to move amendments to this bill earlier today, but the Palaszczuk government has today refused to allow the LNP's tough laws to protect Queenslanders from all violent serious sex offenders to even be debated by parliament in cognate.

While blocking debate, the panicking Palaszczuk government said it would press ahead with its own weak legislation, which will rely on offenders to—get this—'self-report' to police on release. What a joke. I will speak further about the amendments that have been introduced later in my contribution. I would now like to comment on the original bill briefly which, in fact, was sent to a committee for scrutiny and a fine toothcomb vetting process.

The LNP's position on that particular bill was unequivocally not to oppose—that is, the original bill, prior to these rushed in amendments. The committee, as other members have spoken about today, made one recommendation, and that was that the original bill be passed. There was no statement of reservation provided on the original bill.

The objectives of that bill were aimed at enhancing the efficiency and quality of front-line police services and ensuring that policing services remained responsive to contemporary community needs. The bill made a number of amendments to various pieces of legislation, specifically the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. There was a divide—and there always is a divide and a balancing act—between protecting the rights and liberties of individuals who are subject to the proposed changes and enhancing the powers of police to enable them to conduct their work as efficiently and professionally as possible.

In relation to specific details, the original bill—I will come back to the amendments—made a number of amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the PPRA, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012 and the Corrective Services Act 2006, as well as amendments to other acts including the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004.

Of all of these, the most significant proposed amendments included introducing a new framework to assist police in missing person investigations and proposing that the crime scene threshold offence be reduced to an indictable offence with a maximum penalty of at least four years imprisonment instead of the current prescribed seven years imprisonment. Furthermore, police may apply for a judicial order requiring an access approval order for a locked storage device that has been seized under a crime scene warrant. Other amendments included further changes to the parole system. New offences, such as the offence for assaulting or obstructing a civilian watch-house officer, as well as separating the offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer into two distinct offences, were also to be introduced.

I would now like to comment further on the amendments introduced into the House today that have not been referred to a committee. As other speakers have said previously—and I reiterate—surely the priority of all governments is to keep its citizens safe. That should be a fundamental priority of all governments. There is, however, a big difference between 'could' and 'shall' when framing legislation. Labor has been caught out yet again with the pending unsupervised release of one of this state's worst serial offenders. What a travesty to the people of Queensland to have essentially something akin to an honesty system with some of the state's worst serial sexual predators.

What is clear is that Labor had no plan B in place and were staking all their hopes on a successful appeal by the Attorney-General to the impending release of notorious repeat sexual offender Robert John Fardon when his supervision order expires on 3 October. That is obvious given the rushed and, as other speakers have said—and I agree with them—cobble together amendments. In fact, there are only two amendments that Labor are proposing to add to the substantive bill. The Attorney-General claims that Labor's amendments are not Fardon specific, yet they are being rushed through as part of this bill and have not even been to a parliamentary committee. A number of those opposite in the chamber liked to carp on during the Campbell Newman government era about things being rushed through to committee, and here is another example on top of that of the member for Sandgate and his changes to the electoral system that were rushed through 18 months ago.


It is really clear—I completely echo the sentiments that have been expressed already—that certain members opposite woke up on Sunday, they grabbed the bacon, eggs and orange juice and saw the media reports that the LNP were putting together a tough, detailed plan to try to address this issue. I, too, will take the opportunity to congratulate the shadow Attorney-General on the excellent work that he has done. If honourable members want to talk about resources given, he has virtually crafted this on his own with very minimal assistance apart from the appropriate touchstones. He absolutely deserves full credit.

This is typical Labor: tough talk that at the end of the day is not backed up with the substantial facts. Labor claim that GPS offenders will be tracked for the rest of their lives. There is absolutely no guarantee that Labor's amendments will ensure that at all. In fact, for a GPS tracker to be applied under Labor's weak laws a reportable offender must engage in 'concerning conduct' that is intercepted by the police, brought before police and sanctioned by a court as part of a prohibition order. In fact, I read with interest in the explanatory notes—

A prohibition order takes effect upon the respondent being notified of its existence and remains in force for 5 years for an adult respondent or 2 years for a child respondent.

I repeat: five years for an adult respondent, not for the rest of their lives. Labor claims that police will direct where these people live. Again, that is only done through a prohibition order that needs to be court sanctioned once an offender has engaged in concerning conduct. It is not a given. It is not a guarantee, as those opposite would claim in the media. Labor claim there will be ongoing monitoring of reportable offenders when their amendments allow an offender to go to a Supreme Court to have their order suspended after 15 years. Crucially, Labor's laws also do not apply to all repeat sexual predators. They neglect the safety of vulnerable women in particular because their amendments do not include all repeat sex offenders. That is, serial rapists whose victims predominantly will be women will be released unsupervised in the community under Labor's soft, watered-down laws. It is one of the significant shortfalls of Labor's rushed and cobbled together laws. They are relying, as has been said repeatedly on this side—and this is absolutely unbelievable—on an honesty system to monitor offenders. It is hard to believe but true. They are the worst kinds of offenders.

In contrast, the LNP will have strict supervision and indeterminate supervision of Queensland's most notorious, dangerous and violent sex offenders. Is it any wonder that Labor continually blocked attempts by the LNP to introduce tougher laws in the parliament? I do not get it. If the opposition bring to the table laws that will actually enhance society's ideals and that are for the greater good of society, why would you not, just once, as a government take stock and go, 'You know what? We're actually going to adopt that,' and introduce something that will stand the test of time? No, arrogance and hubris have absolutely come to the fore. I repeat that: arrogance and hubris have come to the fore. Why do those opposite not adopt the sensible amendments put forward by the shadow Attorney-General? It is because of arrogance.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and also to make some points in relation to the amendments moved in this House by the government—

Mr Ryan: They haven't been moved yet. They have been circulated.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—that have been circulated in this House. I take note of the comments made by my colleague the member for Chatsworth in relation to the arrogance of those on the other side of this chamber. Why are we constantly surprised?

I note that the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill went through committee, unlike the amendments, which did not even go to committee for five minutes. We have some serious crime issues across this great state of ours. I want to put on record the LNP's thanks to our hardworking police officers who do so much in the line of duty on behalf of all of our communities. I do not think there would be any harder working police men and women than the ones who are struggling with the increase in crime in the great South Burnett. All across the South Burnett we have had a real scourge of crime. We need to give our police more powers, we need to give our police more support and we certainly need to listen to communities when they are screaming out for a bit of assistance. Let me put some facts on record.

Some serious crime issues started in the South Burnett in late 2017. Crime escalated right through until July 2018. During that time I wrote to the minister not once, not twice, but three times. No-one likes to have to promote an issue like crime in their local area on their local TV stations or in their local media; however, that is the only way to get this government to listen. The community knew that we had written to the minister three times and had received little to no response. Meetings were held in Murgon about the issue. A crime petition was started. I think we had around 800 signatures from people in the South Burnett on a parliamentary petition seeking policing resources and intervention, and I was more than happy to sponsor that petition.

In July the minister finally went to the media. He turned up at Cherbourg and said, 'I'm going to solve the problem of crime here.' Guess what the minister announced? What an absolute laughing-stock in the media he was that day! It was beyond embarrassing. He announced that he was going to give four new police officers to the region. It sounds good when we see the grab on TV, but locals know that there were four vacancies. What was the minister going to do? He was going to fill the vacancies. Guess what? I say to the minister seriously to check the vacancies, fill the vacancies and actually put some police officers on the ground—and not traffic cops. We respect the traffic police. If people in our community are doing the wrong thing, then they should be pulled up and they should be arrested. If they are not wearing a seatbelt, fair enough.

Mr Nicholls: Fine them, not arrest them.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Fine them, possibly not arrest them. I take that interjection. If they are speeding, they should be fined and have points taken from them. The minister needs to look at our community and its priorities. If the priority of this minister is to send not one, not two, but many, many police cars, who are the traffic police, to try to solve the problem of juveniles flogging cars, breaking into elderly people's houses and stoning the nurses as they drive to work each and every evening, I say traffic police will not fix those problems.

We call on this minister to provide police who are empowered to work on behalf of the community to bring down crime and give our community some sense that the government even knows they are there. Do not fly in and bring a whole hoard of uniformed officers with you for protection—and possibly a couple of other ministers to justify the use of the government jet—to sneak in and out of the community. The community wants to hear from the minister. Front up! Give our local police officers support. Fill the vacancies and then give us a few more police officers on top of that. We certainly do not want any more traffic cops because, trust me, my community—including our local hardworking police officers—have said to me, 'Deb, tell the minister no more traffic police,' because I think even some of our local police officers are getting pulled up.

Mrs D'Ath: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has been speaking for six minutes now and she has not gone to the substance of the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member has been using local examples to talk about police resourcing and police powers. With the remaining time on the clock the member now has an opportunity to focus more directly on the bill.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I know it has been a tough day for the Attorney-General. She has been pulled up a couple of times today.


Mr Minnikin: Not a good strike rate!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Not a good strike rate; I will take that interjection. There is a point in this bill in relation to evade police in an attempt to try to bring down car thefts. Not speeding and not using your seatbelt are not the issues my community want fixed. They want car thefts fixed. Attorney-General, that is what the community of the South Burnett wants fixed. That is what the police officers in our community who work so hard each and every day want fixed. In actual fact, it is not just the good community of the South Burnett. I am extraordinarily pleased to have the opportunity to go to so many communities around this wonderful state of ours. There are many communities screaming out for more support from this government in relation to not only policing but crime.

I turn to the amendments that the Attorney-General has bumbled her way through and circulated in this House. I thank the Minister for Police for his notes in relation to that. When you look at the piece of paper that has been passed around this place, it is obvious it has been rushed. It is obvious that the Attorney-General is simply not over the brief. That has been quite obvious a couple of times today.

The difference, as some of my colleagues on this side of the House have pointed out, is in relation to 'could' and 'would'. It is pretty simple. Under Labor's bill, a repeat sexual offender could maybe have GPS tracking. We are not sure. It depends on who you ask on that side of the House. They 'could' or they 'may' have tracking. Instead, the LNP have proposed tough criminal laws because we know that we need to keep serial sexual offenders behind the fence. We do not want them out in the community. We have also seen those opposite deflect to the Police Commissioner and say that they will be in the neighbourhood, but I want to know in whose neighbourhood? Is it the neighbourhood of the Attorney-General? Is it the neighbourhood of the Minister for Police? Is it the Premier's neighbourhood? Is it going to be the neighbourhood of the great South Burnett? Certainly not in my time.

We know that only the LNP will give victims a voice in Queensland because only the LNP will be tough on crime. It is only the Labor Party who will be soft on crime and put criminals before victims. That is certainly not the LNP's plan. We will continue to put victims before criminals.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, particularly with regard to the amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004.

Whether it is releasing recidivist juvenile offenders back into the community under their community bail programs, watering down bikie laws to allow criminal motorcycle gangs back into our state, or allowing child killers to receive grossly inadequate sentences for the prolonged torture and

unlawful killing of defenceless, innocent children—and now overseeing the release of psychopathic paedophiles back into our society—once again this Labor government is continuing their long tradition of being soft on crime. Not only is this government soft on crime; it is continually failing in one of its highest priorities as a government, and that is to ensure the security of its citizens.

The amendments put forward by the police minister are not only weak: they are a joke. Releasing the likes of Robert Fardon back into the community and making minor amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act—the CPOR act, as we call it in the child protection field—is manifestly inadequate. The current CPOR monitoring system and the officers who work in it are already overcome trying to remotely monitor thousands of reportable offenders who are already on the CPOR register. It is honestly an honesty system.

As the police minister stated earlier—it is even in the explanatory notes to the amendments—on being released from prison, repeat child sex offenders have reporting obligations. I can tell you that they have seven days to report their new address and other details to the police. Then their ongoing monitoring is done online or over the phone. It is an honesty system, where the onus is on the reportable offender to ring the police and advise them that his or her circumstances have changed. I repeat: it is up to the reportable offender—the repeat child sex offender listed on the CPOR register—to ring or go online and notify the police that they are now living beside a childcare centre or moving into a house with young kids.

I worked in this field right up until the last state election, and I can tell you that there are over 3,000 reportable offenders currently in this state on the CPOR register. Over 3,000 convicted paedophiles are at large in this state, and each police division has only one—in some cases two—police officers to try and keep track of these offenders. It is true that these CPOR officers do not even have an allocated police car, so it is a joke that this government thinks they can amend the CPOR Act to retrospectively make offenders like Fardon eligible to enter this system. To think that is sufficient to protect our community from serial sex offenders like Fardon is a fairytale.

Do not be mistaken or confused about the Queensland police detectives in our regional Child Protection and Investigation Units, the CPIUs. Those detectives across the state are already understaffed trying to protect the community from recidivist juvenile offenders who this government releases back into our community whilst performing their core responsibility of investigating ongoing child abuse matters.

It is not their responsibility or the responsibility of the officers in the CPIUs across the state to monitor CPOR offenders. This is done by just over 20 officers across the whole state attached to the CPOR unit at State Crime Command. If anyone tries to suggest that the hundreds of CPIU detectives across the state are also monitoring these offenders, they are misleading you. CPIU detectives will be the ones called to investigate the fresh offences committed by these grubs only after they devastate the life of another innocent victim.


In reality, if these amendments are passed Mr Fardon on his release from prison will likely get a phone call telling him he has seven days to report his new address to his local CPOR officer. There will be no active, real-time monitoring of him before or after this time, apart from his name being entered into the CPOR database with over 3,000 other reportable offenders. Police will then hope that, should any of his personal circumstances change, he will act in good faith and notify them online or via the phone.

Under these proposed amendments police cannot take further action until someone alerts them to the fact that Fardon is engaged in concerning conduct. Police can then investigate this conduct and try to obtain evidence that this conduct satisfies the grounds for an application to a court for a prohibition order. For this application, police must have evidence that the concerning conduct shows a pattern which presents a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more children, with the new amendment to this definition in section 13A of the CPOR act to now include 'safety or wellbeing'. Notwithstanding this, police will need to satisfy these grounds and furnish a court application for a prohibition order.

We heard earlier today about the abhorrent violent offences committed by Fardon over a lifetime of offending. On one occasion he sodomised and violently raped a woman in Townsville 20 days after being released from prison. He also has a long history of ignoring and showing contempt for any probation or parole orders placed upon him. These amendments, which have obviously been hastily slapped together over the weekend on the back of a drink coaster, are grossly inadequate. In contrast, the legislation proposed by the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South, is well thought out, practical, workable and would be an effective way to actively monitor in real time offenders like Fardon, and police could take action prior to any innocent victim being violently assaulted.

It is telling that the government this morning was opposed to the legislation put forward by the opposition because it might be challenged in the High Court. Although we are confident that our amendments would withstand scrutiny, this government is concerned about this tough legislation being challenged. It had no concern whatsoever when it overreached to ban property developer donations, in a blatant act to gain a political advantage, but it uses that as an excuse to shy away from legislation to protect women, kids and vulnerable people in our society. That is how out of touch and arrogant this government is.

On the other hand, the laws proposed by the opposition will strengthen legislation relating to violent child sex offenders by enhancing the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act and allowing for real-time, 24/7, active monitoring of these repeat serious sexual offenders as soon as they are released from custody and providing for GPS monitoring for life. Our laws would mean continual strict supervision. The amendments before us now only apply when police make further application to the court, once they can prove the offender has engaged in concerning conduct. For psychopathic paedophiles like Fardon, I am afraid that will be too late. Under our laws, serious repeat sex offenders will be monitored and supervised and the community will be protected.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. It is a great pleasure to speak after the member for Ninderry. We on this side of the House have a number of elected members who are former police officers—the members for Burdekin, Ninderry, Nicklin, Bundaberg and Lockyer. They have served with distinction, and it is great to have them as part of our team. Certainly over the past few weeks I have visited not only the Ninderry electorate but also the Bundaberg electorate. I know that the members for Ninderry and Bundaberg are making outstanding contributions as newly elected members in this place.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my own local serving police officers—Senior Sergeant Shane Hancock, the officer in charge of the Indooroopilly Police Station, and Senior Constable Dan Egan, who works at the Bellbowrie Neighbourhood Beat. I also acknowledge all of my Neighbourhood Watch groups for the work they do collaboratively with the Queensland Police Service on behalf of my local communities in the electorate of Moggill.

As elected representatives and as legislators, our responsibility, first and foremost, in this parliament should be to ensure safe and prosperous communities and, as such, deliver a safe and cohesive Queensland. Therefore, it is important that we as legislators ensure that those who dutifully choose to serve and protect our community are afforded the powers and resources they require to remain responsive to modern community needs. To grant the Queensland Police Service the additional powers it needs to enhance the efficiency and quality of front-line police services, this bill makes a number of amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012 and the Corrective Services Act 2006.

This legislation will allow our officers of the Queensland Police Service to address evade police offences more adequately. There are also stronger offences with respect to assaulting civilian and other staff within watch houses. That is certainly welcomed. In addition, Labor has today circulated amendments to be made to other acts including the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. I will address these in greater detail shortly.

While the LNP will not oppose this bill and its proposed amendments, which are really about Labor playing catch-up, I do wish to note the concerns that have been expressed by stakeholders concerning the rights and liberties of owners and premise occupiers which may be interfered with due to the broad nature of establishing a high-risk missing persons process. While the Queensland Police Service has responded in detail to these concerns, as outlined in report No. 17 of the 56th Queensland Parliament Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I still note that it will be incumbent on the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and this government to monitor and ensure that these additional powers are exercised appropriately and are in fact not abused.

I also note that with increased or enhanced police powers inevitably comes an increase in reliance on resources and staff—resources and staff that have been reduced and adversely impacted by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As the budget papers revealed this year, the total Queensland Police Service budget has been cut by \$44.6 million. That is nearly \$45 million slashed from front-line services, from those good men and women who, day in and day out, strive to protect our communities. It just shows that when it comes to community safety and policing this Labor government is well and truly all style over substance.

I turn now to the amendments that the Labor government rushed into parliament today and added to this bill—amendments that do not go anywhere near far enough and, again, have highlighted just how hopeless this Palaszczuk Labor government is when confronted with serious community safety issues. The mere fact that the Liberal National Party has had to force Labor to act after three years of inertia, the mere fact that we are here debating these amendments, tells the people of Queensland all they need to know about this Labor government's failed community safety priorities. Labor's failure is now laid bare for all to see. For too long this Labor government has been more concerned about protecting its own image than about protecting the safety of every man, woman and child in Queensland. No amount of spin or additions to ministerial media teams can hide the Palaszczuk Labor government from the fact that it has spectacularly dropped the ball when it comes to keeping Queenslanders safe.

The question really does deserve to be asked: just how did we end up here today? How can a Premier, an Attorney-General, a police minister and a Queensland Labor government be so inept that it was caught unaware that one of the state's most despicable and downright dangerous sex offenders was to be released back into the community?

I think we know why and, sadly, the answer is pretty simple: there was nothing in it for them. Of course this Labor government was caught unaware because there was no photo opportunity to be had with a flashy backdrop, no celebrity endorsement to be made, no feel-good distraction to be announced. With none of this holy trinity present, it simply did not warrant the Labor government's attention. Now Labor is crying foul because the LNP has had, according to the ALP, the audacity to put people before politics and public safety before photo opportunities. Those Labor members opposite can pontificate all they want and no amount of interjections, as we have heard across this chamber today, will ever be enough to drown out the deafening silence that came from Labor when it became clear that a specific offender was due to be released from his supervision order in the next few weeks.

Because the Labor government failed to act, we in the LNP have stepped up. The Premier and Attorney-General can wax lyrical all they want about their robust and workable amendments, but everyone inside and outside this chamber knows that this Labor government had no plan B and has only brought its amendments in today because it was shamed into it by the Liberal National Party. As a case in point, in question time today the Premier was more than happy to reference the 'esteemed journalist Steven Wardill'. I, too, want to quote from Steve Wardill, specifically from his piece dated 31 August this year titled 'Palaszczuk government must act urgently to protect the community from Robert Fardon'—

D'Ath has been Attorney-General since February 2015. Throughout that entire time, Fardon has been on a supervision order and at risk of release. Her comments just show she and the rest of the Government have done precisely nothing to develop a Plan B for if, and when, the Supreme Court decides to release him.


This is not the first time the Palaszczuk government has had to play catch-up with the Liberal National Party, but on an issue as vitally important as protecting Queenslanders from the likes of Robert John Fardon this is no time to be dragged kicking and screaming into doing the right thing. Nor is it the first time that the opposition has had cause to seriously doubt this Labor government's policing and community safety credentials. Earlier today the Premier was more than happy to tout her Attorney-General's record in passing robust and workable laws. Let me take the Premier back to just over a year ago when in this House we debated and passed the no-body no-parole laws. Just how robust and workable was it for the Attorney-General and Minister for Police to use the Pullen family as props for their own benefit as a shining example of families that stood to benefit from those laws when all along the minister knew full well that those laws would not benefit the Pullen family?

An opposition member: He should be ashamed!

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection. That was not robust and workable. That was reckless exploitation. If you want robust and workable, look no further than the proposed changes brought forth by the Liberal National Party opposition. For the benefit of those opposite, I will remind them again in the hope they may change their mind on our tough, stringent proposals. Unlike the amendments proposed by Labor, the LNP wants there to be supervision of all serious sexual offenders.

In closing, the LNP has always put the safety of each and every Queenslanders first and foremost in this parliament and it is a proud track record we will continue to foster well into the future. I will not oppose this bill nor its amendments, but let there be no uncertainty that when the time for this Labor government came to step up and comprehensively legislate for the benefit of community safety Labor was found wanting. We all know that Labor has dropped the ball on this issue. Under Labor crime is up and sentencing always fails to meet community expectations and standards because Labor is soft on crime.

There are many offenders who are in custody. We know that. There are those who suffer with antisocial personality disorders and those with psychopathic sex-offending histories. Psychiatrists have diagnosed them with such diagnoses through the diagnostic and statistical manual fifth edition or the International Classification of Diseases 10th edition. They have been assessed by psychiatrists and when they are due to be released there are significant community concerns. We need comprehensive legislation that addresses violent repeat sexual offenders who violate both children and adults. We need legislation that delivers real-time monitoring with permanent supervision and adequate resources for implementation, and that is what the LNP has proposed. Labor's self-declared honesty system will not work. It is fanciful and it is farcical and, whilst we will support this legislation, it certainly does not go far enough.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the bill before the House and also comment upon the proposed amendments thereto. I do not intend to traverse the terms of the bill which have been covered very well by other speakers on many occasions. I do want to say, however, that the objectives of the bill quite clearly indicate that the amendments to the act are required to provide effective modern policing and law enforcement and also in enhancing the efficiency and quality of front-line policing services. Having made that comment, with the House's indulgence I want to explore the reasons why that is important. I start by making the comment that next week will see National Police Remembrance Day—the vigil held on 27 September and services on 28 September honouring those men and women who have served over the years in the force and have given their lives in the course of that service.

Let us go back to 29 June 1989. Plain-clothes Constable Brett T Handran went to a block of units at Wynnum and was shot dead. On 21 July 2000 Senior Constable Norman J Watt of the Rockhampton District Dog Squad went to a farm near Rockhampton and was shot dead. Senior Sergeant Perry J Irwin of Caboolture was shot dead by a 21-year-old drug addict. On 18 July 2007 Constable Brett Irwin of Ferny Grove was executing a bail warrant on Craig Anthony Semyraha. A gun was fired and he was killed by that wound. On 1 June 2011 Detective Senior Constable Damien Leeding from the CIB Coomera went to Pacific Pines at which point in time an armed robbery was in progress and he was fatally shot. On 29 May 2017 on the Warrego Highway Senior Constable Brett Forte was shot twice and killed.

I make those comments because of the important fact that the police officers that we are talking about here today are human beings and they put their lives on the line every single day. Every single day they are called into their job or go out on a job, their life is at risk. The issue of physical courage is without question with regard to police officers, but officers also have moral courage. I refer to Sergeant Col Dillon who in 1987 provided evidence to the Fitzgerald commission of inquiry that led to the conviction in time of Terry Lewis and many other members of the police force and members of the public who were involved in pimping, gambling and SP bookies. It is important that we remember not just the physical courage of those great men and women but people such as Col Dillon, who put his complete career on the line and gave evidence to that inquiry that led to a major change in relation to the Queensland police force.

Having made those comments—and I think they are echoed by members of this House—it is without doubt that this bill will be effective provided this government gives the money to the police force to make it effective, and that is why it is so concerning that in 2017-18 and 2018-19 Labor cut \$44.6 million from the QPS budget. If you are going to give police extraordinary powers over citizens of this state, you must arm and resource them sufficiently to do the task. If you do not do that, these men and these women face increasing dangers on an ongoing basis.

I say to the minister tonight: it is important that these men and women get what they need on a daily basis to cope with what they see on a daily basis, what they deal with on a daily basis and what they remember on a nightly basis after they come home from their shift. The outcome of cutting the financial resources in this state has seen assaults increase by 31 per cent, robberies up by 63 per cent and armed robbery up by 47 per cent. These are the realities in cutting resources in funding to Queensland police officers and the Queensland Police Service. The necessity is clear. The minister needs to look at this seriously and take action to ensure the great men and women in blue that we rely upon every day in many ways get the funding they need to do their job properly to keep us and our families safe.

I want to turn to the amendments placed into the House today. It is staggering to see that these amendments have had no scrutiny whatsoever—no committee oversight, no submissions, no questioning, no understanding as to what their far-reaching impacts are going to be. I pose the question: how long has the issue of Fardon been winding its way to 3 October 2018? For how long has this

government known, or should have known, that this issue was going to be one that it had to deal with? We are now at five seconds to midnight and suddenly this House is faced with a dilemma as to what to do and a cobbled-together series of paragraphs are supposed to satisfy this House and the people of Queensland. I say that they cannot do that and they cannot stand in these circumstances.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Mr McARDLE: Before the break I made the comment that the government had had time to introduce these amendments, given that the date of 3 October 2018 would have been well known. It is also ironic that it is now 7.30 pm, the world has not ended and the House is still sitting.

An opposition member: That is true.

Mr McARDLE: That is true. The government had the capacity to introduce these amendments into this House today but, this morning, when LNP members stood in this chamber and asked the Premier if she would allow debate on the LNP's bill to take place, my recollection is that she said no. Even though the government has not put its amendments to this legislation under any scrutiny and there has been no committee position on them, it would not allow a cognate debate on a very important issue for the public of this state. The reason given for not allowing debate on the LNP's bill was that it would fail. I also find that claim ironic.

During the matters of public interest debate, the Leader of the Opposition was challenged by the Attorney-General for raising matters that she said were sub judice. It is sad to say that the Attorney-General has no understanding of standing order 233, which makes it quite clear that what the Leader of the Opposition was saying was not sub judice. If the Attorney-General does not understand the standing orders of this House, it makes me curious as to whether the Attorney-General has an understanding of the law of this state.

The Attorney-General does not understand the standing orders of this House. She continued to push the matter with the Deputy Speaker. At that point, the Attorney-General claimed that the Leader of the Opposition could be in contempt of the House. Contempt is either a wilful failure to obey an order or disobedience of the court. There is no possible way in the world that the words uttered by the Leader of the Opposition could fall into either of those propositions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Caloundra, I remind you to keep to the long title of the bill.

Mr McARDLE: These amendments have not been referred to a committee. With respect, in those circumstances, a lot of latitude is given. My comments relate to the fact that the government would not allow a cognate debate on these amendments and amendments proposed by the LNP. Clearly, the Attorney-General did not understand the standing orders of this House. It is hard to believe the government's claim that the LNP's bill could fail when the Attorney-General does not understand the standing orders of the parliament. It is ridiculous.

At the end of the day, the most frightening aspect of the Labor government's amendments is that they rely on an honour system. We have a man—and other men—who are psychopaths, who simply do not understand right from wrong, yet we are going to rely upon their honour to protect our children. That is a nonsense argument. On that basis, the amendments should be rejected.

(Time expired)



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (7.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank the members of the parliamentary committee for their report. However, it was disappointing that the committee was not afforded the opportunity to review the amendments to the bill.

The objectives of the bill are aimed at enhancing the efficiency and quality of front-line policing services and to ensuring that policing services remain responsive to contemporary community needs. I acknowledge the work that the police men and women do in our community, especially those who work alone in those single-officer stations where they cannot always phone for backup because there is no mobile phone coverage, let alone any backup within a two-hour drive. These police officers go beyond the call of duty on a daily basis and they do that for their community. I thank them for their work.

This bill makes a number of amendments to legislation, specifically, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. I note the amendments to this bill that the government has tabled. I find them inadequate and particularly inadequate in terms of the protection of women from serious sexual offenders.

When it comes to dealing with people such as Robert John Fardon, this Labor government has been asleep at the wheel. The members opposite were asleep until they read the *Sunday Mail* and the LNP's tough proposal to deal with this problem. I congratulate the shadow Attorney-General for what he has put forward in the legislation that he has prepared for this House that ensures that the community is protected.

It should be the priority of all governments to keep their citizens safe. Given that the bill was introduced back in June, these amendments should have been part of the bill. Rather than deal with the safety of the community in a timely manner, the government has sat on its hands. It is interesting to note that the members opposite talked about the LNP legislation and asked if it was valid. However, we see this government introducing amendments to this bill that have not been referred to a committee, have not been scrutinised by stakeholders and have not been assessed for compliance with the legislative standards. The government is not prepared to do the analysis of its own amendments to this bill. It is a knee-jerk reaction to a *Sunday Mail* article.

We should not forget that, when this government introduced amendments to sack councillors in the public interest, they were not put before a parliamentary committee. We found ourselves back in the House debating council-specific legislation because the amendments did not achieve the government's objectives. There is a distinct pattern of this government introducing last-minute amendments. I wonder if we will be back with Fardon-specific legislation introduced by this government sometime in the future.

I have had the unpleasant experience of having to deal with a notorious paedophile in my electorate. I have also had to deal firsthand with the concerns from the community when that occurred. When I look at the situation that is about to unfold with the supervision order expiring on 3 October, I have a feeling of *deja vu*.

In 1988, Dennis Raymond Ferguson kidnapped and sexually abused three children and was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. One of the judges who dealt with the Ferguson case noted that there was no chance that he would be rehabilitated. After being released from jail in 2004, owing to public pressure and media attention, Ferguson was forced to move to numerous locations in Queensland. Angry residents forced him to flee from the towns of Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Murgon.

In February 2005, Ferguson settled in Ipswich with another paedophile, but was again found by his neighbours and the media. In November 2005, Ferguson was charged with sexually assaulting a five-year-old girl at her home in the Queensland town of Dalby. In a rare legal move, the judge granted Ferguson a bench trial without a jury as he considered that, owing to the enormous amount of media coverage, Ferguson would not receive a fair trial by jury.

In July 2008, Ferguson moved to a rural property near Miles, but after the word of his location spread—and I can tell members that it spread extremely quickly in the community of Miles—cars began to arrive at the property and police were called after 60 people began chanting anti-Ferguson slogans.

At this time mothers at Miles were phoning me, too scared to allow their children to play outside in the front yard. They were accompanying their children to and from school because they were frightened for the safety of their children and, as it turned out, justifiably so. Fathers were on the phone advising that they would take matters into their own hands and risk committing a crime and going to jail to remove Denis Ferguson from where he was living at Miles.

The Labor government at the time provided more protection and privacy to Denis Ferguson, a notorious, unrepentant paedophile, regarding his whereabouts rather than protecting the safety of children and families in Miles and Dalby. There is no way that Denis Ferguson could stay away from children because if he was required to report to the local police station in Miles it was opposite the local state primary school. The only way that he could get to the local police station was to walk right past that school or to park right in front of it.


This House should not permit a repeat of what happened with Denis Ferguson. Unfortunately I can see this happening again because this government does not understand that community safety—in particular the safety of women and children—should come before the rights of repeat sex offenders. This Labor government is soft on crime whereas we in the LNP will always put the rights of the victims before the rights of repeat offenders.

Under this Labor government's proposed amendments, for a GPS tracker to be applied, a reportable offender must engage in concerning conduct that is to be intercepted by the police and brought before the court and sanctioned by the court as part of a prohibition order. The key part here is 'intercepted by police'. In rural and regional areas this will not happen. They just will not be intercepted because the police cannot be everywhere at once.

The explanatory notes to Labor's amendments also state that the prohibition order remains in force for only five years, not for the rest of their lives. What this government fails to understand is that repeat offenders, who are incredibly difficult to rehabilitate and some do not feel that they need to be rehabilitated at all, do not suddenly become rehabilitated because the prohibition order has ceased. Labor claims that police will direct these offenders where to live. This is absolutely fraught with danger. That is only done through a prohibition order that needs to be court sanctioned once an offender is engaged in concerning conduct. This government is highly likely to repeat the mistakes of the past and I can see these prohibition orders directing offenders to communities which will create absolute mayhem in those communities. It is too late to do this after an offender has engaged in concerning conduct. By then there could easily be more victims.

This Labor government's laws do not apply to all repeat violent sex predators. They neglect the safety of vulnerable women in particular because their amendments do not include all repeat violent sex offenders—that is, the serial rapist whose victims are women who will be released unsupervised into the community under Labor's laws. This is appalling from the member's opposite. If they were concerned for the safety of women in the community they would have insisted that this provision be changed to protect women. This is one of the significant shortfalls of Labor's rushed and poorly cobbled together laws. They are relying on an honesty system to monitor offenders. The worst kind of offenders will be relied upon to self report. I can really see that provision working overtime!

The LNP wants strict and indeterminate supervision of Queensland's most notorious, dangerous, violent sex offenders. The community can have confidence with the LNP's proposal. No wonder Labor is continually blocking the attempts of the LNP to introduce these tougher laws to parliament. Labor's laws fall far short of the LNP's tougher laws that are far more comprehensive and ensure greater protection of the community. As I have said, the protection of the community should be what this government is concerned with.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (7.44 pm): I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I support the range of reforms in this bill improving the operation of several elements of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. I congratulate Minister Ryan and the committee for these reforms. My remarks today will be focusing on the amendments outlined in the police minister's second reading speech.

These amendments provide effective and legally robust reforms to our system of reporting. The Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 implemented by a Labor government currently requires all convicted offenders of child sexual abuse to become reportable offenders for a minimum of five years with escalation to 10 and life depending on offending. Under the CPORA, a reportable offender becomes subject to extensive reporting obligations. That act ensures that reportable offenders must report to the Queensland Police Service where they live, where they work, the car they drive, any distinguishing marks, including tattoos or removal of those marks, clubs or associations they belong to, which telephone or internet services they use, which social network sites they belong to or have access to, what email addresses they use as well as the passwords to those accounts, any planned travel and, importantly, any reportable contact with children.

The amendments to this bill seek to extend the significant reporting obligations to all child sex offenders who are currently dangerous prisoner sex offenders immediately upon their orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act ceasing. Importantly, these reportable obligations will apply to this particular cohort for life. The amendments are not intended to be punitive. The intent of the amendments to the bill are to provide for the ongoing monitoring of child sex offenders to enhance the protection of children. An offender who has been subject to an order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 will be required to make an initial report to the Police Commissioner within 24 hours of them no longer being covered by a DPSO order. They will also need to advise the Police Commissioner of any change of their residence or locality within 24 hours of that change occurring.

In addition to the amendments to the reporting obligations under the child protection legislation, these amendments also make significant and important changes to part 3A of the act which provides for the making of offender prohibition orders. Under part 3A of the child protection legislation, the Commissioner of Police may apply to the Magistrates Court for an offender prohibition order if he or she has reasonable grounds for believing a reportable offender is engaging in concerning conduct during their reportable period.

The amendments will amend the meaning of 'concerning conduct' to permit offender prohibition orders to take in a broader range of circumstances—that is, an act or omission or a course of conduct the nature or pattern of which poses risk to the safety or wellbeing of one or more children or of children

generally. Concerning conduct does not need to amount to an offence and can include behaviour such as loitering near a children's playground. The amendments also make it clear that in issuing an offender prohibition order a court can require, among other conditions, that the offender wears a tracker, is required to attend counselling and is required to reside at a particular residence.

Importantly, these changes to the OPO will apply to all child sex offenders, not just those previously bound by a DPSO. The amendments preserve safeguards that are reasonable and responsible in these circumstances. These are tough but measured amendments that will ensure ongoing monitoring of known child sex offenders in the community once they have finished a sentence of imprisonment and a period of post sentence supervision or detention.

I take this opportunity to remind all members that recent history demonstrates that passing legislation that is heavy on hyperbole and light on legal rigour in the end does nothing to protect the Queensland community. In 2013 the former LNP government enacted the Criminal Law Amendment (Public Interest Declarations) Amendment Act 2013. The effect of the PID act was to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945, on which they say their current proposed bill is based, to provide the Governor in Council with the power to declare, on the recommendation of the Attorney-General, a person to be detained if the Governor in Council was satisfied that the detention is in the public interest, thus the public interest declaration. Within a few months the Queensland Court of Appeal unanimously declared the operative provisions of that act to be invalid on constitutional grounds.

It would be difficult to argue that a single Queensland child gained any further protection through that futile exercise. Unfortunately, it appears that those opposite have learnt little from their past mistakes. We had the shadow Attorney-General say over the weekend, 'We know there will be serious discussions about the validity of these laws, but doing nothing is not an option.' Therefore, their view is that it does not matter if it is knocked off by the court; it is worth giving it a go.

Those opposite simply refuse to understand or accept that if a piece of legislation, surrounded by whatever rhetoric they like, cannot be upheld in the courts then it does not protect the safety of a single child. There are serious concerns with the opposition's proposed bill and its constitutionality. It is important that in 2006 the then chief justice noted in a *Proctor* article on the DPSO legislation—

The Premier recently expressed the view, with which I agree, that the stringency of this legislation could not be further strengthened without courting the real risk of its being struck down by the High Court ...

An opposition member: Chief justice deferred Baden-Clay.

Mrs D'ATH: He continued—

There is no doubt this decision-making lies at or very close to the very boundary of the orthodox concept of the judicial role.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection that made reference to the chief justice. It was the then chief justice, chief justice de Jersey, and now Governor of Queensland, if those on the other side want to criticise the quote I just referred to.


However, almost five years later, we again find the opposition proposing very similar constitutionally dubious laws. The proposed bill challenges the very constitutional integrity of the DPSO framework which has been challenged unsuccessfully in our nation's highest court. I repeat: the proposed bill challenges the very constitutional integrity of the DPSO framework which has been challenged unsuccessfully in our nation's highest court. This is really important for those who say that it is worth giving it a go, even if we think that the laws will fail. That statement is very irresponsible and dangerous, because any significant change to the dangerous prisoner sex offender framework puts at risk the entire act and not only could lead to the possible release of those offenders members on the other side say they want to cover; it could also see the release of every single person on a dangerous prisoner sex offender order, including those on continuing detention orders who are still in prison after their sentence has expired.

Let me make this clear: if they fundamentally change this law, the court will not be able to say that this one little provision is invalid, because they will have changed the framework of the dangerous prisoner sex offender legislation. That is what they are seeking to do. If it is found to be invalid, the whole act—the framework—is invalid and everyone under an order of that act would no longer be covered by it. I repeat: they would no longer be covered by it. That is how serious the consequences could be when they say, 'What does it matter? Give it a go. What could happen if it gets knocked over? There is no risk.'

Unconstitutional and unenforceable laws cannot and do not protect our children. These types of complex issues require a mature, intelligent and measured response, which is what the amendments proposed by the bill before us today represent. I finish by saying how disappointed I am that in this debate many opposition members have criticised the child protection reportable offender legislation as an 'honesty scheme', as if it is voluntary.

First of all, a breach of offending obligations carries up to five years imprisonment—for that breach alone. This legislation has been in operation for 14 years. Today it monitors over 2,800 people in the community. Any criticism of this scheme by those opposite sends to the people of Queensland the extremely dangerous message that they can no longer have faith in these laws. It undermines public confidence in the existing act and its ongoing enforcement. That is an extremely irresponsible position for the LNP to take, especially as many opposite happily spoke in support of the same legislation, the child protection legislation, just last year when it was before the parliament.

I urge all members to support the amendments to the child protection reportable offender legislation that the Minister for Police and Corrective Services has proposed be moved during the consideration in detail. They are strong laws, they are legally robust laws and they are the type of laws that the people of Queensland expect us to introduce, pass and ensure that they will stand up to challenges, so that they can deliver real protections for our community and for our most vulnerable young people.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.54 pm): The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and gives officers of the Queensland Police Service the powers necessary for effective and modern policing and law enforcement. It is the result of recent reviews of the system, including a 2011 Crime and Corruption Commission review of the evade police provisions, which identified a number of amendments aimed at enhancing the efficiency and quality of frontline policing services.

The bill also amends the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 as a result of the decision made during the May 2017 joint meeting of Attorneys-General, justice ministers and police ministers that identified that some jurisdictions have not captured all of the Commonwealth child sex offences in their reportable offender legislation. Under the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995, 10 child sex offences are not captured as reportable offences in Queensland's legislation, including trafficking in children, sexual intercourse and activity with children outside Australia, dealing in child abuse material through the post and some circumstances of aggravation offences. The bill amends schedule 1 to now include the 10 Commonwealth child sex offences as reportable offences in Queensland. Offences such as trafficking in children and sexual intercourse with a young person outside of Australia where the defendant is in a position of trust or authority have been included as reportable child sex offences in Queensland. Those 10 offences target offenders who use their position to either engage in sexual conduct or allow others to engage in sexual conduct with young persons outside Australia.

Reportable offenders who have been convicted of offences involving the administering of a child exploitation material website or encouraging a person to use such a website have also been targeted in the bill. It is the part of the bill that I would like to most address in my contribution. I support these changes, which increase public safety and improve the ability of police to protect children from predatory and exploitative behaviour by those in a position of power and authority over them. The impact of such crimes is to rob victims of a normal transition from childhood to adulthood.


It is my strong belief that all necessary steps must be taken to protect children and their families from sexual crimes. Growing community outrage at the number of sexual assaults on children committed by known offenders has resulted in increased sentencing. However, it has been widely acknowledged that the monitoring and supervision of offenders post release is inadequate and that addressing monitoring deficiencies is costly. That has led to the introduction of a national scheme that requires child sex offenders to keep police informed of their whereabouts and other personal details for a period after they are released into the community. The register is implemented to protect the community by reducing the likelihood that an offender will reoffend and to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences that may be committed.

It is my belief that the effectiveness of offender registration schemes would be strengthened by making information on certain offenders available to the community and empowering community members to assist parole services and the Queensland Police Service to monitor sexual offenders post release. I made the case for a public register when I introduced the Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill 2013, which was rejected by the Newman government.

A public register has proven to be very successful in the jurisdictions where it has been implemented. Concerned members of the community have access to critical information, enabling them to identify reportable offenders in their neighbourhood or who have access to children in their care. I believe the government has missed an opportunity to put in place a public register that would increase public safety, improve the outcomes of the measures implemented in the amendment bill before the House and provide a further deterrent and aid in the prevention of such appalling crimes against children.

Child protection legislation needs strong bipartisan support from this parliament. It is very disappointing that this bill is being rushed through the House. As opposition members have said, the sky is not falling. I was there during the Newman government era when they smashed through the bikie laws and it cost them.

We need effective child protection policies. I really believe this needs bipartisan support. It is very disappointing that the amendments circulated today have not been through the committee system, which I do not have faith in anyway. I want to make that point to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.59 pm): In making some comments to the bill before us tonight, I turn to amendments to be moved by the Minister for Police. As a lot of members have said, the first priority of all governments needs to be to keep our citizens safe. When it comes to law and order issues, domestic violence issues and assisting victims of crime issues, Labor does not act unless the LNP leads the way in terms of policy. We have seen it on so many occasions—in the last parliament in particular.

We saw it in relation to domestic violence laws. The member for Mudgeeraba was telling me earlier today that Labor members in the 55th Parliament voted against strong domestic violence laws on five occasions while victims and the families of victims were sitting in the gallery. They voted against them on five occasions until finally they were shamed into supporting stronger domestic violence laws. The LNP was setting the agenda.

We saw it in relation to the no-body no-parole laws which were championed by the LNP. The Labor government was dragged kicking and screaming into supporting no-body no-parole laws which stand up for victims of crime and punish offenders of crime. It is clear that the government does not act unless the LNP leads the way on law and order issues, domestic violence issues and standing up for victims of crime.

It is clear that the government is only acting by proposing the amendments because the LNP has again set the agenda in dealing with the issue of Robert John Fardon. They saw the news that came out on the weekend and we now have these hastily drawn amendments that have been put to the parliament and have not gone through the committee process. They are scrambling to make amends because they have missed the agenda yet again. They are relying on our side of the House to stand up for the victims of crime. They do not stand up for victims of crime. They always have to be dragged into doing what is right for victims of crime. They should stand condemned for that because they do it over and over again.

Other members have spoken about the amendments to be moved that have not gone through the committee process or not gone through any review process. The member for Warrego talked about the amendments to the Local Government Act that passed through this place in May without going through the committee process. I said in this very place in May that there would be mistakes with those laws because they had not been through the committee process. There were mistakes. The minister stuffed up twice trying to sack the Ipswich City Council. We had to have specific legislation to do the job because their laws were faulty.

These amendments are not going through the committee process. We all hope that it actually does the job and it keeps Robert John Fardon at bay and keeps victims safe from Robert John Fardon. We do not know because they have not been through that review process.

It is clear that the LNP sets the agenda when it comes to law and order. Those opposite do not come to those types of issues unless they are led to them by us. Labor's amendments to be moved by the Minister for Police have their faults. They are not as strong as the proposal put forward by the opposition. They do not apply to all repeat, violent sex predators. There are a number of other faults with the amendments as well.

Labor should take on board, just like they were forced to with domestic violence legislation and the no-body no-parole legislation, the strong suggestions to protect victims of crime that come from the LNP. They might actually get a better result than if they continue with the flawed legislation that they are proposing through the amendments to be moved by the Minister for Police.

I want to make a couple of comments on the other provisions in the bill. As other members have said, the opposition does not oppose the bulk of the bill because they are, by and large, good, common-sense amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to allow police to do their job better. Many members have commented about the resourcing issues for police. I associate myself with those comments. There can never be too many resources for the men and women in blue who keep our communities safe and protect and serve our communities up and down the state.

One of the amendments relates to high-risk missing persons. The bill provides that a person is regarded as high risk if they are aged under 13 years or there is a reasonable suspicion that they may suffer serious harm if they are not found as quickly as possible. I particularly refer to that element around people under 13 years of age.

I have no doubt that all members would from time to time have things come to their attention about children in their communities, in their electorates, who go missing or go astray. It is always a frightening prospect to consider what could happen to children when they are missing in our community. Amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to make it easier for police to search for those children in those situations are certainly welcomed. That has come about as a result of advice from the QPS around missing person scene powers. That was referred to in the committee's report. I commend the committee for the job it did in examining this bill. I note that it was recommended that the bill, prior to any amendments, be passed.

The issue of storage devices is outlined in the report at section 2.3. It refers to police being able to obtain orders to require people to give access to electronic devices. This is again a common-sense proposal to keep up with the times and the way crime occurs in our community. I know the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association had some reservations about this particular provision.


The QLS said that limits must be placed on the use of these powers to ensure that they are not misused. That seems to be a common submission from the Queensland Law Society. I remember in the last parliament they made similar submissions in relation to other laws about granting police the powers to do their job. There is court oversight. There is a mechanism for people to obtain a warrant from a Supreme Court judge or magistrate. There is oversight in place of officers in utilising that power to obtain access to electronic devices.

It needs to be recognised—and I think all of us in here recognise this—that police on the ground in our community encounter difficulties at times in actually getting evidence to be able to prosecute offenders of crimes. In my electorate from time to time police have said it is very difficult to get people to talk and to give evidence about people who are doing the wrong thing. That is especially so when it comes to drug offences.

We have great police who are out there doing their jobs and putting their heart and soul into their jobs, but at times it is hard for them to get evidence to be able to prosecute people to the full extent of the law. If the amendment about storage devices assists them in getting that evidence then it should be wholeheartedly supported.

We also need not just laws in place but also resources. When it comes to resources for police, police vehicles and police stations are the main things that are needed. I have spoken many times in this place about the need for a new police station at Beaudesert. I know the minister is aware of it. They should bring that forward. They need police vehicles at Tamborine Mountain and Canungra. They have two permanent vehicles for 16 officers across those two stations. It is very light on the ground.

In summing up, the opposition is of course supporting the bill. All members, especially government members, should take on board the amendments to be moved and the substance of what the LNP has been saying about getting tougher on repeat sex offenders. It should be a bipartisan approach. We cannot accord with an approach that comes from a government that is continually soft on crime and continually being dragged kicking and screaming by the LNP into doing what is the right thing for victims. When will they learn? I do not know. Hopefully in the future they will come to their senses and not need to be dragged kicking and screaming each and every time into doing the right thing when it comes to treating victims of crime well.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (8.09 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the amendments to be moved later by the minister. I would like to take the opportunity to praise our police and proudly acknowledge my daughter and my niece, both of whom are members of the thin blue line. In fact, my daughter graduated only last week, so she is very newly minted.

However, this bill has been turned into Frankenstein's monster with the inclusion of Labor's shoddy amendments which represent their feeble attempt at a plan B. The priority of all governments should be to keep its citizens safe. This government has failed to do this. The Attorney-General has failed in her duty of care to the community. As it stands, Robert John Fardon will emerge from the prison grounds that have been his home for the last four years unencumbered by restrictions on his movements. This is a man who has a five-decade history of sordid sexual violence and has been living on prison grounds under strict conditions since 2014 after trying to access a school when he was last released. This man's crimes are unspeakable. He is a repeated sex offender including raping a 12-year-old girl at gun point. This is a man deemed by experts to be an incurable psychopath.

Up until yesterday the Premier had refused to consider any legislative solutions. The Palaszczuk government eventually reached the conclusion, only after the LNP announced that they would act, that doing nothing was no longer an option. The Attorney-General claims that Labor's amendments are not Fardon specific, yet they are being rushed through as part of this bill and have not even been to a parliamentary committee.


The laws they have proposed are soft, just as they are soft on crime in every other aspect. The amendments they have proposed are cobbled together, rushed and certainly do not go far enough. The scope of the government's amendments are too narrow and should include all sexual offenders. In particular, they do not cover all repeat violent sexual offenders. Serial rapists whose victims are women will be released and unsupervised in the community under Labor's laws.

Labor claims that offenders will be tracked for the rest of their lives, but there is absolutely no guarantee that Labor's amendments will ensure that at all. In fact, the explanatory notes to Labor's amendments state that a prohibition order remains in force for only five years, not for the rest of their lives. Labor's proposed laws do not protect all Queenslanders. The proposed laws do not protect adults from violent sexual offenders. Finally, Labor's laws do not impose supervision on child sex offenders automatically upon their release from custody or when their supervision order expires. It only applies when a released sex offender engages in concerning conduct.

It is clear that the Premier woke up on Sunday morning to the media reports of the LNP's tough plan and tried to cobble together something and overhype the sales pitch. The LNP have stepped up with a plan B after the Premier and Attorney-General have failed to act. The Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill seeks to stop paedophiles and rapists like Robert John Fardon's unsupervised release into the community, drawing on a 2014 decision of the High Court which established that parliament can legislate for indefinite detention in certain circumstances.

The LNP's laws apply to all sex offenders—child sex offenders and violent sex offenders. Our laws grant the Attorney-General the power to determine when a supervision order ceases. It provides for the indeterminate supervision of repeat sexual offenders upon their release into the community and they strengthen the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 to ensure that when making a decision under this act a person or body must give paramount consideration to the safety and protection of the community. This legislation would only apply to a handful of Queensland's worst sexual offenders—individuals who pose an unacceptable risk to the community.

We are not playing politics on this issue. We are simply stumping up a better solution to a very serious problem. Keeping the community safe should be the first priority of any government. The community and Fardon's victims are demanding action. I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that I am not willing to risk letting dangerous sexual offenders be released unsupervised ever.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.14 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Broadly speaking, I do support the bill and the amendments that were circulated this morning to the extent that I understand them. I do have some concerns about the process for introduction of the amendments, the very short time frames for consideration and the absence of any committee scrutiny for these amendments.


I think every member would agree that committee processes are essential for the purpose of bringing expert evidence to bear and scrutinising legislation that we are supposed to consider and vote on. Not all would agree with me about the need for urgent reform to improve those processes so that we have more robust processes and better scrutiny of legislation. Wishful thinking aside, these amendments have had no such consideration.

I do not think anyone here would claim to have sufficient expertise to substitute for the role that the committees play or for the expert input that the committee process brings. I am genuinely concerned about this as a precedent. I know it is not the first time it has happened, but it sets a terrible precedent. It is bad practice, it is bad legislative practice, it is bad for public confidence in the system and it is bad generally for democracy.

I did have the privilege this morning of being briefed by the Attorney-General and her staff, and I do very much appreciate that. I do not have any grave concerns about the content of these amendments. All legislation that we deal with in this place affects the rights and responsibilities and liberties of Queenslanders. I think we have to ask ourselves: where do we draw the line on this kind of practice? What will it be next time? It might not necessarily be with this government; it might be with a new government. Will we be passing last-minute amendments to legislate against bikies or will it be Muslims or will it be to crack down on unions or trans kids in schools? What are we going to be dealing with without that scrutiny next time around?

In the current debate and the relatively limited time that we will obviously have from this point, it also reflects poorly on the recent changes to the sessional orders and the Business Committee process that has been introduced. I made my concerns clear in the debate on that motion about the risks around losing time to debate amendments in consideration in detail, and it appears that those concerns are going to play out this evening.

My contribution here is not a criticism of the work that has gone on behind the scenes to introduce these amendments. As I said, I do support them, but it is incumbent upon all of us here not just to focus on the content of the legislation that we deal with, not just to focus on the purpose and the outcomes that we seek but also to focus on the process and to ensure that it is robust and that people can have confidence in the processes that we are applying here.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (8.17 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As we approach National Police Remembrance Day, I too want to thank those officers who get up every day to protect the people of Queensland and especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I note that the initial bill went through the proper committee processes and scrutiny and that we are also considering amendments this evening that were urgently rushed into the House today and have not been through this process. However, those amendments have been through scrutiny today from the five ex-serving police officers on this side of the House. Of particular note is the contribution provided by the member for Ninderry, who has most recently served as a detective in the Child Protection and Investigation Unit. He outlined the major flaws with the current system of offender monitoring and reporting and the weaknesses and unworkability of these rushed amendments we have before us today. The Labor government would do well to listen to that expert advice. However, I have come to realise that their egos and arrogance will no doubt not allow them to.

In relation to the original bill, as a former police officer, I welcome the new powers that this bill provides in relation to missing persons scenes for high-risk missing persons. Many times we have seen situations where investigations may have got off to a better start had the police had the necessary legislation to examine scenes before evidence is lost to find missing persons or evidence of a crime.

I support the bill as originally presented and scrutinised through the committee process. I do want to make comments, however, on the proposed amendments rushed into the House today. I have spoken in this House a number of times about the generation of failure of the Labor government that has been in government for 25 of the last 30 years. Five police have been driven to stand in this 56th Parliament on the LNP side in part to fight back on behalf of a community suffering from this generation of failure. Yet here we are again, suffering the neglect of this government as they try to rush through wet lettuce amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to try to have a plan B for the possible imminent release of one of the worst violent sexual predators in this state.

They rushed in these amendments to try to save face when they became aware that the opposition had a plan to protect Queensland. Their egos have gotten in the way. Their arrogance will not even allow them to listen to or debate a motion from the Leader of the Opposition this morning. The whole crossbench supported our right to put this motion and have this debated properly so this House could vote on the best way forward to protect our community but, no, we cannot have that, can we? If it is someone else's idea this arrogant Labor government cannot allow it.


For the sake of our children and our community I implore the Labor members to park their egos for once and to consider which proposal will best protect our community from sexual predators. After 25 of the last 30 years of Labor we still see our worst offenders unable to be kept in prison. We see this failure to monitor sentencing patterns, a failure to ensure our justice system meets community expectations and a failure to pass the necessary legislation to respond—a generation of failure. This soft-on-crime approach has left our community in danger and left the government in the embarrassing position of having to try to rush through these laws which will be totally useless in protecting the community.

The LNP are willing to help. We are willing to put an alternative bill that strengthens the supervision, tracking and protection of our community. The only reason being floated by Labor against our proposal is that it might not stand up to scrutiny in a court. I note the comments by the member for Ninderry that they did not have much fear in pushing through the property developer legislation regardless of the scrutiny it might suffer, but when it comes to protecting our community, what a coward approach by Labor! It is this soft, overly cautious, offender focused approach that sees us with increasing crime and criminals laughing at our justice system in Queensland. Let us look at what is on offer in this rushed amendment by Labor and place it against what should be legislated to protect our community from the worst offenders.

The LNP proposal would apply to all violent sex offenders. The amendments proposed here by Labor do not include serious violent sex attacks on adults. The LNP proposal would have mandatory GPS tracking of repeat violent sex offenders until they die. What Labor is proposing does not make GPS monitoring mandatory, but it may be imposed by a court if the police make an application for a prohibition order after an offender commits an act of concerning conduct. This, frankly, is the most concerning failure of this proposed Labor bill. They are saying that they will let the serious violent sex offender out into the community, ask them nicely if they would not mind keeping the local police up to date with their activities and wait for them to commit a concerning act before police can apply to a court for a tracking device. This is a serious chocolate teapot of a proposal that will not stand up to the job. It will not stand up to the job it is meant to do and that is to protect our community.

I have worked as a detective in the child abuse unit and I know firsthand the people we are dealing with here. We are not dealing with people who will cooperate if they can get away with it. These are not compliant people. They are not people who recognise that their behaviour is unacceptable. They are not people who recognise that their behaviour is unacceptable and dangerous to our children and community.

I genuinely fear that Labor's egos and unwillingness to pursue strong protection laws just to save face may result in tragic results. I sincerely hope I am wrong. I ask those on the other side to please listen and act. I urge the government to bring in mandatory GPS tracking of serious violent sex offenders. Defend it in the court if it comes to that. Fight for the community. However, I fear it is only the LNP that would be prepared to do this. Labor's philosophy of 'we won't protect the community to the extent we should as it might not stand up in court' is just not good enough. The priority of this government should be the protection of the community, not the protection of their glass jaw egos.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.25 pm), in reply: I start by thanking all members who have made a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill contains diverse amendments of an important and innovative nature that will positively impact police investigations and provide an added layer of safety to the Queensland community. I will now address some of the specific issues raised by members during the debate. I must start by acknowledging the comments made by those opposite from the scripts that were handed out to them during today's debate.

Labor does talk tough on this issue. We talk tough on this issue because we take tough action on it. This government has taken a tough approach to reportable offenders who are no longer subject to extended detention or supervision under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. These offenders will automatically become reportable offenders under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. They will be obliged to report for the rest of their lives.

The Police Commissioner will be able to apply to the court for an offender prohibition order that places tough restrictive conditions upon a relevant sexual offender. These conditions include, amongst other things, GPS tracking and a requirement to reside at a particular residence and to comply with other conditions the court considers necessary. This government is delivering uncompromising laws

that are designed to withstand constitutional scrutiny. The opposition have done nothing more during this debate than haphazardly put together a proposal to extend the operation of the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003.

Under their proposal, the Governor in Council will be able to release a prisoner if satisfied the prisoner is no longer a serious danger to the community. What happens after that? The offender will transition from strict supervision to nothing at all. I reiterate that under our proposal, under this government's changes, reportable offenders will be required to report for life. Our proposed changes will provide a step-down regime that is appropriate for an offender who the Supreme Court has determined should not continue their extended detention or supervision order.

As a part of this regime, the conditions on these offenders will be tougher than those for existing reportable offenders. If this new cohort of offender places one foot out of line, they will be liable to harsh penalties. For instance, a failure to report a change of residence within 24 hours of that change will be a breach of reporting conditions and that offender will face up to five years imprisonment. Likewise, if an offender who is no longer subject to a dangerous prisoner order does not make an initial report to the Police Commissioner within 24 hours, they too will face up to five years in jail.

The honesty system to which the opposition refers is a fallacy. It is clear there will be no margin for error under our stringent reporting conditions. With offender prohibition orders, the meaning of 'concerning conduct' will be broadened to include risks to the safety or wellbeing of one or more children. An important point to make here, an important point which has not been taken on board by those opposite about concerning conduct, is that it includes conduct that has occurred at any time.

It is simply wrong, as some members of the opposition have stated, that the Police Commissioner will be required to wait until an offender engages in some further act of concerning conduct. The concerning conduct can be conduct that has occurred at any time. It is completely wrong to say they will have to commit an offence against a child to qualify their conduct as concerning. Again I say: the concerning conduct incorporated in this act is conduct that has occurred at any time.

The opposition also made a number of points about what their laws would do. What would their laws do? Well, their laws would probably be invalid. They would probably breach constitutional principles. They would probably be an exercise in futility. To quote the current Leader of the Opposition, they 'coulda, shoulda' made them better. Under Labor we have the strongest, toughest, most comprehensive serious and organised crime laws in the nation. We have a proven and strong track record on laws to keep Queenslanders safe; laws that meet community needs; laws that are well considered and sensible; laws that are workable. The LNP has 'thought bubble' laws—here one minute and gone the next—bubbles burst by court challenges.

I will take this opportunity to point out comments by the member for Toowoomba North which I find appalling. In his contribution he said that police will not be able to manage this type of offender appropriately. That is an insult to the collective will of our more than 11,800 police officers who work hard day in, day out to keep Queenslanders safe. The Police Commissioner himself has expressed gratitude that this government will provide extra resources to police to support their surveillance, monitoring and enforcement activities.

Our changes mean that the Queensland community can be assured that child sex offenders will always remain under scrutiny. Under Labor, there are more police in Queensland than ever before. The current Leader of the Opposition claims that when the LNP were in government they gave police the tools to fight crime. That is not correct. The LNP did not fund crucial crime-fighting tools like body worn video cameras. The previous LNP government made police buy their own. This government will provide funding to the Queensland Police Service to provide extra resources for surveillance and enforcement operations in relation to the offenders caught by these amendments. Every implication has been examined to ensure these significant laws will be backed by stringent enforcement.

Tonight I must defend the reputation of the 600-plus police officers who form the Road Policing Command in Queensland. Tonight their reputations were impugned by the current Leader of the Opposition. Tonight their ability, their integrity, their professionalism and their reputation as enforcers of the law in Queensland were called into question by the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition's derogatory comments about those 600-plus officers in the Road Policing Command will be forever preserved in today's *Hansard*. Tonight I call on the Leader of the Opposition to publicly apologise for her demeaning and denigrating comments.

It should not be forgotten that this bill delivers a range of improvements to areas of police investigations that are complex in nature. The Queensland community should feel comforted by the high-risk missing person powers that will give police the ability to search for information in the critical early stages of a missing person investigation. The community should also feel comforted by the evade police provisions that will place a strong onus on the owner of a vehicle to help police with their investigations. Anyone who owns a motor vehicle should appreciate and accept their inherent responsibility and accountability for keeping the roads of our state safe. The expansion of police powers to require password or encryption information to gain access to electronic devices is entirely appropriate for crime scene offences. Evidence found on electronic devices can be as crucial as finding fingerprints or DNA.

The amendments to be proposed during consideration in detail further strengthen laws against the worst offenders in this state. These are offenders who fall under the purview of the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. These are offenders who have committed serious violent and sexual offences against children. Any of these offenders who have at any time committed a reportable offence against a child and who conclude an order under the dangerous prisoner legislation will now have reporting obligations and conditions under our child protection legislation for the rest of their lives.

I take this opportunity to thank the very dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly in the development of this bill and the amendments for many weeks. This includes staff from the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Parole Board Queensland, and Queensland Corrective Services. I want to especially thank those officers who are here today for this bill. They have worked very hard and they should be specifically commended for their efforts. I thank Senior Sergeant Ian Carroll, Senior Sergeant Andrea Reeves, Senior Sergeant David Flynn, Senior Sergeant John Henderson, Senior Sergeant Joe Leyendecker, Inspector Leonie Steyger, Inspector Adam Bambling, Paul Friedman of the Queensland Police Service and Kate Petrie of Queensland Corrective Services. They have worked on this bill for a long time and these amendments for many weeks. They are to be commended for their efforts.

This government will not take a backward step when it comes to the protection of children and the wider community in this state. I am heartened that this bill and its bold initiatives will assist police in their complex investigations and provide peace of mind to the great people of this state. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr RYAN (8.38 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 3

Page 6, after line 14—

insert—

3A Amendment of s 3 (Purposes of this Act)

Section 3(2)(f)—

omit, insert—

- (f) provides for the making of orders against particular offenders who commit sexual, or particular other serious, offences against children to—
 - (i) prohibit the offenders from engaging in conduct posing a risk to the safety or wellbeing of 1 or more children, or of children generally; or
 - (ii) require the offenders to do particular things to reduce the risk to the safety or wellbeing of 1 or more children, or of children generally.

3B Amendment of s 5 (Reportable offender defined)

Section 5(1)—

insert—

- (f) a post-DPSOA reportable offender.

3C Insertion of new s 7A

After section 7—

*insert—***7A Post-DPSOA reportable offender defined**(1) A **post-DPSOA reportable offender** is a person who—

- (a) was sentenced for a reportable offence, whether before or after the commencement date; and
- (b) was, but is no longer, subject to a division 3 order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*; and
- (c) at the time the person stopped being subject to the division 3 order mentioned in paragraph (b), was not subject to reporting obligations as a reportable offender under section 5(1)(a), (aa) or (b).

(2) A person becomes a post-DPSOA reportable offender when the person stops being subject to the division 3 order mentioned in subsection (1)(b).

3D Amendment of s 13A (Application)Section 13A(3), definition *concerning conduct*, 'lives or sexual safety'—*omit, insert—*

safety or wellbeing

3E Amendment of s 13C (Making prohibition order)

Section 13C(1)(b)(i), 'lives or sexual safety'—

omit, insert—

safety or wellbeing

3F Amendment of s 13D (Matters court must consider before making prohibition order)

Section 13D(1)—

insert—

- (fa) whether the respondent has ever been subject to a division 3 order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*; and

3G Insertion of new s 13FA

After section 13F—

*insert—***13FA Conduct that may be required**

(1) A prohibition order may require the respondent to do any of the following things—

- (a) wear a tracking device for a stated period;
- (b) comply with a condition the court considers necessary to facilitate the operation of a tracking device;
- (c) reside at a particular place of residence;
- (d) submit to psychological treatment;
- (e) comply with a condition the court considers necessary to reduce the risk to the safety or wellbeing of 1 or more children, or of children generally.

(2) This section does not limit section 13F.

(3) In this section—

tracking device means an electronic device capable of being worn, and not removed, by a person for the purpose of the police service, or the chief executive (corrective services), finding or monitoring the geographical location of the person.**3H Amendment of s 13I (Applying for temporary order)**

Section 13I(1)(b)(i), 'lives or sexual safety'—

omit, insert—

safety or wellbeing

3I Insertion of new s 13LA

After section 13L—

*insert—***13LA Conduct that may be required**

Section 13FA applies to a temporary order as if—

- (a) a reference in the section to a prohibition order were a reference to a temporary order; and
- (b) a reference in the section to the court included, for section 13J, a reference to a magistrate.

3J Amendment of s 19A (Reporting changes in personal details)

Section 19A(1)—

insert—

- (aa) if the offender has ever been subject to a division 3 order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* and the change relates to any premises where the offender generally resides, or a locality where the offender can generally be found—within 24 hours after the change happens; or

3K Amendment of s 35 (When reporting obligations begin)

Section 35(1)—

insert—

- (aa) for a post-DPSOA reportable offender—when the offender becomes a post-DPSOA reportable offender; or

3L Insertion of new s 38A

After section 38—

*insert—***38A Extended reporting period if reportable offender ever subject to division 3 order**

- (1) This section applies to a reportable offender who has ever been subject to a division 3 order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*.
- (2) Despite anything to the contrary in this division, the offender must continue to comply with the reporting obligations imposed by this part for the remainder of the offender's life.

3M Amendment of s 41 (Supreme Court may exempt particular reportable offenders)

Section 41(2)(a)—

omit, insert—

- (a) a period of 15 years has passed (ignoring any period during which the reportable offender was in government detention) since the later of the following days—
 - (i) the day the offender was last sentenced in relation to a reportable offence or a corresponding reportable offence;
 - (ii) the day the offender was last released from government detention in relation to a reportable offence or a corresponding reportable offence;
 - (iii) the day the offender was last subject to a division 3 order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*; and

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[1371\]](#).

Mr WATTS: I apologise to some members who I know wanted to speak to the bill, but it was important that there was a chance for some questions to be asked about these amendments. I note that the first amendment comprises 15 separate parts, so I have only a short time. I have a couple of questions for the minister, but first I offer my thanks to the police officers here present and those behind the scenes who have worked on the bill.

Firstly, do Labor's amendments apply to offenders who are repeat sexual offenders where only adult victims were offended against? That is, if the person who was raped violently was over the age of 18, does this bill offer any protection?

Secondly, how many new offenders will the post DPSO reportable offender regime apply to? We understand that there are around 22 child protection reportable offender officers working in the unit that monitors reportable offenders in Queensland. Is this correct? How many additional resources and officers will be provided to the child protection reportable offender monitoring unit post this bill?

Lastly, how many reportable offenders does this unit currently monitor and will this additional requirement make their job even harder? Based on the conversation we have had here and if my information is correct, there are 22 officers in the unit and they are monitoring roughly 2,800 offenders. That means they have about 20 minutes per week per offender to make sure they are complying in every way with everything they are supposed to comply with. It is a pretty full-on day if every 20 minutes you have to look at a separate offender's record and make sure they are complying. I am very concerned about the resources that are to be allocated. We have not had it clarified what they are.

To reiterate, do the amendments apply to sexual offenders of an adult victim; how many new offenders will this post DPSO reportable offender regime apply to; and what will be the financial and/or officer increase to be able to provide the most critical part of these amendments—that is, suitable monitoring and supervision? I do see that as a potential threat to the safety of the people of Queensland.

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the questions. The amendments to the bill are focused on the most vulnerable, which are child sex offenders who are coming off orders as determined by the court. Over the next five years, up to 35 offenders will fit that cohort. I will confirm the number of officers in the team currently who monitor reportable offenders across the state, but the resources that this government will be providing will be to assist the police with the extra work associated with these amendments.

Mr JANETZKI: Similar to the member for Toowoomba North, I have a number of issues to pose to the minister. First, I would like an absolute confirmation that these provisions will not apply to offences committed against women aged over 18 years. The minister and others have repeatedly stated that there will be reportable offending responsibilities and obligations for life. Section 41 of the child protection act provides that there is opportunity for application to be made to suspend the offender reporting obligations after a 15-year period. I want to clarify whether these obligations are for life, as has been repeated over the past 24 hours, or whether they are subject to those provisions. I expect they will be. Obviously, application would have to be made to the Supreme Court. I ask the minister to confirm that.

There are media references to the effect that, under the amendments, the Police Commissioner would direct where reportable offenders might live. Is that likely to be an automatic process or will that be part of the deliberative process perhaps of an application made under section 13FA(1)(c)? I expect that will be the case, but I ask the minister to confirm that.

Could the minister provide a couple of examples of concerning conduct—in particular, concerning conduct as it might be identified? I accept what the minister said previously about an existing item of concerning conduct, but can the minister confirm the likely time line in relation to the commission of a concerning act, the police identification of such a concerning act, the time that might be necessary to put together an application to the court and then a court hearing? I am trying to understand the minister's thoughts on what time line might apply in respect of an application of that nature.

Mr RYAN: In response to the earlier query of the member for Toowoomba North, there are currently 22 in the team. In respect of the questions raised by the member for Toowoomba South, these amendments are focused on the most vulnerable, which of course are child sex offenders who are caught under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act who the courts have determined their supervision or detention order is to come to an end.

In respect of section 41, the member will see that that is an existing section in the act which we are tightening up and making tougher. We did not celebrate that, but we are making it tougher by saying that any period in government detention is not to count towards that period. The member will see that they will remain a reportable offender for the rest of their lives, although the court may, further to that consideration under section 41, vary their obligations.

In respect of the powers of the commissioner, that is a power to make an application for an offender prohibition order, and those aspects caught in section 13FA refer to some examples of the orders that the commissioner may get from the court.

In respect of concerning conduct, that is of course in the view of the police. There may be many hypothetical examples of what may constitute concerning conduct, but we will leave that to the experts.

Mr BLEIJIE: It may be a reportable offence for life, but that does not mean the offender wears a tracking device for life. The amendment moved by the minister to insert new section 13FA, headed 'Conduct that may be required', states—

- (1) A prohibition order may require the respondent to do any of the following things—
 - (a) wear a tracking device for a stated period;
 - (b) comply with a condition the court considers necessary to facilitate the operation of a tracking device;
 - (c) reside at a particular place or residence;
 - (d) submit to psychological treatment;
 - (e) comply with a condition the court considers necessary to reduce the risk ...

The difference between the Labor laws and the LNP laws is that under our laws these offenders would be required to wear a tracking device. It is not 'may', 'could', 'would', 'should'; it would be mandatory under the LNP's proposed laws. Labor laws are soft. They have always been soft. The members representing Townsville and Far North Queensland know that Labor has always been soft on crime.

In his reply to the second reading debate the minister said in relation to the amendments that the Labor Party is going to be tough on these offenders, that it is for the most vulnerable. We agree that child sex offenders should be treated harshly, but so should all serious violent sex offenders. This amendment does not cater for all serious violent sex offenders. If one of these individuals violently rapes a 19-year-old woman, this law will not apply. Shame on the government! We agree that child sex offenders should be taken into consideration, but so should all violent sex offenders. It does not matter if the victim is a kid or a woman over 18 years of age. These laws should apply to the perpetrators of the most heinous crimes—the most violent monsters in the state of Queensland.

That is who we are dealing with here, but the minister stands up and talks tough, saying, 'The Labor Party's going to be tough on crime.' This is a minister who only three weeks ago—the biggest thing he has done in his portfolio—jumped in a police car and went around a racetrack. What confidence would police officers have that the police minister has jumped in a car and thinks he knows everything about police officers' duties and responsibilities—because he was in a controlled environment in a police car on a racetrack and did a couple of circuits, gets out of the police car and says, 'I know everything about policing. The police officers can trust me because I've raced around the track a couple of times in a police vehicle'? What utter rubbish!

The reality is these laws are soft. They do not apply to all violent sex offenders. They do not mean that a sex offender walks out of prison and has a GPS tracking device on their ankle. That is what those opposite are trying to hide here. The reality is they do not. They will not, Minister, and answer this: is it the case that every violent child sex offender under this amendment will walk out of prison with an ankle bracelet so the police can track them for the entirety of their life?

Mr RYAN: The first question the member raised was about the length of time of an OPO. There is no restriction in the act about applying for another OPO or OPOs for the rest of the reportable offender's life. The other aspect the member referred to was strong laws. Our laws are not only strong but they are also valid constitutionally. They are enforceable—unlike those opposite, who bring in laws which provide false hope to people and then get knocked off by the courts. I repeat again: these laws are focused on the most vulnerable in our community and the focus is on child sex offenders who are coming off orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr RYAN (8.51 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 4

Page 7, after line 21—

insert—

4A Amendment of sch 3 (When reportable offender must make initial report)

Schedule 3, after first entry—

insert—

A reportable offender who is a post-DPSOA
reportable offender

24 hours after the reportable offender becomes a
post-DPSOA reportable offender

4B Amendment of sch 5 (Dictionary)

Schedule 5—

insert—

post-DPSOA reportable offender see section 7A.

Mr WATTS: I just want to reiterate how difficult it is when we do not know how long various people might speak for to be able to manage the time. I thank the members who were unable to speak today for helping us manage the time to ensure that we did not go over the debating time and that this was not guillotined, because this is the only opportunity to scrutinise—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Member, I take you back to the amendment.

Mr WATTS: Certainly. I am happy to go to the amendment, but the point is that we might not have been able to debate the amendments if we had not been able to manage the time through the parliament, so it is very relevant in talking to the amendment that people are aware of that. My question


to the police minister is: will the police proactively investigate all post-DPSO reportable offenders to determine if they have undertaken all of their reporting obligations and how often will these investigations occur and will the police have the resources and the person power to be able to proactively investigate all those post-DPSO reportable offenders?

Mr RYAN: As already mentioned, we have made a commitment to the commissioner that there will be extra resources provided to support the work that arises from these amendments. In respect of the member's question, the Queensland Police Service will monitor these offenders. They are professional in the work that they do. We have the best police in the country—the best police in the world—and they will discharge their duties in accordance with the law and ensure, wherever possible, the level of community safety is maximised.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 59, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.54 pm): I move—


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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.54 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Baldwin, Mr D; Johnson, Mrs D


 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (8.55 pm): I rise to inform the House of two Callide constituents who have received honours of the highest award. Firstly, Mr Donald Baldwin AFSM of Thangool has recently been awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal approved by the Governor-General. Today Mr Baldwin was presented with his medal recognising his distinguished service as a member of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for 51 years. During this time he served the Callide Valley and Thangool community fire brigade, including the role of regional captain. He is currently the captain of the Thangool Auxiliary Fire Station as well as the first officer in the Thangool Rural Fire Brigade. Don teaches fire safety at the local Biloela State School as well as instructing the cadets at the Thangool fire station.

Don was awarded for his leadership and commitment. Since 1967 he has been involved in the operations of the Thangool fire brigade, ensuring resources are appropriately placed throughout the district, working on mitigation activities, delivering fire education to children and seniors, and having a general commitment to the areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. I thank the Australian Fire Services for recognising Don's distinguished service and I congratulate him on his well-deserved award.

Secondly, I want to congratulate Mrs Dell Johnson OAM of Taroom. Mrs Johnson was nominated and awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the community of Taroom. The medal is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition. Dell is a busy lady who has in the past declined nominations for Australia Day awards as she does not believe that her community service deserves the award. Dell runs the post office business throughout the day and at night cooks for either palliative care catering services or delivering Meals on Wheels. She is an organiser. Any local event in the Taroom and Wandoan districts usually has Dell coordinating the catering services. Funerals are catered for at no expense just to help families in their time of need.

The palliative care group was started by Dell many years ago to help the families of people suffering with a terminal illness. This group is well known locally and in nearby towns for the amount of equipment that it makes available to the sick and disabled people. There would hardly be a weekend go by that Dell is not catering for a fundraising group or for people in need. Her involvement extends even to the local fishing competition and fundraiser held annually in Taroom. No matter what Dell thinks, Taroom locals believe that she is highly deserving of this award and I congratulate her—Dell Johnson OAM.

Stafford Electorate, Sporting Achievements; Emily Foord Memorial Kindergarten

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (8.58 pm): I rise to congratulate many local sporting clubs in my electorate of Stafford that recently achieved finals success. Every winter thousands of people participate in a variety of sports—football, AFL, netball, hockey, rugby league and rugby union. There are so many clubs and teams I wish to congratulate on outstanding seasons. However, in the time I have I will single out just a few.

Firstly, the Grange Gorillas women's AFL team were the first organised women's AFL team in Queensland and this year tasted grand final success for the first time. It is a great accomplishment for a club that has been steadfast in the development of women's AFL. Their football counterparts, Grange Thistle, achieved great success. The under-15 division 1 girls won back-to-back titles in a nail-biting 3-2 overtime win. Over the past two seasons, they have played 40 games, with an astonishing 38 wins, one draw and one loss.

The Brisbane football club had a number of teams win finals, but most notably were the National Premier League Queensland champions. The neighbouring Newmarket Football Club also had a win with its under-16s division 3 winning their grand final 5-1. The Commercial Hockey Club won the Brisbane Women's Hockey Association best junior girls club, best senior women's club and best men's club shield for the 2018 season. To round out their already great season, of the 17 teams that made the grand final, 11 went on to win their respective competitions. I say: well done.


In Rugby League, the Brothers Juniors under-17 boys division 2 fell short in the final against Easts Mount Gravatt. The under-17 side did the club proud and just a couple of weeks prior had defeated Easts Mount Gravatt in the semifinal.

Lastly, I apologise to Kim Richards and Don Brown, because the very talented Valley Diehards under-17s were victorious in their final against Redlands. I will certainly be cheering them on to go back to back next year.

A massive thankyou needs to go to the committee and parents of all local sporting clubs, who work tirelessly to ensure that their club is as successful as possible. I give it a red-hot go, but it is difficult to attend all the sporting matches in an electorate with so much sporting talent.

I want to briefly mention the Emily Foord Memorial Kindergarten, which a couple of weeks ago was devastatingly impacted by a fire. Luckily, no-one was harmed. The offers of community assistance were overwhelming. I would like to thank everyone who reached out. I am proud to say that I intervened and organised for power to be reconnected as swiftly as possible as well as facilitated a \$10,000 small financial assistance grant from the Department of Education—and I thank the minister—which helped this great kindergarten get back on its feet.

Cougars Weightlifting Club

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.01 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the success of yet another topnotch sporting club in the great electorate of Chatsworth. As a sporting tragic, it brings me great joy to have a world-class facility such as the Sleeman Sports Complex a mere five-minute drive from my office. In supporting the many sporting clubs that compete and operate within this facility, it is always a thrill to visit the Cougars Weightlifting Club.

The Cougars Weightlifting Club provides competitors and members with the biggest and best equipped weightlifting facility in Australia. Over the years I have visited the Cougars Weightlifting Club on several occasions and one aspect that never fails to impress me is the way in which young boys and girls are encouraged by the senior members. In fact, it is not unusual to see international competitors teaching and encouraging new members.


The club is extremely inclusionary in that it encourages people of all ages. It is extraordinary. It is home to 100 regular training members, including representatives who have competed for Australia at Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. Speaking of those representatives, it would be remiss of me to not pay tribute to the outstanding work of Damon Kelly, our

Commonwealth Games gold medal winner in Delhi in 2006. I would like to say a special thankyou to him for taking the time to speak at my business breakfast earlier this year and continuing to be an inspirational member of this wonderful club.

Recently, I was lucky enough to be invited by the club to present medals at the Australian national weightlifting championships. In the past, I have watched the competitors in the super heavyweight category, but it was such a thrilling experience to watch the competition in the 55-kilogram, 61-kilogram and 67-kilogram weight divisions. During their lifts, every competitor put their body on the line and it put a smile on my face to see their reactions when they put down the heavy bar and those three white lights appeared to indicate an allowed lift. It is safe to say that this event was jam packed with excitement and it did not disappoint the spectators.

I must congratulate all the officials and organisers for what was a seamless event. In particular, I want to make special mention of the club president and competitor himself, Mr James Norman. This man is an incredible advocate for the club. He goes out of his way to ensure that the club continues to grow and expand. A prime example of his efforts occurred earlier this year when Mr Norman raised his concerns about the future of the club as it had been located underneath the old velodrome facility for more than 30 years. Mr Norman wanted to ensure that there are no future construction plans for the old velodrome before investing in renovations to improve the club's facilities. I have been contacting the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, the Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, and look forward to hearing from him about the plans for this facility so that the mighty Cougars Weightlifting Club can plan with some degree of certainty.

Rookwood Weir

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (9.04 pm): We are getting on with the job of getting Rookwood Weir happening. Rookwood Weir will be built on the Fitzroy River, 60 kilometres south-east of Rockhampton. The preliminary construction of the \$352 million weir is expected to go out to tender in early 2019 and the weir will be water ready in 2021.

The Palaszczuk government is totally committed to the weir, the jobs and the business opportunities that it will provide, and the future water security for Central Queensland and has backed up this commitment with \$66 million allocated in the 2018-19 Queensland budget to progress this much needed infrastructure.


The Rookwood Weir will create approximately 200 jobs at peak and, within two years of construction, will support high-value agricultural production along the Fitzroy River. Once constructed, the Rookwood Weir will have the ability to supply 76,000 megalitres of water per annum for the region—a resource that will underpin agricultural growth and supply industry and urban water throughout Gladstone and the Capricorn Coast.

My area is fortunate that this water storage will also allow for more opportunities for high-intensity irrigated cropping with access to a reliable water supply. Although we want to see the obvious construction jobs in the short term, in the long term we need to do everything possible to make sure that industry and the surrounding communities get value for money.

Earlier this year, the Palaszczuk government and the federal Labor opposition committed to funding the \$352 million Rookwood Weir and, in April, dragged the then prime minister to get behind the project. The Premier was relentless in her communication with the former prime minister to get a written guarantee for capital funding and seeking a commitment to ongoing costs. It is deceitful that the federal members representing Central Queensland are claiming credit for this project.

It is important that we get this project going. While the federal government has procrastinated over ongoing and operational costs, the proponent, SunWater, has been getting on with the job and talking to the primary producers about their needs for irrigated water. SunWater is well placed to develop and operate Rookwood Weir. This infrastructure will be integrated into SunWater's existing local network, which includes Eden Bann Weir and the Stanwell pipeline.

Emu Swamp Dam Project

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.07 pm): I rise to speak about the Emu Swamp Dam—

Mr Crisafulli: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I thank the member for Broadwater very much for his interjection. The electorate of Southern Downs depends on agriculture. It is the basis of my electorate's prosperity and jobs. Agriculture demands water. We can rely on the rain but, much more importantly, we need supplemental

water, which is water from storages such as dams. That supplemental water for irrigated agriculture makes the difference between normal farming and high-value farming, which creates jobs, prosperity and drought resistance. That is why the Emu Swamp Dam project is so important to my electorate of Southern Downs, particularly in the Granite Belt region.

For more than 20 years it has been an aspiration of the people of the Granite Belt to put a dam on the Severn River at Emu Swamp in order to provide water security. I thank the federal government for providing \$3.5 million to the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce to act as the proponent for this visionary dam. That money will result in the production of a report that, unlike previous reports, will provide a cost, an operating model and a design for the dam. I would like to thank the state government as well for its part in selecting the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce to be the proponent for this important project. The detailed business case study is well on its way to completion, with submissions to be made to the state government by November this year.

Fifty-one local landholders have expressed strong interest. These are overwhelmingly family farms producing leafy green vegetables and fruit and vegetable products, very high-value crops with very large labour demands that are particularly important to our area. They have agreed to purchase water at the nominal cost of \$6,000 per megalitre, which works out to be \$23.4 million in capital outlay as an investment.

It has the support of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Queensland apple and pear growers, the Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel and the National Irrigators Council. The environmental impact statement has been around for some time. Because of delays in organising a detailed business case, that will expire on 2 October. I believe the government is looking at renewing that. I urge them to do so and to assist the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce in obtaining a transfer of that document in order that they can continue. The Minister for Local Government will be visiting Stanthorpe on the 26th of this month. I urge him to meet with the proponents of the dam to learn on behalf of the government what we are up to. I look forward to the support of the government from this point on.

Macalister Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise to speak about the wonderful achievements of young Australians who have been undertaking training through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in my electorate. My electorate boasts a number of organisations that are delivering training through a range of areas. Trainees young and old are undertaking training and upskilling in areas as diverse as land management, disability and aged care, hospitality, business, construction, administration and fitness.

In this parliament we have heard countless stories of the impact of the Labor government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and I have attended a number of graduations over the past few months. The thought that those opposite do not value training and development and that they would have axed such a successful training initiative is one that beggars belief. Seeing the excitement that these graduates have as they now have the confidence that new skills and a new outlook provides is a genuine pleasure, but what I really like hearing is the commitment that young Queenslanders have to get the skills they need to get meaningful employment.

Earlier this year the Beenleigh training centre commenced an 18-week certificate II in telecommunications technology with 12 trainees. Last Friday I attended a graduation ceremony where 11 had completed the training package. The fact that not all could attend the ceremony because they were at work speaks volumes of the success of this program. From this cohort five have already found employment and three were in discussions with employers. I would like to specifically mention one of those graduates.


Our young unemployed people are a much maligned and demonised group. They are increasingly finding themselves in a cycle of unemployment or underemployment—enough work to no longer qualify for benefits but not enough work to be able to afford to even get to work or pay their own way or, if there is no work, reporting requirements which actively remove their ability to train and apply for jobs to break that cycle. Having seen the commitment of these Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduates, I have nothing but admiration for them and for one young man in particular.

Fletcher started the certificate II in July this year. Every day he travelled from Deception Bay to Beenleigh and then walked or caught a lift to the training centre. This is in the face of those who would say our young people are lazy and would not even travel for work. Fletcher is a shining example of a young man who has been given an opportunity under this government and developed his professional skills to gain meaningful employment. There is dignity in work and, thanks to Skilling Queenslanders

for Work, Fletcher now has that. I am pleased to advise the House that in attendance at the graduation ceremony was Fletcher's boss. You see, Fletcher now works full-time, 38 hours a week, working for Visionstream in their NBN team rolling it out.

Seeing those guys graduate—in my words to them, they are poster children for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I told them personally that I really do hope that in five or 10 years time from now, when we are still doing this, they will be there as employers with their own companies as they absolutely demonstrate Skilling Queenslanders for Work.


21 Engineer Support Troop (RAE)

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.13 pm): Hervey Bay recently hosted the 2018 reunion of the 21 Engineer Support Troop (RAE) who served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1972. They were all trained as soldiers first before becoming field engineers or taking on other specialist training. The roles were diverse and we can only imagine how hard they worked, having many tasks on the ground whilst also having to be competent soldiers. The engineer support troops were involved in construction and maintenance. They provided electrical and water reticulation projects to many of the hamlets and villages in the province.

Many people do not realise what our Army did over in Vietnam to help the local people. Apart from the base responsibilities, there were many other projects they undertook, such as field engineering duties, river patrols and village searches. The engineers carried out their duties in dangerous and difficult environments. Often they did not know how fragile their environment was and what dangers they were about to face. They provided logistic and combat support throughout Nui Dat and Vung Tau in many activities and operations. The Battle of Coral and Balmoral ran from 12 May to 6 June in 1968 and involved many actions. While Australian losses were heavy, with 25 killed and 99 wounded, five New Zealanders and two Americans were also wounded. That illustrates what some of our boys went through during the war.

The 21 Engineer Support Troop (RAE) had a full calendar of events in Hervey Bay, including fishing trips, eco tours to Round Island and seafood dinners. They very much enjoyed the Hervey Bay seafood. They also went whale watching and the whales came right up to the boat. It was great to see. I thank John Pole and his committee for choosing Hervey Bay. They go to each state in Australia in alternate years and this year it was Queensland's turn. It was great to be able to honour the 21 Engineer Support Troop in Hervey Bay. I thank our businesses who supported the troop. The ecotourism business owner offered to take them on a tour free of charge because they were diggers from Vietnam. They were very pleased to be in Hervey Bay where they received that type of support.

Kurwongbah Electorate, Scouts

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.16 pm): Scouting is doing well in Kurwongbah. I was considerably disappointed to lose Kallangur Scouts in the recent state redistribution after the great relationship I had built with them after they lost their den in Hathi Park, Kallangur, in 2014. The den became condemned when the then Division 7 councillor let it fall into disrepair. The Kallangur Scouts were without a home and located in a combined scouting den in Frenchs Forest.


At the time I was the candidate for the seat of Kallangur and committed to getting another den in the Kallangur area for the many concerned scouting families who contacted me from Kallangur, Murrumba Downs and neighbouring Griffin in the then state seat of Murrumba. After working with the scouts, our mayor and his office, we were able to secure a new location in close proximity to bushland and the river which seemed the perfect fit for our scouts. It is also adjacent to our military cadets, the SES and sporting fields and it will work well. I have had to say goodbye to Kerry Skillington and the Kallangur Scouts and leave them in the very capable hands of my neighbour Steven Miles, the member for Murrumba.

What I have inherited in Kurwongbah is three scout troops, in Lawnton, Narangba and Burpengary, as well as retaining the den in Frenchs Forest and the Murrenbong Scout campsite. In the short time that I have been the member for Kurwongbah I have been more than welcomed by all of the new scouting groups and attended their AGMs. Burpengary Scouts have been through a similar journey to Kallangur in that their den was condemned, although that was some eight years ago. Since then both state members and the council have been working hard to get them a new place in Burpengary. It was great to attend the recent opening of the new den and hear the sometimes emotional stories of the long build of their new home. Particular thanks went to Mark Ryan, the member for Morayfield, who was their previous state member, and Councillor Peter Flannery for their strong support.

It was at one of these recent events that I was 'scarfed up' as an official supporter of scouting in Queensland by Ian Garrad, the District Commissioner of Murrumba District. I now have a scout scarf and woggle to wear at scouting events. That is the first scouting scarf that I have had since I was a cub in the 1970s and I am working on remembering my left-handed handshake. Scouting and guides are great activities for kids to get involved with and I am proud to support them in my area.

In my remaining time, I inform the House that we have finally moved into our new office at 232 Young Road, Narangba. It is good to be in the area. While my team and I will always miss our Kallangur constituents, we know that Steven Miles, the member for Murrumba, and his staff will take care of them. With the new office opened, I thank Paul, Ryan and the Parliamentary Services team for all the work they did to prepare the new place and help us with the move. It was a seamless transition and we really appreciate all their hard work.

Emu Gully Adventure Education Group

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (9.20 pm): Emu Gully Adventure Education Group has its headquarters outside Helidon in the Lockyer Valley, 15 kilometres east of Toowoomba and 100 kilometres from Brisbane. It was established by Mr Barry Rogers and his wife, Gwen, in 1995. I can recall Barry, a former high school educator, saying, 'Imagine if we could put 1,000 kids through our program.' Emu Gully now has 30 employees and last year they trained 16,000 people.


The Emu Gully Adventure Education Group delivers school and corporate programs focused on leadership and teamwork featuring activities based on the ANZAC principles of courage, mateship, perseverance and sacrifice. The facility at Helidon provides many activities that are typically based on epic historical events, including the Siege of Tobruk, the Western Front, the Escape from Colditz, the Bridge over the River Kwai, the Kokoda Track and the Tunnel Rats of Vietnam.

Last Friday night my wife, Deb, and I, with another 160-odd guests, had the pleasure of attending the group's annual fundraising event, called 'Pass the Real Baton'. I cannot praise enough the work of the group; they are changing people's lives. Fitting with the group's theme, present at the event was Australia's top-selling nonfiction author, Roland Perry, best known as a biographer of Don Bradman and Shane Warne and also a best-selling author of books about World War I and World War II. Perry is truly a national treasure and his account of Australia's contribution to world conflicts was brilliant. Perry spoke passionately about the stories of Australia's greatest generals, Monash and Chauvel, who made the most significant impact on the outcomes of WWI and the foundations of our national identity, which are applied so well at Emu Gully.

Stories from program participants, trainers, board members and the CEO, Darren Copland, were inspirational and told a wonderful story of aspiration and the development of our next generation of leaders. The group is delivering on the vision of the Rogers family, with the philosophy that your success in life, whether personally or corporately, will be based primarily on your character—that is, the real you and the way that you handle the circumstances of life, whether they be good or bad.

On the evening, three symbolic batons were handed over. They were made by a local craftsman. As CEO Daren Copland said, 'Our baton is inspired by the eternally binding phrase "Lest we Forget" and the WWI epitaph, "When you go home, remind them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today".' The baton symbolically represents our nation's core values and the benefits of applying them: because of courage, we have opportunity; when we demonstrate mateship, we provide hope; through sacrifice, we find purpose; and when we persevere, we create the future. Congratulations to Emu Gully and its wonderful contribution to promoting and restoring those values.

Boyne Tannum HookUp

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.23 pm): I rise to speak about the recent completion of the long-awaited Boyne River mouth dredging project, which will attract more anglers to the Gladstone region. The eight-month \$1 million project was funded by the Queensland Labor government, with work undertaken by the Gladstone Ports Corporation and local contractor East Coast Maritime. It was hoped that the project would be completed in time for the 3 to 5 May Boyne Tannum HookUp, but during the opening months of the project adverse weather conditions caused significant delays. The channel is approximately one kilometre long at the mouth, 15 to 30 metres wide and one metre deep on the lowest astronomical tide.

I am pleased to tell the people of the Boyne/Tannum area that dredging work at the mouth of the Boyne River is now complete. The project started in late February and finished in early September. Ease of access, both in and out of the river mouth, will attract more visiting anglers to wet a line in our

wonderful region. In the electorate of Gladstone, the southern Great Barrier Reef is right on our doorstep and for many years people had to wait until the tide was at the right height to get their boats in or out, or try sneak through on the lower tides. The clearing of the existing channel now gives boaties free access to come and go through the Boyne River, which is such a popular river system, especially for fishing registrations in the Boyne/Tannum area.

This is great news for the local area and, in particular, it is great news for the annual Boyne Tannum HookUp team. The fishing competition has now become the biggest and most popular family fishing festival in Australia and, as the local member, I am very proud to support the wonderful event. The Boyne Tannum HookUp was initially launched on 7 June 1996. For the past 23 years it has run annually, and coordinators hope it will continue as an event so that families can enjoy all that the Gladstone region has to offer as a premier fishing location.

There are some amazing statistics from this year's HookUp. There were 3,055 participants, with 734 of those being junior fishers. There were 916 participants who came from outside Gladstone, 43 from outside Queensland and four from overseas. There were 678 dead fish weighed in and 526 live fish weighed in. This year there was \$250,000 worth of prizes. Over 200 volunteers helped out over the long weekend. Ninety-nine per cent said, yes, the event was better than they expected and 95 per cent of Boyne/Tannum accommodation was booked out. Forty-three teams entered the event, with a 15 per cent increase in people attending from outside the 4680 postcode. People stayed in the electorate for an average of four nights. That is fantastic news for the Boyne/Tannum area, which is a slice of paradise that now has safe access to the southern Great Barrier Reef.

The House adjourned at 9.26 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson