



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 19 September 2018

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## WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

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 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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


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

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


#### Strawberry Industry, Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this week, to support Queensland strawberry growers, parliament has gone strawberry. Members may have seen the punnets of strawberries for sale in the cafeteria or partaken of any or all of the parliamentary chefs' creations such as strawberry melting moments—which I am reliably informed sold out in record time yesterday—strawberry cupcakes, strawberry muffins, strawberry ganache tartlets and a strawberry trifle. I am yet to see whether strawberry shortcake has made an appearance. Members will also be able to select a strawberry dessert option in the Strangers' Dining Room: marinated local strawberries, raw strawberry and white chocolate torte, strawberry almond soil and Caboolture strawberry ice-cream. All strawberries sold in the cafeteria have been scanned. However, it is recommended members still slice the strawberries as an additional precaution. I urge members to lead the way in supporting our strawberry growers and indulge in a strawberry treat or two.

#### Broadcast of Parliament, Web Streaming

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that after 2 pm today the third-party web-streaming service provider that delivers the broadcast of parliament will be undertaking urgent and unavoidable maintenance which is beyond our control. There is a very low risk that this work may briefly impact the live broadcast. Whilst we hope this is not the case, it may be of benefit for some. The parliament will not lose any footage and if the broadcast is interrupted it will be available and accessible in the archive after the sitting day has finished.

#### School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from St Joseph's School Bundaberg in the electorate of Bundaberg.

### PETITIONS

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


#### Robinson, Councillor S, Vote of No Confidence

From 1,267 petitioners, requesting the House to note a vote of no confidence in Councillor Stephen Robinson of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and to take such action as it deems appropriate [[1379](#), [1380](#)].

Petitions received.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Strawberry Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): There are few images more upsetting than that of a perfectly good crop of strawberries being dumped and good food going to waste. That is the result of the despicable crime committed against Queensland's strawberry


growers. I am pleased strawberry growers have welcomed the government's assistance for the industry. A million dollars to help promote consumer confidence and investigate how to improve traceability and integrity in the supply chain are both positive and helpful measures. This morning the federal government has agreed to our request with another million dollars to match our funding.

What is not helpful is the number of copycat and fake reports making an already difficult situation worse. This is something with which the growers have expressed their anger and frustration, and I could not agree more. The people copying this crime are in many ways worse than those who started it. A crime scene on a very small number of farms affecting only a very small number of products has spread to an entire industry. Police resources are wasted on false alarms. A team of 100 police has been allocated to this investigation, including 60 detectives. An act like this, intending to cause grievous bodily harm, carries a 10-year jail term, and I doubt anyone in Queensland will give those responsible any sympathy if they spend a very long time in prison.

To further assist police, the government has approved a \$100,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest. One hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money. Someone out there knows something. You can make an anonymous call. We do not care as long as we catch those responsible. People can call Crime Stoppers or Policelink on 131444. We can be sure of this: in times of crisis Queensland comes together. We have seen it in floods. We are seeing it in the drought. We will show it to our strawberry growers.


Today, as you mentioned, Mr Speaker, Parliament House canteen staff are offering a range of strawberry based products, which they were more than delighted to tell me about this morning at breakfast—things like strawberry muffins washed down with a strawberry thickshake, cupcakes, macaroons, melting moments and trifle, which I am looking forward to. We have to chop our strawberries, but we do not have to stop buying them. I call on Queenslanders to show their support and demand homegrown strawberries. Make this coming Sunday 'Strawberry Sunday' and show off your strawberry recipes. That way we can say to whoever is behind this: you will not win. In the words of the great John Lennon, Queensland strawberry fields forever.

### **International Air Transport Association Slot Conference**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Today I can announce that one of the world's leading aviation conferences will touch down in Brisbane in 2019. The 145th International Air Transport Association Slot Conference will pump \$2.3 million into the local economy. More importantly, this event will bring 1,000 of the biggest players in international aviation to Queensland, where they will negotiate for the most sought after slots on the planet. The IATA Slot Conference will run from 12 to 15 November next year at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase Queensland to some of the most important figures in international tourism.

Today's announcement comes only months after we hosted the highly successful Routes Asia Conference here in Brisbane. We have the runs on the board when it comes to securing more direct flights to Queensland. I thank our Minister for Tourism for doing an outstanding job. Since 2015 my government has secured 2.4 million airline seats, worth \$1.8 billion for our state. Improving access to our key tourism destinations is an important part of our strategy to grow Queensland's \$25 billion tourism industry.

### **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Resources**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): More than five million people call Queensland home—five million Queenslanders who at some stage in their lives could find themselves in a situation where they need the immediate help of our emergency services. Our ambos and fires are on the front line every day saving lives. We know that in often tough and traumatic times they will have our backs. I want them to know that my government has theirs too.

Our growing and ageing population means our emergency services need resources and equipment to keep up with demand and to keep our communities safe. That is why my government is boosting front-line emergency services right across Queensland. Today I will be visiting Roma Street station—one of the busiest fire and ambulance stations in the state—along with Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services as well as the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, to meet with some of our front-line emergency workers. I will be announcing that 100 new Queensland Ambulance Service staff will soon take up their new jobs in communities right across our great state of Queensland.

I will also be announcing the first round of 180 urban and rural fire appliances that will also be headed to Queensland communities so our front-line firefighters and volunteers have access to state-of-the-art equipment. That is what good, decent governments do.

Our emergency services are vital in keeping our community safe, and their jobs are quite often confronting and even dangerous. That is why we are making sure they have the resources and equipment they need to do their job as best they can. Since coming to office in 2015 we have increased the ambulance operating budget by \$211 million. As well as that, my government's record \$702 million QFES budget for 2018-19 will deliver jobs and upgraded front-line services. On behalf of the government I want to thank all of our front-line emergency services personnel for their continued service to the Queensland community, no matter where they live in Queensland.


### Miners Memorial Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Queenslanders owe a great social and economic debt to our resource industry workers and their families. More than 54,000 people work directly in the \$25 billion industry—from FIFO workers on the Gold Coast to locals on the cape and in our north-west minerals province. At no time is their contribution more important to recognise than today, Miners Memorial Day, when we acknowledge the 1,493 workers who have lost their lives in mines since mining records have been kept in Queensland.

Shortly the 11th annual miners memorial service will commence in Charters Towers, one of our state's historic mining centres. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is absent from the House this morning attending the service in Charters Towers. He is there with representatives of the Queensland Resources Council, unions representing workers, the member for Burdekin, who I understand is representing the opposition, as well as many friends and families of lost loved ones.

Miners Memorial Day is held annually on the anniversary of Queensland's worst mining disaster 97 years ago at Mount Mulligan coalmine. Seventy-five miners died on this day in 1921, and that tragedy led to measures like the compulsory safety lamps that became standard industry practice. Of course safety improvements did not stop there, and Queensland now has a world-leading centre for mining safety and health research, Simtars, which is recognised globally. As we mark this day, I recommit my government to ensure that all workers return safely to their families at the end of their working day.

### Queensland Treasury Corporation, Investor Roadshow

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk government has a strong economic plan that is creating jobs and growing our economy. The success of our economic plan is clearly demonstrated in Queensland's strengthening economic growth and the 177,500 new jobs created in Queensland since January 2015. One of the key elements of the Queensland government's economic plan is to support our trade and export sector. To that end, last week I participated in the Queensland Treasury Corporation's investor roadshow in the United States and Europe.

For over 30 years QTC has conducted regular roadshows, allowing the Queensland government to inform investors and financial market participants of Queensland's strengths including our robust budget performance and our focus on growth and innovation. These roadshows have allowed Queensland to develop strong relationships with major economic partners and to expand our investor base both domestically and abroad. I delivered keynote addresses with high-level investors, participated in roundtable discussions and held targeted one-on-one meetings to ensure current and prospective investors had a clear understanding of Queensland's strengths and opportunities and our economic plan.

I can report that our existing and prospective investors were very impressed by Queensland's sustained economic performance and appreciated the strength of Queensland's diverse economy. I advised investors of Queensland's position as an export powerhouse, with the value of Queensland's exports increasing by \$7.6 billion to be \$74.1 billion in 2017-18.


The value of Queensland's exports has more than doubled in the past decade, with growth in our traditional goods exports further supplemented by the emergence of the LNG industry and strong growth in the services sector. In particular, growth in international tourist nights and international student enrolments is providing significant investment opportunities in Queensland. With the lower level of the Australian dollar and rising incomes in Asia, these sectors are primed to continue to drive growth in services exports in the coming years.

Our rapidly diversifying economy and our proximity to the growing middle class in Asia are of enormous interest to international investors. In recent years we have seen growth in key services exports. People from around the world are travelling to Queensland visiting the reef, our beaches, cities and regions and also studying at our universities.

The economic growth strategies put in place by the Palaszczuk Labor government such as Advance Queensland which are designed to further diversify and grow the Queensland economy are receiving international recognition and have been warmly welcomed by investors. Our economic story is strong. Investors remain extremely supportive of our delivery of ongoing surpluses, our responsible debt management and our commitment to the timely delivery of infrastructure that supports population growth and our growing economy.

Our trading partners all over the world keep coming back to Queensland because they know we are a reliable supplier of high-quality goods and services. This is further endorsement of the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plan which is driving investment and delivering the jobs that Queenslanders need.

### Drought Assistance, Review

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.44 am): The Palaszczuk government is keeping its promise to put Queenslanders first. That means building on our plan to deliver the quality services that all Queenslanders deserve. The clearest evidence of this is our consistent commitment to provide assistance for primary producers who live in drought-stricken parts of the state. Since the drought began, the Queensland government has allocated more than \$670 million to help our farmers on the land. That does not mean that we should not look to see whether there are better ways in which we can better prepare for future droughts.

We want Queenslanders to help shape the future of our drought program by attending a regional forum or submitting their thoughts online. It is vital that producers give to the independent panel their feedback on what can be improved and how better resilience can be built in the future. With drought foremost in people's minds, now is the best time to work with industry and the community to review government, industry and community actions through this drought and think about improvements for future droughts.

Ruth Wade and Charles Burke have been appointed to an independent panel to run the review and make recommendations to improve resilience and assistance for future droughts in line with national drought policy. Being former chief executive officers of the Queensland Farmers' Federation and AgForce Queensland respectively, Ms Wade and Mr Burke have a strong industry background and understanding of the pressures of drought in rural communities.

The panel is holding forums in six regional locations and is seeking written submissions through the drought program review website until the end of October. Forum locations include Ayr, Bundaberg, Charleville, Cloncurry, Dalby and Longreach. I encourage community members to attend these forums to have their say or submit their thoughts online for the panel to consider.


I would also like to update the House with respect to the drought status of the Western Downs Regional Council. Today I have instructed my department to partially drought declare the eastern part of the shire area. I table a map of that declaration.

*Tabled paper:* Map depicting rainfall percentile for 12 months to August 2018 in the Western Downs [\[1381\]](#).

Also, in April the local drought committee recommended the council area have its drought status revoked. Since then, in my view, the committee process has been manipulated for political gain. The LDCs are meant to be free of political interference to avoid lobbying and so the members are free to make unencumbered decisions based on science that will serve the community for the coming 12 months. Given that, I believe that the committee has been compromised. I have instructed my department to relieve the LDC of its duties.

Furthermore, while I am on the subject of drought, the Queensland Drought Appeal today reached \$2.7 million—an excellent achievement. Also, as we heard from the Premier earlier in the week, the bipartisan Queensland government fundraiser has sold out. I am encouraged that everyone is participating and assisting our farmers in times of need such as this.

### Qantas, 787 Dreamliners

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): Just over two weeks ago the first of four Qantas Dreamliners to be based in Queensland under the Palaszczuk government's Industry Attraction Fund took off from



Brisbane Airport on its inaugural nonstop flight to Los Angeles. The 'Q' in Qantas stands for Queensland. It is the place of its birth, the place where it grew up, the spiritual home of the flying kangaroo. The relationship between Queensland and Qantas is a special and evolving one—founded on its heritage and driven by its opportunities.

The manufacturing story in Queensland is dependent upon the skills of the workforce available to meet the sector's need. That is why our government warmly welcomes the announcement from Qantas today that they will be increasing their intake of engineering apprentices in Brisbane in 2019 by two-thirds, from 15 to 25, to meet future demand.

Qantas engineering apprentices are trained for four years in a range of fields including avionics, mechanical engineering, paint and trimming, signs and graphics, and during their apprenticeship they will acquire the skills they need to establish long-term careers in the aviation industry. Qantas has also advised that it will be transitioning 34 aircraft maintenance engineers who have graduated from the airline's apprenticeship program to permanent employment.

The opening of the new Dreamliner base enabled by our government will support 470 direct and indirect jobs and will create supply chain opportunities for local businesses. This is great news for Queensland and a vote of confidence from one of Australia's most prominent countries in the future direction of our state. It is also a further manifestation of the rolling dividend of our successful Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, a fund which deserves bipartisan support. These apprenticeships are coming to Brisbane because the Dreamliners are here, and the Dreamliners are here because the Palaszczuk Labor government brought them here—just as we brought Rheinmetall to Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government supports our manufacturing industry—and it should be supported on a bipartisan basis—and is committed to driving the opportunities that continue to emerge in advanced manufacturing. The skills that the attraction of companies like Rheinmetall, Qantas, Boeing, Oji Fibre Solutions, Southern Oil and BrewDog will develop in our workforce will permanently lift the manufacturing capability in our state and position Queensland to continue to reap the dividends of the emerging opportunities in advanced manufacturing.


### **Brisbane Airport, Runway**

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.50 am): Today workers are laying the centre portion of the new runway at Brisbane Airport. This is the latest milestone in the largest aviation construction project in Australia. It comes after the Premier today announced that the 145th International Air Transport Association Slot Conference will come to Brisbane next year. This is a great win for our state, helping us lure 1,000 of the most important decision-makers in global aviation to Brisbane to do deals in our state.

Thanks to the government's record investment in tourism, business confidence is growing. We have a \$14 billion pipeline of new tourism infrastructure throughout the state. In Brisbane alone we have more than \$7 billion worth of new tourism projects underway including the new runway at Brisbane Airport, the Queen's Wharf redevelopment, the Howard Smith Wharves project and the new international cruise terminal.

Today's announcements are more proof that Queensland's tourism sector is booming. With a multibillion dollar upgrade to Brisbane Airport and the world's premier aviation conference set to touch down in Brisbane, we could not be better placed to capitalise on our strategy to grow tourism and tourism jobs. We are investing a record \$180 million to grow tourism including \$48 million to secure more direct flights and tourism experiences to Queensland. We will continue to back this industry to create new jobs right across our state.

### **Queensland Ambulance Service, Resources**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): With over five million people calling Queensland home, there are more people relying on our ambos than ever before. The Queensland Ambulance Service experienced its busiest financial year ever in 2017-18, recording more than one million incidents across Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring the QAS is equipped with the resources it needs to do its incredibly important job. That is why last election we promised to employ an additional 100 ambulance officers across Queensland. I am pleased that the Premier announced today that the government is delivering on our election commitment. The additional 100 ambulance officers will soon

be deployed right across Queensland communities to help keep up with increasing demand from our growing and ageing population. From Kuranda to Southport, the additional staff, along with all our paramedics and QAS staff, will continue to do an incredible job, providing life-saving, pre-hospital care to more than five million Queenslanders.

We are ensuring ambulance officers have the funding, equipment, training and resources they need to provide the very best in emergency care. Since 2015 we have employed an additional 508 ambulance officers—and that is not all. We have increased the Queensland ambulance operating budget by \$211 million and purchased over 600 new and replacement ambulance vehicles across the state, including 85 this financial year, because we on this side of the House believe everyone should have access to world-class health care no matter where in Queensland they live.

The new and replacement ambulances contain the new power assisted stretchers, which are already proving their worth, significantly reducing manual-handling injuries. This is a great help for our paramedics and for their patients. The stretchers reduce the strain on paramedics' bodies and help to reduce the risk of manual-handling injuries. Our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers and patient transport officers work tirelessly to provide emergency care to Queenslanders. They do a tremendous job of looking after the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. I welcome the new staff into the Queensland Ambulance Service and know they will make a valuable contribution to their communities.

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Resources

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk government's record \$702 million QFES budget for 2018-19 will deliver jobs and upgraded front-line services right across this fantastic state. As the Premier announced in her ministerial statement, we are delighted to announce today where the first round of 180 new urban and rural QFES appliances will be delivered under our record budget.

QFES has determined the destinations for the first 61 of the new fire and rescue appliances to be delivered this financial year across Queensland. This is based on operational priorities. We are talking about urban pumpers, aerial appliances and specialist appliances, many of these worth from half a million dollars to over a million dollars each, so that our front-line firefighters can continue to manage the structure fires, the hazardous materials incidents, the swiftwater rescues, and the grass and scrub fires that they deal with every day.


Fifteen appliances will be delivered into the Brisbane region this financial year. Twelve will go to the south-western region including Toowoomba from where we will be governing from the regions next week; 10 will go to the far northern region; nine will go to the north coast region; eight will go to the south eastern region; six will go to the central region; and one will go to the northern region.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that QFES has the people, the infrastructure and the equipment to deliver enhanced services and support. Our budget includes \$44.3 million to deliver the 180 new urban and rural appliances. We still have 119 to go for the Rural Fire Service and we will be announcing the locations of those in the near future.

Our investment builds on the work already undertaken by this government to renew QFES's fleet. The 180 coming this year are on the back of more than 100 delivered in the last financial year. Over two financial years that is 280 new fire appliances for QFES across this wonderful state. The best thing is that they are completed locally through Queensland based companies.

We realise how vital it is that our front-line firefighters and volunteers have access to state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure. Queensland's diverse mix of residents and tourists requires state-of-the-art equipment to ensure that our highly trained front-line personnel can continue to provide a world-class service to communities from the far north to down to the border. The new appliances will be an invaluable addition to the fire and rescue fleet, and I am sure the vehicles earmarked for our Rural Fire Service will be welcomed by our 36,000 volunteers, who have been busy lately battling bushfires and protecting our community.

### Warrego Highway, Upgrade

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): The \$635 million Warrego Highway Upgrade Program is made up of 15 projects from west of Toowoomba to the west of Miles. These projects are designed to improve safety and freight movement and are scheduled to be delivered by the middle of 2019.

I am very pleased to announce today that approval was recently given to upgrade three additional sections of the Warrego Highway between Oakey and Miles, bringing the total number of Warrego Highway Upgrade Program projects to 18. The additional three projects will use savings from seven of the projects that have already been completed. These savings were gained through a robust tender process and a highly competitive civil construction market under the Palaszczuk Labor government. These additional upgrades will improve safety and reduce travel time for people who rely on this key Queensland highway to access our largest inland city and further west.

Tenders have been called for the three projects and will close early next month. One of the savings projects, the Dalby to Miles pavement widening and safety upgrade, will widen and repair key sections of the highway to install wide centre line treatments and flatten slopes off the road edges. Under the Oakey to Miles safety upgrade stage 2, the second project, stopping bays will be installed to allow heavy vehicle operators to pull off the highway safely, check loads, change tyres or rest. The bays will also provide the drivers of smaller vehicles with the opportunity to take a break and avoid fatigue.


The third savings project—the Carroll Creek culvert replacement project—is located about 65 kilometres east of Roma and will deliver new culverts across Carroll Creek near Yuleba. This reinvestment of savings will particularly benefit heavy vehicle operators servicing agricultural and resource industries across the Darling Downs and south-west Queensland.

After 13 months of construction, the Dalby eastern and Dalby western access upgrades are nearing completion. With a predicted end date of November this year, this highway upgrade to four lanes through Dalby will create safer vehicle movement through the town. Thanks to dedicated right-turn lanes at the main intersections, these works will mean safety is improved for the more than 7,000 vehicles travelling through Dalby each day.

There are also many other sections of the Warrego now being upgraded. Construction continues on the seven overtaking lanes at four locations between Dalby and Miles and is due to be completed early next year. Intersection upgrades and highway widening between Oakey and Miles are expected to be completed by the end of next month. The upgrade of the Warrego Highway and the Leichhardt Highway intersections through Miles is underway and on track for completion in November. Tenders for the Chinchilla open level crossing upgrade project are being assessed and construction is expected to commence later this year.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is proud to be playing its part in transforming the Warrego Highway for the people who live in the agricultural and mining hubs of the Western Downs.

### **Rural and Remote Queensland, Education**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing a world-class education for all Queensland students, regardless of where they attend school in this great state. Enhancing the learning opportunities of rural and remote students is one of the key priorities of this government. That is why we are continuing to invest in our rural and remote teachers and schools.

In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk government is investing over \$1 million to attract graduate teachers into some of the state's more rural and remote schools through our Teach Rural scholarships program. This year we have 40 general teaching scholarships and 32 STEM specialist scholarships on offer to final year preservice teachers. Applications open on 8 October 2018 via Smart Jobs and Careers, and I would encourage anyone in their final year of a teaching qualification to apply for this great opportunity.

On 29 August, I had the opportunity to attend the Teach Queensland Career Fair at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre with the Director-General, Tony Cook. This annual event, run by the department, attracted 740 attendees at different stages in their teaching careers. It was inspiring to speak with many who were excited about the prospect of teaching in rural and remote Queensland state schools.


The Palaszczuk government is committed to looking after our teachers in rural and remote locations. We are investing more than \$31 million over four years to establish four centres for learning and wellbeing to support teachers in rural and remote areas, including centres in Mount Isa and Roma and two further centres next year in North Queensland and Central Queensland. I am looking forward to visiting Mount Isa next month to officially launch our rural and remote strategy.

We are investing \$13.6 million to upgrade teacher houses in rural and remote areas, and an additional \$2 million for improved internet connection. These upgrades will ensure teachers who take up the opportunity to live and work in our remote and rural communities have safe, secure and modern homes.

I am proud of our hardworking teachers, teaching support staff and school leaders and the tireless efforts they make in our schools every day. Their efforts were reflected in the most recent NAPLAN results, where we again saw continued improvements in schools across the state. I was particularly heartened to see continued improvements in many of our rural and remote schools—including Yorkeys Knob State School in Cairns, Doomadgee State School and Geham State School in Toowoomba. All of our schools should be acknowledged for the work they are doing in supporting student growth and development every day.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our dedicated teachers right across Queensland as we come to the end of term 3. I particularly acknowledge our teachers in rural and remote locations who are contributing greatly to education in our state. Teaching changes lives—and there is no better time to ‘Teach Queensland’.

### Queensland Police Service, Recruits

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government is all about jobs for Queensland. As Minister for Police, I can tell the House that we are continuing to support jobs right across regional Queensland. Throughout this year, new police officers have begun their careers in all corners of our great state. Here is a snapshot of new police recruits since last December.

In the Far North district, 39 first year constable officers have joined the Queensland Police Service ranks. In the Townsville district, there are 25 new recruits. Heading south to the Gold Coast district, another 30 police academy graduates have started work. Just north of there at the Logan district, another 25 are now protecting the community. Moving back up north, the Sunshine Coast district has nine, the Wide Bay-Burnett district has 12 and the Mackay district has 12. Out west at the Mount Isa district, we have welcomed six new police recruits to the ranks. Seven of our highly trained police academy graduates now call the Darling Downs district home. Closer to Brisbane, the Ipswich district has 10 new recruits and the Moreton district has 10 as well.

Understandably, with the population concentration in the Queensland capital, a lot of recruits start out here in Brisbane. The North Brisbane district has taken on 40 new recruits since the start of the year. The same number was allocated to the South Brisbane district. All up, there have been 276 new police recruits since December last year. That is 276 new careers starting in the Queensland Police Service.

There is more to come. In the five years from last year, our government will grow the overall strength of the Queensland Police Service by 535 officers and specialists. That is more jobs for Queenslanders, more police for Queensland and a safer Queensland. That is what our government is all about—more jobs and front-line services for Queenslanders. Under Labor, there are now more police in Queensland than ever before.

Mr Speaker, given your propensity for great jokes, which I always appreciate, I am sure you will appreciate this one. Why are the opposition so negative about policing?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr RYAN:** Wait for the punch line.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I was going to say exactly the same thing.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for silence. This had better be worth it, Minister.

**Mr RYAN:** Why are the opposition so negative about policing? On this International Talk Like a Pirate Day, it is just because they ‘arr’.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have to say, Minister, that you came close to getting a warning for that.

### Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, Community Grants

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ending domestic and family violence. Today we are inviting community groups right across our state to say no to domestic and family violence by hosting an event during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month next May. Eligible organisations can now apply for a 2019 Domestic and

Family Violence Prevention Month community grant of up to \$5,000. This will help them to host an awareness-raising event during May, when Queenslanders are urged to stop and say 'not now, not ever' to violence in our communities.


I am proud to say that in 2019 the Palaszczuk government has \$150,000 in one-off funding available to help organisations and community groups right across Queensland who are interested in hosting an event to raise awareness of this terrible violence that happens in too many homes across Queensland. I want to spread the message to every part of our state that everyone has a role to play in ending domestic and family violence.

In 2018, funds were distributed to 35 community organisations which held 43 awareness-raising events, projects and activities, sending a clear message that violence will not be tolerated. The 2018 grants enabled awareness events in locations including Palm Island, Balonne, Cunnamulla, Mackay, Yeppoon, Murgon, Bundaberg, Noosa, Mount Isa, Atherton and Hinchinbrook to name a few. The events included family fun days and candle lighting remembrance ceremonies to honour those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic and family violence. From a thought-provoking theatre performance in Cooktown to a tackle domestic violence campaign at a Cowboys home game in Townsville through to a domestic and family violence awareness family fun day down at Wynnum's bayside, the scope of events that can be staged are only limited by the imaginations of those who are organising them.

There is no doubt that domestic violence is a scourge on our society. It affects far too many lives and too many people have been lost to it and this must stop. In 2019 we will again use these grants to continue that strong message. We know that domestic and family violence has a devastating impact on too many of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and funding will be earmarked for events that raise awareness of domestic violence in Indigenous communities. We hope also to receive submissions addressing the needs of some of our other higher risk groups, including around domestic and family violence for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer. Organisations can apply for a grant by visiting the SmartyGrants website.

Domestic violence is everyone's responsibility and I encourage groups right around Queensland to play their part in raising awareness during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month next year.

### Household Resilience Program

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.10 am): On 30 July this year the Palaszczuk government's Household Resilience Program commenced. This initiative is designed to assist Queenslanders living in cyclone-prone areas to undertake upgrades and maintenance to their homes to help ensure their homes can withstand the next powerful storm that comes their way. We commenced this program after governing from the regions in Mackay, where government members listened to locals and saw the work still being done in recovery from Cyclone Debbie. I can update the members of the House on the progress of the program, and it is good news indeed.

Already, 360 households between Bundaberg and Cairns have applied for our support through this program and, not yet two months since the Housing Resilience Program was announced, there are 45 projects underway. Our government will fund 75 per cent of eligible works up to a total project value of \$15,000. That means home owners will benefit from a Palaszczuk government contribution of up to \$11,250, with the home owner only having to cover the remaining 25 per cent. Importantly, under our program, the Palaszczuk government makes a direct payment to the contractor, so Queensland home owners can manage their costs of living. We have also secured and made available low- or no-interest loan products to further lighten the load on Queenslanders.

Queenslanders expect that, if they work hard through their adult life and they manage to save a deposit and are fortunate enough to buy their own home, they should be able to retire in relative security. Even if they then rely on a modest income like a pension, they should be able to live out their retirement in a safe and secure home. I am pleased to advise the House that more than 60 per cent of the applicants to the Household Resilience Program are over the age of 55. In fact, more than a third are over the age of 65.


The vast majority of applications, nearly 90 per cent, are for roof replacement and roof structure tie-down upgrades. For Queenslanders who rely on a pension or are living carefully off their retirement savings, projects like roof replacements or tie-downs might otherwise be entirely out of reach. We have listened to Queenslanders who have told us that it is difficult to afford the excess on insurance payouts

when homes are damaged due to extreme weather or, for that matter, high insurance premiums. Almost 92 per cent of applicants have home insurance, and we would expect that insurance companies will take into account the improved resilience of these homes when calculating insurance premiums into the future.

I have more good news to share about this program. I have spoken in this House before about how this government is working to make it easy for Queenslanders to do business with us like making applications for the Household Resilience Program for example. We are making it easy for Queenslanders to access government services when they want and how they want. I am pleased to report that 60 per cent of the applications received for this program were made using a smartphone and another 12 per cent were made via an internet enabled tablet such as an iPad. More than 5,300 visits to our Stronger Homes website, where the application can be made, came from Queenslanders clicking through to that website from social media, including Facebook.


At this point I would like to thank all members of the House, particularly government members in North Queensland, who have taken the time to share information about the Household Resilience Program for the benefit of their constituents.

### ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy will be absent from the House during question time today as he is attending the Miners Memorial Day in Charters Towers. The Premier and Minister for Trade will take questions for the minister during question time.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
  - (a) the June Sensis Business Index recorded the Palaszczuk government as the least popular state government among small and medium sized businesses;
  - (b) the June CCIQ Pulse survey continued to show subdued business confidence, and the divide in business confidence between South-East Queensland and regional Queensland confidence levels continues to grow;
  - (c) the July CommSec State of the States report puts Queensland in fifth place in the nation, solidly in the bottom half of the economic ladder;
  - (d) the unemployment rate in Queensland is the worst in Australia at a rate of 6.4 per cent;
  - (e) over 170,000 Queenslanders are unemployed and looking for a job;
  - (f) the Palaszczuk Labor government has increased taxes—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my right.

**Mr MANDER:** I will say that again—

- (f) the Palaszczuk Labor government has increased taxes and charges and debt is still projected to exceed \$83 billion;
- (g) Queensland had the lowest economic growth—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. I will wait for silence, members. Any further interruptions to the member will be met with action.

**Mr MANDER:** I go on—

- (g) Queensland had the lowest economic growth of any state in the last quarter at 0.1 per cent; and
- (h) ratings agency Fitch has downgraded Queensland's credit rating outlook on the back of the Palaszczuk government's poor fiscal management; and

2. Condemns—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Mr MANDER:** I continue—

2. Condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for its failed economic record of more taxes, increased debt and higher unemployment.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude—

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Caloundra and member for Gladstone, you are both warned under standing orders. Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Sharma, Mr M



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.16 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. As the Mullen report into the tragic killing of Manmeet Sharma was finished and ready for publication in January 2017, will the Premier tell the House whether this report was hidden from the public for 18 months because this is a government that has a culture of secrecy and cover-ups?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. I am advised by the minister that the day that the court proceedings were finished that report was released publicly, which is the right thing to do.

### Sharma, Mr M

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is to the Premier. The Mullen report exposes that in August 2016 Queensland Health discharged Anthony O'Donohue from treatment and when he later tried to get help Queensland Health turned him away. Just weeks later Anthony O'Donohue tragically and horrifically killed Manmeet Sharma while he was at work. Why has the Premier not held her minister responsible for the failings of the health system that led to Manmeet Sharma's death?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This was a very tragic incident. I remember I was at a domestic and family violence summit with the then prime minister when word came through that this had happened. It was heartbreaking. Following that I had the deep honour of meeting with Manmeet's family—

**Ms Trad:** Several times.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—several times. I know the local member and minister also went to a service.

**Ms Grace:** Yes, I went to one as the minister.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Minister Grace also attended a service. These are absolutely tragic circumstances. However, we also have to let the courts go through their processes. Once those courts have gone through the process, they release the report and government takes action. I can also advise that releasing the report earlier risks breaking sub judge contempt laws, which of course the opposition would have known before they asked that question. Queensland Health—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will use the member's correct title. Minister, you are not helping matters.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Queensland Health also made a commitment to Mr Sharma's family that they would meet with them to discuss the report before it was publicly released, and that is what they did. That is the right thing to do. A teleconference was held with the family in India at the first opportunity, followed by a media conference. The report was posted online before the press conference and journalists were directed to the website. As I said, our hearts go out to the family. It is an absolute tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are still with the family for the loss they have sustained.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for silence, members. Minister for Education, I have called for silence.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Women

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the Queensland government's approach to improving opportunities for women and any alternative strategies?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Jordan for the question. On this side of the House, in government and within the Labor Party, we support women at all levels of government. In fact, I have demonstrated that by having 50 per cent of our cabinet comprised of women. We held a Women on Boards function where we want to see 50 per cent of women on government boards by 2020. We have also actively recruited directors-general who are women. What we know is that in this modern day and age, where 50 per cent of the population is made up of women, women should have equal participation in the workforce, being paid the same amount of pay for the work they do and making sure that they are involved in the political side of things.

What we know very clearly, as demonstrated by events that have happened in Canberra recently, is that unfortunately women are not well regarded in the LNP. It has been interesting to see the likes of the former foreign affairs minister, Julie Bishop, step down as well as Julia Banks, and I think there was another member the other day who announced she would not recontest. What sort of message does it send to the women of this country when the LNP has such a culture in its organisation that women no longer want to stand for it? They are falling like flies at the federal level. Unfortunately, here—

**Mr Bleijie:** What about Margaret Strelow?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. She is a great mayor for Rockhampton. Unfortunately, on this side of the House we do not see a culture of encouraging women, do we? We do not see a culture of encouraging women at all. In fact, wasn't it Gary Spence who came in and told them how to vote or he would threaten their preselection when it came to abortion law reform? Shame!

**Ms Grace:** What did the opposition leader say about Verity?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, what did they say? There we go. Thank you, Mr Speaker—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will get to them later.

**A government member:** George!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We know the member for Kawana did not want Lady Cilento: he wanted Prince George! That is who he wanted! If you want to talk about bullying, what about what he said to a nine-year-old—

*(Time expired)*

### Minister for Health

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. The health minister has once again failed to explain why public safety has been put at risk by his department. Last time it was the tissue bank bungle; this time it is the Mullen report. Will the Premier tell the House whether it meets the standard of ministerial accountability in the Palaszczuk government when one of her ministers has grave failures of public administration under his watch? He does not even front up to Queenslanders to answer for his failings.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders. I did not want to interrupt the question. Clearly, that is what you were trying to do.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Everton for the question. Let me stand here in this House and say that I absolutely support my health minister. He is a great health minister, delivering health outcomes for Queenslanders. Today I will join the Minister for Health as we talk about the 100 new ambulance officers going across Queensland. This minister is implementing our nurse-to-patient ratios—

**Dr Miles:** That they opposed.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, that they opposed. The health minister stood up yesterday in the House and spoke passionately about the need to have nurse-to-patient ratios in aged care and nursing homes. This is a health minister who has—



**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is not time to make a statement, member for Kawana. You are warned under the standing orders. You have been repeatedly interjecting.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition needs all the help she can get. The backbench knows that she is treading water.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Premier and member for Glass House, you are quarrelling across the chamber. I have warned members about that. You were quarrelling with someone, member. The interjections are so loud that I could barely hear the Premier. Members, this is the last warning today. Members will be leaving the chamber if this continues. I want to hear the answer to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This health minister is backing record Health funding and delivering the services that Queenslanders need. The health minister is now presiding over the rebuilding of a modern, new Barrett Adolescent Centre that those opposite presided over the closing of, with absolutely tragic consequences.

**Mr Dick:** Do you remember those families? You would not meet those families!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. Has the member for Mudgeeraba met with those families? I have. I have sat there personally with those families—

**An opposition member:** With Manmeet's?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have met with Manmeet's family. Yes, I have, because that is what good, decent governments do. I will stand up against this government's Health record: restoring front-line services, nearly \$1 billion on expanding hospitals that are needed across our—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Shutting down maternity areas.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, I am not taking interjections. It is constant, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, do you have anything further to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, Mr Speaker. I am constantly interjected on midsentence.

**Ms Trad:** She does not want the hospital expanded in her electorate, clearly.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, and delivering an expanded Kingaroy Hospital. As I have said in this House—and I will say it again—we are delivering more for Kingaroy than any LNP national government ever has in the history of Kingaroy—

*(Time expired)*

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Priorities

**Mr MELLISH:** Will the Premier update the House on Queensland government priorities that require national support?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Aspley for the question. There are a number of issues at the moment on which we need cooperation from the federal government. From the outset I thank the federal government in relation to matching our \$1 million in assistance for strawberry growers in our state. I had the opportunity to speak with the Prime Minister directly yesterday, and this morning we heard about the matching contribution. I thank the Prime Minister for matching our funding.

It is a little disappointing that, unfortunately, the October meeting of COAG has been cancelled. There were a number of issues that we wanted to talk about. What is also very interesting—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I have already given a warning today about using members' correct titles. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There were a number of very important issues we wanted to discuss at that COAG meeting, including schools funding, health issues and remote Indigenous housing. I understand from the education minister's meeting that bullying was to be discussed. I am very happy to talk more about bullying and cyberbullying. We know how important that issue is for Queenslanders and Australians.

**Mr Sorensen** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Who was that member? Member for Hervey Bay, you are warned under the standing orders. You usually use the cover of others.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is quite ironic that all of the directors-general and officials from around the nation were meeting today about the agenda for that October meeting. That is another waste of taxpayers' money—

**Ms Simpson:** What about you changing the sittings of parliament because you went to London? Come on!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Parliament still sat, member for Maroochydhore.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Your federal colleagues shut down parliament because they did not have a prime minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, resume your seat. Member for Maroochydhore, you are warned under the standing orders. Premier, you are warned under the standing orders for directly addressing that member. I have warned on numerous occasions about this.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw. There is no more important meeting for a prime minister to meet with premiers from around the country than COAG. This date has been in the diary for many months. It is something that other premiers and I have looked forward to. Of course, the internal turmoil that is happening at the federal level has not been resolved. He needs to get his own party under control before he ventures to speak to the premiers, but there are national issues that need addressing. We need to address funding for schools across our nation. We need to ensure we get the health funding Queenslanders need. I know that the Minister for Health is fighting for that. Of course, funding for national Indigenous remote housing is fundamentally important—

*(Time expired)*

### Sharma, Mr M

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Did the minister personally ring Manmeet Sharma's family to offer them a briefing and explain to them why the Mullen report was not released for 18 months?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. I met with the family and their supporters in the weeks in the lead-up to the release of the review. I outlined again to them, as had already been outlined to them by Queensland Health, the reason behind the delay in releasing the report, which was crown law advice that until the appeal period for that particular court proceeding had concluded the report could not be released. On the day that appeal period had been concluded, Queensland Health briefed the family and their supporters. They then briefed me and provided a copy of the report to me. They then released it to the media. As the member would appreciate, there had been a substantial number of media inquiries in the lead-up to the report's release. They then held a press conference to explain the report to the public.

I believe that the actions of Queensland Health and me as minister were exactly in accordance with how I was briefed, both legally and clinically—exactly in accordance with what I outlined to the family and their supporters when I met with them. It is incredibly distressing to see the opposition seeking to use this for political advantage when I did nothing but take the legal advice. I met with the family as soon as I could. I ensured the report was released to them. That is exactly what I should have done.

For the sake of coming in here to attack me, those opposite continue this attempt to talk down our health service—the health service that we have rebuilt after what they did. If those opposite want to talk about reports and meeting with families, I remind them that their own then minister did not read the report into the closure of the Barrett centre. She has not met with those families. I met with this family. I made sure that they had the support they needed and that the information was provided to the public at the soonest possible moment. What would those opposite have me do? Release the report before the family was briefed or hold it another day to suit my diary? These accusations are nothing short of offensive. Those opposite have so little to come in here with. That they would use the tragic death of a man to attack us—you got nothing.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, your interjections were designed to disrupt. They were continual. You are warned under the standing orders. I remind all members to ensure their comments are addressed through the chair under standing order 247.

### Women, Workforce Participation

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the increasing density of women in the labour force? Will the Deputy Premier outline what policies exist to assist working women?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for the question. I know that as a former architect and town-planner she understands the important role women play in the workforce. I am absolutely committed to seeing an increase in women's participation in the labour market and in our economy. We know that it is good not just for women's lives but also for our economy to have more workers in the labour market. It also means good governance. It means that we have better decisions that are made because women are sitting around the table participating in those decisions. Women go on to lead fulfilling lives because of the role they play both within the workforce and at home. We also know that there are significant barriers.

We in Queensland have reached an historic height in terms of women's participation in the workforce. Some 61.5 per cent of women are now engaged in the workforce. That is a first. That represents about 1.27 million Queensland women participating in the Queensland workforce. That is an increase of 1.5 per cent since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to office—a 1.5 per cent increase in the participation rate.

**Ms Jones:** We like women.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Innovation: we do like women. We think women should have a place at the table.

As I said, women still experience barriers within our economy. On average, starting salaries for women are seven per cent less than for their male counterparts. Women are twice as likely to do unpaid work and look after loved ones with a disability or aged parents. We also know that women end up with about a third less superannuation—about \$100,000 less superannuation—when they retire. That is why I am so ecstatic about federal Labor's announcement today that it will contribute \$400 million to women's superannuation during maternity leave. This will make an enormous difference in terms of reducing the economic inequality that women experience when they retire.

We know that Labor stands for equality. We know that Labor is the party for women. The same cannot be said for those opposite. On the single biggest issue that will be debated in this House this year that affects women, the first LNP woman leader cannot guarantee Queensland women a conscience vote for her party room.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, following on from your ruling yesterday, the Deputy Premier has just said 'the biggest reform this parliament will debate'. Everyone is in no doubt what the Deputy Premier was talking about. She is anticipating the debate before the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. Member, resume your seat. Members, let me be clear: it is not anticipation of debate by mentioning that there is a bill before the House. In fact, in this circumstance the member did not even mention the name of the bill.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I do not need any assistance. There is no point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to detailing or asking how members are going to vote on said legislation, then I do say that is anticipating debate on how members are going to vote on this piece of legislation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, member. Please resume your seat. I would advise all members to ensure that they are not anticipating debate and I will continue to listen carefully to all members' contributions.

**Ms TRAD:** Those opposite must stand up for Queensland women. We cannot allow Gary Spence to come in here and bully members of the LNP and threaten their preselection to do over Queensland women. It is time for the member—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier's time has expired.

**Ms TRAD:**—and the Leader of the Opposition to stand—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, your time has expired.

*(Time expired)*

### Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Premier. I table emails from Minister Bailey's mangocube account between—

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails regarding a floods class action [\[1382\]](#).

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right, the questioner will be heard in silence and the Premier will have an opportunity to respond to the question. Member for Glass House, please start your question again.

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Premier. Having tabled emails from Minister Bailey's mangocube account between Minister Bailey and the class action unit of Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, was the Premier aware of this clear conflict of interest arising from secret backchannel emails between the Palaszczuk government's water supply minister and lawyers suing the state of Queensland in relation to dam management in 2011?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. As I have stated in this House time and time again, and I will say it again: all of the emails have been investigated by the CCC.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

### Brisbane, Events

**Ms PUGH:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on any new events coming to Brisbane?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for her question. I know how passionate she is about seeing us grow events in Queensland. As members know, under our watch the events calendar of Queensland has doubled in value from sitting at around \$350 million to over \$780 million towards the Queensland economy this year, and we expect that to grow. One of the great events that is coming up is going to showcase amazing women talent, and that is the Constellation Cup. This showcases one of the greatest rivalries in sport—the Australian netball team and the New Zealand netball team. All of the Australian matches will be played here in Queensland through our partnership that we have delivered with Netball Australia. Our women will play their first match in Brisbane on 7 October and, as part of the deal that our government has struck, the second match will be played in the centre of the universe—Townsville—on 10 October.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjections from the Townsville members and apologise to Cairns! Through our partnership with Netball Australia we are also supporting Netfest on the Sunshine Coast from 4 to 7 October. Combined, we expect that through these events we will generate \$3 million for the Queensland economy and showcase some of the greatest netballing women talent in our country. Of course, Netfest at the Sunshine Coast comes on the back of the very successful Sunshine Coast Lightning—which I know the Deputy Premier is very proud of—that took out the Super Netball championships.

Whilst talking about lightning, we know that you have more chance of being struck by lightning than ending up as a woman in the Liberal Party caucus. We know that there is only one side of politics that backs women—whether it is in the sporting arena or the political arena—and that is the Labor Party. Aren't we seeing women Liberal Party members falling like flies? They are saying that they have had enough of the bullying, enough of the way that they are treated that they do not even want to stand for election. How sad is it that women are having to make the choice that the workplace that they are in is so horrific—

**Mr Dick:** Toxic.

**Ms JONES:**—and so toxic that they would rather not stand for parliament? It is a shameful day. We sit here today and get lectured by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Everton, on courage. I have one challenge to the member for Everton on courage: have the courage to give your team a conscience vote.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Ms JONES:** You know that there are people—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Ms JONES:**—who want to vote with their conscience—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister!

**Ms JONES:**—but you will not give it to them.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister! You will direct your comments through the chair. There is no proxy.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My challenge to the member for Everton, who wants to lecture us about courage, is that he should have the courage to give his members a conscience vote. He is deeply worried and we know—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** You know that the member for Bonney—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Ms JONES:**—has been on the radio—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired.

**Ms JONES:**—saying he believes—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired!

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you are warned under standing orders. A reminder to all members: when time has expired, that is the time you will cease your contribution. I will allow some leeway to finish a sentence, but not in those circumstances.

### **Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I table even more mangocube account emails showing Minister Bailey was again lobbied for a lucrative government board position to his private email account.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails regarding nomination to the Queensland Register of Nominees [[1383](#)].

Will the Premier now finally honour her election promise to be open and transparent and order a review of all appointments to government boards involving Minister Bailey and his private email account?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I have stated in this House, and I will say it again: all of these emails have been investigated thoroughly by the CCC.

### **Manufacturing Industry, Women**

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the minister please update the House on support of the government for women in manufacturing and is he aware of any other approaches to the involvement of women?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and acknowledge her support for the manufacturing sector in Queensland. Earlier this year I was delighted to launch the women in manufacturing program with rolling events promoting the great contribution women are already making to manufacturing in Queensland. I was recently delighted to chair the inaugural meeting of my ministerial manufacturing council, which is comprised of 50 per cent women. These are women who are genuine leaders in our community in business. They are running successful businesses and they are giving their time back to Queensland to build manufacturing for the future. We have a government with a female Premier, a female Deputy Premier, a cabinet that has 50 per cent women and a party room—a caucus—that is just a tick under 50 per cent.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** The gumption of those opposite interjecting on the involvement of women in politics. They have no shame. Fundamentally we believe in a fair go for all people—a fair go for all people regardless of gender. That is what the Labor Party believes. The problem with the LNP starts right at the top. It starts with the deputy leader. His sincere view, as expressed in the estimates process last year, is that the problem with the Parole Board was that it had too many women on it. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition came into an estimates committee hearing and criticised the number of women on a statutory government body. That is the sort of leadership we expect from the LNP.

I saw the interview between the leader and the deputy. So close are they that the Leader of the Opposition had to read palm cards to ask her deputy questions. What did he say he was? Passionate and loving. Not to anything I have seen! Finding women in the LNP is harder than finding the member for Burleigh in the parliament. That is their trouble. Where are the LNP women? Jane Prentice, Julia Banks, Ann Sudmalis, Lucy Gichuhi—all chased out and bullied out of the LNP, all bullied out of the parliament.

This is the most fundamental question to ask the LNP: where is Verity? Where is Verity Barton? She was drummed out of the parliament by the member for Broadwater. All I can say, Leader of the Opposition, is there is another job that he is seeking. There is another job that the member for Broadwater wants, and he will drum you out of your job soon.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House, you were repeatedly interjecting, as were a number of other members, but you stood out among the crowd. You are warned under the standing orders.

### CFMEU

**Mr McDONALD:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I table the legal documents, paid for and filed by the Palaszczuk Labor government, where it is suing a private company to benefit the CFMEU. Why is the government spending taxpayers' money to benefit one of Labor's biggest donors in a legal dispute against a Queensland small business?

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, Points of Claim, Matter No. WHS/2018/102', between The Regulator under the Work Health and Safety Act 2001, First Applicant, and Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, Second Applicant, and Enco Precast Pty Ltd, Respondent [1384].

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to look into those documents and get the responsible minister to report back.

### Parliament, Women

**Ms PEASE:** My question is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister please update the House on dangerous and demeaning attitudes towards women in politics and will the minister advise how these attitudes contribute towards fair representation in our parliaments?

**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for her question and acknowledge how much she does personally to encourage women, particularly young women, to consider a career in politics. On this side of the House every woman and every man believes that the interests, values and contributions of women and men to our society should be reflected in equal terms. We are so conscious of the importance of all of us in this House being positive role models in this space.

That is why we have watched in horror as we have come to understand the real reason that female representation in the LNP is heading towards extinction. Most of us thought that the reason the LNP has only 22 women out of 107 federal parliamentarians and six women in the Queensland parliament was that it had not bothered to put in place any plans to increase representation. In recent weeks, as the entrails of the LNP have been laid bare, we see that the problem is much deeper than that. It is about a fundamental disrespect towards women.

At least five of their female elected representatives are talking openly about bullying and harassment. We have a woman sending a sexual harassment complaint about Barnaby Joyce to the WA Liberals and having her name leaked all over the country to pay her back for it. We have Grahame Morris talking about Labor's quota system and calling female Labor MPs the 'dregs' behind Bill Shorten who make up the numbers. But there is a special place for the member for Surfers Paradise, who could not help himself and commented on a woman's breasts after the federal parliament's Mid Winter Ball. The next day, what did he say? 'I took it down all by myself. No-one even had to tell me.' What is he? Ten years old?

Addressing the equal representation of women in parliament requires leadership and that is what the LNP is lacking. The last woman they got rid of, the member for Broadwater, considered herself a friend of the member for Nanango. Friendship certainly does not count for anything in the LNP. In the LNP they eat each other alive. The member for Nanango is in a position to influence real change, to insist on respect for women. Earlier she said that she would like to see more women on her side. She has either done nothing about it or nobody listens to anything she says. I suspect that both are the case. As long as the LNP refuses to regard women as equals, it will remain unfit to represent the people of Queensland in parliament.

### **School to Industry Partnership Program**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. In another attack on the agriculture industry by this state government, can the minister explain why funding is to be cut to the School to Industry Partnership Program that teaches school students where their food and fibre come from and the importance of agriculture to this state?

**Mr FURNER:** I suggest that there has not been a government in Queensland for some time that places the importance of agriculture higher than the Palaszczuk government. Last November, it was a proud moment when the Premier gave me this portfolio. I follow a line of many agricultural ministers, in particular, the Premier's father, a proud, honest and caring Labor minister for agriculture. I made it my task to get out on the road, to get out into the regions and speak to primary producers. They do a fantastic and magnificent job in their communities. Over 80 per cent of our land is for agricultural purposes. That is why we are committed to supporting agricultural businesses.

I thank the member for Hill for his question. The School to Industry Partnership Program received funding for an additional three years—through to the end of December this year. During the 2017 election campaign, the Palaszczuk government committed to providing an additional \$3 million over the next three years to help industry continue the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance and the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network. They are some examples of the assistance that the Palaszczuk government is providing. These programs not only assist our primary producers but also enhance and encourage skills growth in our communities. The RJSA and the QAWN initiatives directly support agricultural industries in their efforts to attract, develop and retain skilled workers and seasonal labour and complement the Palaszczuk government's commitment to growing regional economies and creating jobs.

The School to Industry Partnership Program has played a role in connecting school communities with agriculture, but the program has been limited in its reach. Owing to the decentralised nature of our state, getting that program out to the schools has been a significant task. The funding is committed to the end of 2018. We went to the election with that commitment and it is a commitment that we will honour.

### **Bullying**

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister update the House on how Queensland state schools are tackling the community-wide issue of bullying?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for the question. If anyone knows about the issue of bullying in schools, it is the member for Mansfield. She was a fine principal and a role model for her school and school community, in particular, the students. The Palaszczuk government takes this community-wide issue of bullying very seriously. In February, Queensland put this issue firmly on the national agenda when, in a show of true leadership, the Premier established the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce. I am looking forward to the outcomes of that task force and the Department of Education implementing any necessary reforms that come from it.

There is absolutely no place for bullying or violence in our schools. Unfortunately, we know that our schools are not immune to this community issue. As recent research by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg has revealed, bullying is damaging to not only the victims but also the witnesses. I support principals taking a firm stance. I know that they handle these situations very sensitively, very professionally, with good guidelines and make sure that our children are safe and supported in schools.

We all have a role to play in modelling appropriate behaviour for our young people. Unfortunately, we are not finding that in Canberra or in this state.

**Mr Boothman:** What about your CFMEU mates?

**Ms GRACE:** Every time we sit in this House, the member for Kawana and the Leader of the Opposition come in complaining about the CFMEU.

**Mr Boothman:** The ultimate bullies!

**Ms GRACE:** I take the interjection. They talk about thugs, they talk about victimisation, they talk about threatening behaviour and they talk about harassment.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mermaid Beach!

**Ms GRACE:** The LNP federally make the CFMEU look like a sewing circle. Some of the most senior Liberal women in this country are resigning their positions from the parliament.

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Moggill!

**Ms GRACE:** And those opposite come in and talk about the CFMEU.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs!

**Ms GRACE:** Not only that, the shadow minister for education, who wants to be the education minister in this state, shamefully embarks on name calling and attacking a nine-year-old. Let me tell members, the CFMEU does not attack nine-year-olds, but the member for Kawana does.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs, member for Theodore and member for Moggill, you are all warned under the standing orders. Bring it down, members. The level of interjections is unacceptable.

**Ms GRACE:** That shameful, inappropriate behaviour had no regard for the wellbeing of that student or her friends. That student has to go back to that school. The shadow minister is attacking and intimidating a nine-year-old. It is disgraceful. Now we have the president harassing and victimising those opposite in the way they vote in this House. And what do we hear from the Leader of the Opposition? Nothing!

### Carey Park, Casino Development

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Given the Gold Coast City Council is opposed to the use of Carey Park for a global tourism hub and there has been no community consultation, formal or informal, about the use of this site, will the minister now rule out the use of Carey Park for a casino development?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. As we have said publicly on the record in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* repeatedly, we will not press ahead with anything unless there is community support. We are taking a measured approach, just like we have done in Cairns very successfully, where we have run expressions of interest.

**Ms Trad:** And we won't be bullying people.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection. We will not be bullying people into a position. Very clearly, as we have said, we want to get any development right. Just like those opposite did when they were in government with the Queen's Wharf development and just like we have done in Cairns, we will make sure there is full community consultation as we move forward with this project. I think it is also really important for members opposite to recall that it was their government that created two new casino licences in Queensland.

### Queensland Economy, Women

**Ms LUI:** My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please advise the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support women's participation in our economy and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?



**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. She is a fantastic role model for young women in her electorate and particularly her home of the Torres Strait. I am incredibly proud to report to the House that the Palaszczuk government's commitment to jobs is absolutely changing women's lives. Through our training, small business and employment programs we are seeing great results for women.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has supported more than 8,000 women into work, study or a combination of both. More than 6,500 payments have been made to support women into jobs through Back to Work. In construction we have seen a 120 per cent surge of women in carpentry apprenticeships and a 75 per cent increase of women in electrical apprenticeships. The number of women in small business has increased by 6.3 per cent. That is what you get when you have a cabinet that is made up of 50 per cent women.

Let us look at the other side. We have all been talking about what is happening at a federal level. There have been so many allegations of bullying, sexism and harassment, with numerous resignations of federal women MPs who simply cannot stand it anymore. We have seen leaked WhatsApp group messages from the blokes undermining the one woman who was running for leadership, Julie Bishop, and that was only surpassed by more leaked WhatsApp messages from about 20 LNP women arguing and debating about whether or not they should speak out about the bullying and harassment and the appalling treatment of women.

Of course, male ministers in Canberra have been falling over themselves not to mention the word 'quota', despite the fact that most of them are from the Nationals who have quotas to sit in the cabinet. Amidst all of this we have heard nothing from the first woman leader of the LNP in Queensland. This is the biggest issue facing their party at the highest level and we have heard nothing from the member for Nanango. It is not like they do not have their own problems with women here in Queensland. There are just six women MPs out of 39. We have more women on our front bench than they have in their caucus. At least they made almost all of them shadow spokespeople.

Let us not forget that they hold their International Women's Day functions at the Tatts club; when they finally had a woman in a marginal seat they rolled her for the now member for Broadwater; and we have seen the juvenile tweets from the member for Surfers Paradise. The Leader of the Opposition has said absolutely nothing. When is the Leader of the Opposition, as the first woman to lead her party, going to stand up and talk about women's representation on her side of the House? She will not say anything unless Gary Spence gives her the riding instructions.

### **Cattle Tick Management**

**Mr BOYCE:** My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. This week the minister cannot even be bothered to meet with my constituents about cattle tick concerns and has declined an in-person meeting with us. Is the minister afraid to meet with real Queensland farmers because of their angry response to the Palaszczuk government's antifarmer policies?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right, there was a whole lot of noise during that question being asked. I could not pick who was the one making it. Questions are to be heard in silence.

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr FURNER:** I apologise to the member for Callide for putting him in the seat of Mirani, but I was on thin ice. I am surprised by this. I understand that this week through my office briefings have been provided to the member. There is a process that is in place by my department in the regions in terms of informing landholders about their obligations in respect to ticks. There is an ongoing information process that is in place. It does surprise me that the member for Callide comes into the chamber and wants to use this opportunity when he has already been briefed by my department about this particular process.

If the member is still lacking some knowledge or requires further information, I am quite prepared to provide further briefings for him so he does understand the issues in terms of what is going on with the tick line and whether it should be withdrawn, whatever the case may be.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Tell him about all the farmers you met at Beerwah the other night.

**Mr FURNER:** Thank you, Premier. I will take that interjection. On Sunday I was meeting with farmers. On Monday I was meeting with farmers.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North!

**Mr FURNER:** If it is the case I need to come to the member for Callide's electorate and meet with farmers, I am happy to do that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Buderim, I have called the House to order. You are on a warning. I will ask you to leave the chamber under standing order 253A for a period of one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 11.09 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, the reason I have to call the House to order is to hear the answer to the question and it is so that I can make the appropriate rulings if the member is being irrelevant and also to ensure that the House does not go into disorder. I appreciate your cooperation. Today the level of interjections has been unacceptably high.

**Mr FURNER:** Once again, the commitment to farmers and the approach that the Palaszczuk Labor government has taken with farmers are unprecedented. As the Minister for Agriculture I will continue that. The Premier, as the daughter of a previous primary industries minister, has also demonstrated her commitment this week. I will never forget the comments of the senior police officer at the gathering on Monday night. He indicated that never before has a reward been put up in instances such as these. Clearly that demonstrates our commitment to catching the villains behind the incidents involving strawberry contamination. The next day we followed up with an announcement of a further \$1 million to support that primary industry. Through you, Mr Speaker: do not come into this chamber and try to politicise—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, Minister! There is no proxy. You do not say 'through the chair' and then make an attack. Members, you have to go through the chair.

I wish to pull up the member for Callide. I think that there may have been some inferences in the question. Some of the comments at the end may have been unnecessary, but I wanted to allow the minister to answer the question. Minister, do you have a point of order?

**Mr FURNER:** It is not a point of order, Mr Speaker. I want to withdraw those comments. Obviously, I respect the ruling of the chair.

### **Aged Care**

**Mr KELLY:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister explain how staff-to-patient ratios would benefit older Queenslanders in nursing homes?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Greenslopes for that important and timely question. As a nurse, he knows what it is like to care for patients who need his support. That is in stark contrast to those opposite, who another day after the shocking reports on *Four Corners* still refuse to speak in support of reforming the aged-care industry. I guess that is not surprising, coming from a party that sacked 4,400 health staff, 1,800 of whom were nurses. In contrast, we have been rebuilding our health services.

In 2015, we introduced legislated nurse-to-patient ratios in our hospitals. Who opposed that? They did! They fought tooth and nail to oppose it, but the result has been better care for patients in our hospitals. We are in the process of introducing similar nurse-to-patient ratios in our acute public mental health wards. We promised to deliver staff-to-patient and nurse-to-patient ratios in our state owned aged-care facilities, but that will only apply in 16 of the thousand facilities in Queensland. It is time for the federal government to do the same. They do not need to wait for a royal commission. They can deliver the funds now. They can improve the regulations now. They can deliver staff-to-patient ratios now. Of course, we know those opposite are opposed to all of those things. We know they did not support nurse-to-patient ratios in our hospitals and they do not support them in our aged-care facilities.

One might wonder why that is. Why would they have so little regard for the plight of older Queenslanders suffering the kind of cruel neglect that was exposed on *Four Corners* on Monday night: the malnutrition, the lack of support, the isolation and the misery? I can tell you why that is, Mr Speaker: it is because of the \$16,500 donated to them by the Village Retirement Group; the \$5,000 delivered to them by the McKenzie Aged Care Group, the \$2,000 delivered to them by the McKenzie Aged Care Group and the \$6,000 delivered to them by the McKenzie Aged Care Group; the \$5,000 from Seasons Aged Care; the \$2,800 from the Aveo Group, the \$4,500 from the Aveo Group and the \$999 from the

Aveo Group—I am not sure why they could not spare the full \$1,000, but it might have something to do with disclosures. All up, all it cost to buy the silence of those opposite was \$42,799. That is all it cost for them to sell out older Queenslanders.

### Sharma, Mr M

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Premier. Was the Premier or her office involved in the decision to hold a press conference at three o'clock on a Friday afternoon, without the Premier or the health minister, to explain the failures that led to the killing of Manmeet Sharma?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you have two minutes.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I have said, my understanding is that as soon as that report was able to be released it was released. We all know—I have said it publicly and I will say it again for those opposite—that what happened is an absolute tragedy. To come in here and try to make mileage out of an absolutely tragic situation—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, that is exactly what those opposite try to do. When they shut down the Barrett Adolescent Centre there was an inquiry, but we did not see one person opposite get up in this House and apologise for what happened. After the inquiry, I do not know if anyone on that side met with the families involved.


On this side of the House, we show compassion. We have met with this family. The Deputy Premier has met with them and I have met with them, as have Minister Dick, Minister Miles and, I think, Minister Grace and I know that Minister Bailey has attended services. That is our commitment. We care about these issues. We will do everything we can to ensure it does not happen again. That is why the report was released and that is why the recommendations will be acted on.

I find that the member for Mudgeeraba constantly comes into this place and tries to make political mileage out of victims. It is atrocious. It is disgraceful. It is atrocious politics. It is taking it to a brand-new level. It is the sort of politics that should remain in the United States and not come into this House.

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

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Further Answer to Question, CFMEU

 **Ms GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.16 am): I wish to make a ministerial statement. In question time, the member for Lockyer raised matters that I believe have misled the House in relation to the suing of a small business. I understand the rights and responsibilities of—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise to a point of order. It is a small matter, but surely the minister needs to seek leave to make a ministerial statement at this stage of proceedings?

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. Question time is over and we are in government business, member for Clayfield.

**Ms GRACE:** You have been here long enough to know that.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!


**Dr Robinson** interjected.

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

**Ms GRACE:** The rights and responsibilities of permit holders and those in control of workplaces are clearly outlined in the act. I understand the matters raised by the member for Lockyer are subject to proceedings before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. They are not matters that are being pursued by the government and no-one is being sued. Those proceedings relate to a right of entry and failure to comply with a direction from the regulator, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. Those matters are now before the commission, which is the appropriate area.

The imputation in the question from the member for Lockyer was clearly misleading. It is not accurate. These matters are before the commission and are to do with not abiding by the regulator. The independent regulator of my department has taken this matter to the QIRC. It is before the QIRC. I will not make any comment, but I will write to you, Mr Speaker, in relation to that question being deliberately misleading.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.18 am): I seek leave to move general notice of motion No. 1 standing in my name.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

### AYES, 42:

**LNP, 36**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, 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, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Pair: Lynham, Perrett.

Resolved in the negative.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.23 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

### MESSAGE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Building Act 1975, the Building Queensland Act 2015, the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, the Economic Development Act 2012, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Housing Act 2003, the Land Valuation Act 2010, the Liquor Act 1992, the Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 18 September 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 18 September 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill [\[1372\]](#).

## Introduction

**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.24 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Building Act 1975, the Building Queensland Act 2015, the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, the Economic Development Act 2012, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Housing Act 2003, the Land Valuation Act 2010, the Liquor Act 1992, the Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[1373](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1374](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The objective of the bill is to increase the operational efficiency of portfolio legislation, proposing amendments to the Building Queensland Act 2015, the Economic Development Act 2012 and acts consequential to the operation of the Economic Development Act, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985 and the South Bank Corporation Act 1989. The bill also proposes to repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004.

On 6 August 2018 the Queensland government released its response to the recommendations of the independent expert report titled *An administrative review of Building Queensland's operating arrangements*. Part of the response to three recommendations requires amendments to the Building Queensland Act. The recommended amendments proposed in this bill will enable the adjustment of the threshold for business cases that Building Queensland is required to lead. The other amendments to the act are minor and administrative in nature. One will reduce the frequency of the publication of the infrastructure pipeline report from every six months to annually in line with the budget process. The other amendment will allow for proxies for government Building Queensland board members.

Amendments to the Economic Development Act will implement improvements identified through six years of operation of the act, as well as improving its interaction with other acts and alignment of the act with the new Planning Act. Amendments in relation to the making of statutory planning instruments for priority development areas introduce greater flexibility to manage diverse and emerging circumstances. The amendments will allow minor amendments to the boundary of a priority development area in limited circumstances where it is necessary to make a minor correction or achieve better management or coordination of a priority development area.

Amendments are also proposed to allow for major changes to a priority development area boundary through a process of replacing a priority development area with a new priority development area, which will be useful for situations where there are different development outcomes proposed or there is a new or extended purpose for the priority development area. This amendment is also linked with the proposed refinement of the existing provisions that manage the revocation of priority development areas and transition of land back into a local government planning scheme under the Planning Act.

The bill also amends act provisions that provide for provisional priority development areas to improve their effectiveness and utility. Land use plans for provisional priority development areas take effect immediately and the priority development areas cease after three years. The proposed amendments allow for a minimum 15 business day public consultation period on a draft provisional land use plan at the time of declaration of the provisional priority development area. The provisional land use plan is then finalised within 60 business days. During this interim period only development that would be allowable under the local planning scheme can occur.

Additionally, the bill provides for operational improvements to the priority development area development application process, including allowing for lapsing of development applications and substantial compliance with notification requirements. It also introduces priority development area exemption certificates that allow priority development area assessable development to proceed without a development approval in limited circumstances. The bill also strengthens enforcement and offence

provisions consistent with the Planning Act and amends other acts to achieve interaction equivalent to the Planning Act. Amendments to the Planning Act 2016 will address operational matters arising since commencement of the act to provide clarity and certainty.

The bill amendments will restore certainty in the operation of the infrastructure charging framework by validating certain infrastructure charges notices issued under the repealed Sustainable Planning Act 2009. Under the previous planning legislation, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, from July 2014 all local governments when issuing an infrastructure charges notice were required to provide reasons for the changes. The Planning Act continues to require accountability and transparency by ensuring an infrastructure charges notice includes how the charge has been worked out. In addition, the bill will also provide that all infrastructure charges notices must state any other matter prescribed by regulation.

To ensure developers and councils have clear and fair expectations of the requirements of an infrastructure charges notice, my department will consult with stakeholders to discuss the right information that should be provided in an infrastructure charges notice, with the view to include appropriate content in the planning regulation in future. Infrastructure charges notices are an important aspect of development assessment and decision-making in Queensland. Local governments rely on the ability to levy infrastructure contributions from developers to provide the necessary services to communities across the state. These amendments will provide for and contribute to an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated and accountable system of land use planning and development assessments in Queensland.

The bill also proposes removal of the provisions in the Planning Act relating to the requirement for submitter appellants to serve notice to other submitters. This provision responds to feedback from the Planning and Environment Court, as well as industry and legal practitioners, that the requirement for submitter appellants to notify other submitters of an appeal has proven in practice to be burdensome and ineffectual.

Importantly, this amendment does not remove the right of any submitter to initiate an appeal and puts back in place the arrangements under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. This amendment is proposed to be supported by increased communication about appeals on the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning website, as the chief executive of the department must be served with and publish on the department's website each notice of appeal to the Planning and Environment Court.

Further vehicles will also be explored to ensure submitters are aware of this appeal information, potentially including references to the department's website in materials that the submitter may receive during the development assessment process. These communications will provide a reliable and accessible way for submitters to be informed about appeal proceedings as an alternative to the currently burdensome approach of a submitter-appellant serving every submitter. Other minor amendments to the Planning Act and South Bank Corporation Act are also proposed to clarify the intent of specific provisions and transitional arrangements.

Amendments to the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 will provide the court with powers to refer matters to a private mediator. These amendments respond to a request from the court and achieve operational efficiencies for dispute resolution arrangements under Queensland's planning framework.

The proposed amendments to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 will prescribe, legislatively, the role of the authority in undertaking an all-hazard approach to its responsibilities. This includes the role of the authority in leading the coordination of resilience and recovery policy in Queensland and facilitating the delivery of mitigation and betterment activities outside of post-disaster events.

The bill proposes amendment to the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985 to list a retirement village and residential care facility as potential future use at the resort. The proposed amendments will help Sanctuary Cove residents retire close to family and friends. Being able to stay close to home in an environment you love, surrounded by the people you love, is important for residents in all communities as they enter their later years.

At the time it was written, the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act did not include either a 'retirement facility' or 'residential care facility' use. This means that this type of development cannot currently occur at Sanctuary Cove Resort. These amendments will change that. Importantly, the amendments will not automatically allow for retirement and residential care developments to be facilities; rather an application will need to be lodged and consultation undertaken with the community.

Finally, the bill contributes to keeping the Queensland statute book current by repealing the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004, with its active operation having expired on 30 March 2016. Repealing the act will make sure that planning for the islands in southern Moreton Bay, including Russell, Macleay, Karragarra and Lamb islands, is up to date and contemporary.

Currently, an outdated piece of legislation is creating confusion about how development can proceed. Repealing outdated legislation will mean certainty for landowners that they are required to abide by zoning requirements set out in the Redland City Plan. This will ensure that the planning framework for the community is contemporary.

This bill delivers important operational amendments identified through reflection and review of portfolio operations. These amendments will assist my department and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority in their work towards creating a thriving and inclusive Queensland, where the economy, industry and communities prosper. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.35 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


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

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

## NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

Resumed from 12 June (see p. 1415).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.35 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I introduced the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 into parliament on 12 June 2018. As I expressed at that time, the Queensland government is committed to doing everything we can to ensure that people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland are acknowledged and have access to the redress they deserve.

At the time of the bill's introduction, the relevant Commonwealth legislation that establishes the national redress scheme had not been passed. Soon after introduction, on 19 June 2018 the Commonwealth parliament passed the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018, and the national scheme commenced operation on 1 July 2018. Given the scheme has now commenced operation in some jurisdictions and is accepting applications, it is imperative that the Queensland government commence participation in the scheme as soon as practicable.

The bill before the House will assist in achieving this by providing the required legislative mechanism to enable the national scheme to operate in Queensland. Specifically, the bill provides for Queensland to adopt the national redress act and refers powers to the Commonwealth parliament to enable future amendments to the national act to apply to its operation in Queensland.

The bill will also enable non-government institutions in Queensland to opt in and start participating in the scheme. To be clear, this bill refers limited powers to the Commonwealth parliament so that the national redress scheme can operate in Queensland. The bill does not refer broader powers to the Commonwealth parliament. Without this legislation, people who were sexually abused as children in Queensland institutions, including non-government institutions, will not be able to access the national redress scheme.

The bill was referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for consideration in June. The committee tabled its report on 9 August 2018. I thank the committee for its detailed examination of the bill and the recommendation that the bill be passed.

I would also like to thank the 16 stakeholders who made written submissions to the committee for taking the time to do so. Many of the submissions expressed their general support for the bill and commended the Queensland government's decision to join the national redress scheme. Some submitters raised particular issues in relation to the bill's information-sharing provisions—for example, the need to balance the ability to share information under the bill with an individual's right to privacy.

Information-sharing provisions are required to facilitate the effective operation of the scheme. To assist the national scheme operator to assess applications for redress, the operator will ask participating institutions, including government agencies, for certain information. So that this process is simple and efficient for participating state institutions, the national operator will come to one central contact point in each state for this information.

My department will perform the role of central contact point for the Queensland government. This will involve coordinating information requests from the scheme operator, seeking information from departments and agencies as required and collating information to provide back to the scheme operator.

The information-sharing provisions in the bill are required so that my department can perform this coordinating role and be the central point of contact for the Queensland government. However, while information-sharing provisions are required, the bill also includes limitations and safeguards in this regard. For example, the bill expressly provides that the chief executive of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women may only ask a state agency for particular information within the agency's possession or control if the information is required for the purposes of the national scheme. Queensland government agencies will also be required to continue to comply with the privacy principles in the Information Privacy Act 2009 regarding appropriate storage, security of and access to personal information.

Other submitters were equally concerned to ensure that the information-sharing provisions in the bill did not prevent information obtained under the scheme from being passed on to the Queensland Police Service in appropriate circumstances. The bill does not affect existing policy or legislative requirements to report an alleged criminal offence to police or a child protection concern to Child Safety. These existing disclosure and reporting requirements will continue to operate alongside the national scheme. Similarly, the Commonwealth legislation does not preclude Queensland government agencies from sharing information with relevant investigative authorities. Processes for reporting concerns to the Queensland police, Child Safety or other authorities are in place, and particular guidance will be provided in the context of the operation of the national scheme.

The majority of other issues raised throughout the committee's inquiry by individual submitters as well as committee members related to either the design and operation of the national redress scheme, the provisions of the associated Commonwealth legislation or the broader recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. While largely beyond the scope of the bill before the House or not within the power or control of the Queensland government, my department provided information in response to issues raised where possible. Departmental officers also assured the committee that the department will raise operational issues regarding the national redress scheme with the Commonwealth government through ongoing participation in national governance arrangements.

The committee report also includes a statement of reservations from non-government members. This statement details three discrete issues raised by the Bar Association of Queensland in a late submission to the inquiry. As this submission was received by the committee after the closing date for submissions, the committee was not able to seek the department's advice regarding its content. While all three of the issues raised relate to the interpretation and operation of the national act rather than the scope or operation of the bill before this House, I will respond to these issues for the benefit of members.



The statement of reservations also requests a change to the usual process for consideration of the schedule to the bill which contains the clauses of the national redress act. I will address each of these issues in turn. The first matter raised in the Bar Association submission relates to the ability of applicants to seek a review of decisions made under the scheme. Specifically, clarity is sought as to whether the review available under section 73 of the national act applies only when an application for redress is not approved or whether a successful applicant can also seek a review of the quantum of redress offered.

The ability to seek a review under the national act does extend to the amount of redress offered. Section 73 of the national act provides that an applicant may apply to the scheme operator for review of a determination made by the operator under section 29. Section 72 makes it clear that there are a number of determinations that the applicant may seek to be reviewed and that this includes a review of the amount of the redress payment offered.

The second matter raised from the Bar Association submission relates to how the scheme operator is to obtain information relevant to determining an application when the responsible institution or church no longer exists and the process to be followed if that information is unable to be provided.

Section 25 of the national act provides the operator with the power to request information from participating institutions. An institution that no longer exists—a defunct institution—can still be a participating institution in the scheme if a representative assumes its obligations and liabilities under the scheme. In these circumstances, the operator may request information directly from the institution's representative.

Where a defunct institution is not a participating institution through a representative, the operator can request relevant information from any participating institution if it now holds the records of a defunct entity even if that institution is not acting as the entity's representative.

Where information is not able to be provided by an institution—for example, if a particular record does not exist—the national operator may progress the application and make a determination on the basis of the information it has. This could include information from the applicant as well as information from other participating institutions.

The third matter from the Bar Association submission that is raised in the statement of reservations relates to the treatment of redress payments and related information in family law proceedings. Again, these are matters for the Commonwealth government to consider and determine given both the national redress scheme and family law are the responsibility of the Commonwealth government.

I can confirm that the national act does include provisions regarding both the protection of redress payments and protection of particular information in certain circumstances. My department has passed the issues raised by the Bar Association in relation to family law proceedings on to the Commonwealth government for its consideration.

The final matter raised in the statement of reservations relates to the process for consideration of the schedule to the bill that contains the national act. Specifically, the statement of reservations asks that the Leader of the House move a motion to allow honourable members to speak to each provision of the national act separately during consideration in detail of the bill rather than consider the schedule as a whole. While this request is directed to the Leader of the House, I would like to provide honourable members and the Leader of the House with some relevant information in this regard.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill proposes to adopt the national act and refer limited powers to the Commonwealth parliament for the purpose of operating the national scheme. The inclusion of the national bill in the schedule at the time of the bill's introduction was to clearly define the scope of the powers proposed to be referred to the Commonwealth parliament given the national bill had not been passed at that time. The legal effect of this bill will not be to pass the national act as law in Queensland.

As members are aware, the Commonwealth legislation that establishes the national redress scheme has now been passed by the Commonwealth parliament. As a result of its passage, I need to move some technical changes to the drafting of the bill to refer to the adoption of the national redress act rather than the national bill. Also, given that the national act has now been passed and is in force, it can be referred to with sufficient certainty and the text of the national bill is no longer required to be included at schedule 1 of the bill.

These changes have been requested by the Commonwealth government so that the Queensland legislation is similar to the adoption and referral of powers legislation being progressed in other jurisdictions. I will move the necessary amendments to effect these changes, including the removal of

the schedule, during consideration in detail of the bill. I will also move other minor and technical changes to the wording of the bill during consideration in detail. The proposed amendments to the bill have been circulated to members.


In regard to the opportunity to comment on individual provisions of the national redress act, which is now in force, members will be aware that the Queensland parliament does not have the power to amend the national act as it is Commonwealth legislation. Accordingly, this bill does not provide an opportunity for the policy parameters of the national scheme to be amended.

As the Commonwealth parliament has enacted the national bill, I again iterate that the proposal in the bill is for the Queensland parliament to adopt the national act. The national act underwent extensive scrutiny and consultation as part of the Commonwealth government's parliamentary processes. A range of stakeholder views were considered and balanced by the Commonwealth government in the development of the national scheme and act. This included the views of the Queensland government along with other state and territory governments, non-government institutions and people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

Before its passage, the national act was also scrutinised by the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, which reported on 15 June 2018. The committee received 41 submissions from a variety of stakeholders, including support services and survivor advocacy groups, non-government institutions, some governments and individuals. After balancing various stakeholder interests, the Senate committee recommended that the bill be passed. While this bill cannot facilitate amendment of the national act, I am absolutely committed, as the Queensland government lead minister for the national redress scheme, to continue to raise issues related to the operation of the scheme with the federal government.

In closing, I would again like to extend my thanks to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for its thorough examination of the bill before the House. I would also like to acknowledge the enormous contribution of the staff of my department who have worked for many years following the royal commission and in the preparation of all of the necessary documentation and legislation that will allow us to operate the national redress scheme.

As noted in the committee's report, while the national redress scheme may not meet the expectations of every individual, it is the compromise position that has been reached by the Commonwealth government having considered various interests, including those of government, non-government institutions and people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The scheme stands to benefit many thousands of Queensland survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and offer closure and support they may not otherwise receive. I look forward to hearing members' contributions to the debate of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.51 am): This is a very important bill and I inform the minister that there will be bipartisan support for it. It was important to have the five-year royal commission into something as insidious as institutional child sexual abuse, and it has led us to this place to debate this bill today. This has been a long haul around the Commonwealth and there is support from the states for it. I rise to address the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill introduced into the parliament on 12 June this year by the minister. The bill was considered by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, and the committee tabled its report on 9 August 2018.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill will: firstly, enable the federal government's National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse to operate in Queensland; secondly, introduce a framework to enable appropriate information sharing by Queensland government agencies for the purposes of the national scheme; and, thirdly, amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments may not be deducted from victim assistance payments under that act.

The committee that looked at this bill was advised that consultation had been undertaken on the issues within this bill. This included engagement with victims of institutional child sexual abuse, support groups and institutions by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. There was a very thorough engagement and a commitment to the process. This also included a series of meetings and round tables hosted by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with stakeholders in response to the royal commission.

In its brief for the committee, the department advised that broader community consultation was not undertaken on the provisions in the bill as it 'relates to internal operations of the Queensland Government, and operationalises the Queensland Government's commitment to opt into the National

Scheme'. I note that 16 stakeholder submissions were received. Of those, all but two were supportive of the bill in its entirety. However, most submissions raised a number of concerns relating to the divergence of the national scheme from the recommendations of the royal commission. As noted in submissions to this bill, the current scheme departs from the royal commission's recommended model.

Submitters have identified key issues including: the lowering of the maximum redress payment from \$200,000 to \$150,000; limitations imposed upon the provision of the redress element of counselling and psychological care services; restrictions upon eligibility that impact upon categories of survivors, including noncitizens; survivors currently in prison and survivors who have at some time of their life been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of five years or more; and the approach taken to providing a funder of last resort to provide redress in situations where the responsible institution no longer exists and/or has no assets or successor. An example of that is the church institutions that were widely named during the royal commission that are no longer operating. There are concerns about this across Queensland. Some other issues included: shortening the period for accepting redress offers to six months, as opposed to the recommended 12 months; and requiring that redress applications be in the form of a statutory declaration.

These are important issues, and we would encourage the Queensland government to continue to work with the Commonwealth, other states and territories, and other stakeholders to improve the scheme to reflect the royal commission's recommendations and for it to operate as the commission intended, to provide survivors with access to justice. That is a very important outcome of the royal commission. I note that the Queensland parliament is unable to amend the provisions of the Commonwealth national redress act, as the minister alluded to.

I note the submissions from stakeholders and in particular concerns around section 63 regarding applicants with criminal histories. When the redress scheme was first introduced by the Commonwealth, there was a considerable lack of clarity surrounding the Commonwealth government's intention to introduce an exclusionary provision for applicants with certain criminal histories. Section 63 of the Commonwealth act provides that, if a person who makes an application for redress under the national scheme was sentenced to imprisonment for five years or longer for an offence before they made that application, they are effectively excluded from any redress. The concerns that were raised were about equality. If people are serving time, they are still victims of these insidious crimes. Some of the submissions were opposed to section 63 of the Commonwealth act. The royal commission report stated—

A number of survivors in private sessions and public hearings described how the impacts of child sexual abuse had contributed to their criminal behaviour as adolescents and adults.

We are not trying to make excuses, but it has been acknowledged widely that these victims sometimes have behaviours that we would not prefer. However, I think excluding them is unfair and, of course, we support the submitters who made that point. The Bar Association report stated—

A large cohort of individuals, many of whom have performed criminal actions which may be linked to themselves being victims of the sexual abuse which the National Scheme is intended to recognise, will be unfairly prejudiced by the default position in s 63 of the Commonwealth National Redress Act. From an individual and societal point of view this exclusion is both unjust and counter-productive.

That is something for consideration.

I turn also to sections 34 and 73. There has been a lot of debate over this issue at the Commonwealth level. It is not clear whether the review procedure is available only to someone whose application is rejected. This is about right of appeal and this is about options for people accessing the scheme.

As I mentioned earlier, concern was raised about church institutions that are no longer in operation or existence. There was some talk about the lead agencies using the term 'stand in their shoes' on this issue of church agencies or religious orders that are no longer in action. There is a potential problem for the operation of this national scheme when we have these institutions out of business, so to speak—that is, the church hierarchy might offer to stand in the shoes or they may not. We have to consider what that might look like.

The bar also raised the issue of family law proceedings and protected information. There were concerns surrounding section 90 of the Family Law Act. We have to be mindful of these issues. It is great to hear that we will continue to work with the Commonwealth government about what this will finally look like.

I note that the government took a slowly, slowly approach to this issue, in the sense that the national redress scheme was tabled some time ago. We will look at why it took so long to get on with the job. I have questions about the funding. There is nothing in the forward estimates about what this

might look like for Queensland. We have examples in this place, unfortunately, about final reports not being issued in a timely manner. It took 16 months for the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee report to be tabled during estimates, and that was so as to avoid any scrutiny of that.


Under this government we are seeing child safety statistics going backwards and notifications, separations and reported risk of harm figures returning to pre-Carmody inquiry days. Under this government and this minister, we have to question how effective the department and the processes are when we statistically see continual failures.

Not only do survivors deserve this redress but Queensland's current and future children deserve protection against abuse; we all would agree. That is why we called on Labor to take action on the issue well before the Premier reluctantly signed up to this scheme. It should not be about us calling on each other to get on with the job; it should be part of the role of the minister and the department to get on with the job of putting in place this redress and dealing with the child safety issues across this state. We all, particularly those of us on this side, want to address the child safety issues in Queensland.

We accepted and implemented the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry leading to child safety notifications in substantiated cases of harm decreasing during our time in government. We all should build on what is good public policy for the kids in this great state and not politicise what is a growing problem. Under the previous government, child safety officers were not forced to juggle unsubstantiated case loads. We built a system that was able to deal with the challenges of Child Safety through targeted funding and listening to the experts. We stand for safe communities and the safety of all Queensland children. We also stand for justice.

In my role it is my responsibility to hold the minister to account on the vital and important tasks of keeping children safe and supporting victims of domestic violence and institutional violence, which this bill addresses. It is also my role to oppose bills that are detrimental to Queensland. However, my role is not to oppose a bill that is long overdue in providing Queenslanders with redress for abuse suffered at the hands of Queensland institutions including institutions controlled by the Queensland government itself.

This bill will allow Queenslanders to fully participate in a national redress scheme. This bill is a vital part of Queensland and Australia attempting to make amends for survivors who have suffered in silence for too long. My colleagues on this side of the chamber will support the bill here today. This is not a controversial bill; this is a necessary bill. The proposed legislation will bring Queensland into line with the rest of the nation. It is a bill that serves to provide redress to thousands of Queensland survivors of institutional child abuse. This bill makes sense, it is long overdue and, as such, the bill will be supported by this side of the chamber.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to speak in support of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. Before I turn to the bill, I acknowledge the previous speaker the member for Burnett in his role of shadow minister. I appreciate his opening remarks, which were in the bipartisan fashion that we need to deliver this very important piece of legislation for Queensland. I think some of his remarks about child safety were somewhat provocative. This government can stand proud for having introduced a lot more staff into the child safety space. I want to put that on the record, and I thank the minister for her work.

It is also important and pertinent for the benefit of other members to provide some brief history of how this bill came before us today. On 12 November 2012 the then prime minister, Julia Gillard, announced that she would recommend to the Governor-General that a royal commission be appointed to inquire into institutional responses to child abuse. The terms of reference were established and six commissioners were appointed.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's *Redress and civil litigation report* was publicly released on 14 September 2015. The report recommended the establishment of a single national redress scheme to provide eligible applicants who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse with a monetary payment, access to counselling and psychological care, and a direct personal response from responsible institutions. Minister Farmer introduced this bill, and might I say how she introduced this particular body of work in its first reading in the parliament was very thoughtful. I want to commend her for bringing that before us.

The committee subsequently undertook some work on this bill. Our report presents a summary of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's examination of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. It is an important bill to enable victims of institutional child sexual abuse committed in Queensland to now access redress through the Commonwealth government's national redress scheme.

The bill in its very essence seeks to adopt in Queensland the national scheme—the national redress act—and introduce a framework to enable information sharing by Queensland government agencies for handling applications for redress under the national scheme. The bill also seeks to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments cannot be deducted from victim assistance payments under that act.

The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles, that is, to consider whether the bill had sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to our committee on 12 June 2018. The bill consisted of 18 clauses and a schedule, which contains the text of the national redress act with its 193 sections. The committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to provide written submissions to the bill, and we received 16 submissions including a late submission from the Bar Association. I note the non-government members' statement of reservation, and the minister addressed the particular points raised in that earlier today.

The committee received an initial public briefing on the bill from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women on 25 June 2018. The committee then held a public hearing and received a second briefing from the department on 20 July 2018. As I said earlier, the objectives of the bill are to enable the Queensland operation of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, the national scheme, by adopting the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018, the national redress act, to introduce a framework to enable appropriate information sharing by Queensland government agencies and to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act. The bill adopts the national redress act within the meaning of section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution. The bill refers power to the Parliament of the Commonwealth for the purposes of making express amendments to the national redress act.

The bill is important to literally thousands of Queenslanders who have suffered sexual abuse in government and non-government institutions. It provides those affected by the trauma with an avenue of redress. If this redress act were not established, many would continue to suffer in silence, perhaps unable to proceed through a costly private civil case, which does place, as we heard, a huge and unfair financial burden on families and individuals.

The bill is needed for Queensland abuse survivors. Significant consultation on the issues traversed by the bill included extensive engagement with the victims of institutional child sexual abuse, support groups and institutions by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—the royal commission—and a series of meetings and round tables that were hosted by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with key stakeholders to inform the government's response to the royal commission. Those round tables were held between March 2018 and June 2018 in Cairns, Townsville, Caboolture, Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich and the Gold Coast. Recurring themes in the feedback included an emphasis on trauma informed and culturally safe services and responses; the importance of community education; resourcing issues and the needs of rural and remote people; the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and the ongoing impacts of abuse on people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

PeakCare Queensland supported the adoption of the Commonwealth's national redress scheme and the associated amendment reference to the Commonwealth parliament to provide express amendments to the national redress act. PeakCare also supported the Queensland government's approaches to enabling a framework for information sharing by Queensland government agencies.

The report states—

... knowmore fully supports the participation of the Queensland Government and other non-government Queensland based institutions in the Scheme. Accordingly, knowmore supports the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 (Queensland), and recommends that it should be passed.

Similarly, Micah Projects acknowledged the significant milestone the Queensland government had achieved in preparing the national redress scheme. Their submission stated—

We congratulate the Queensland government on your commitment to survivors, your advocacy for justice in joining the scheme and the allocation of \$500,000,000.

...


Many survivors support the introduction of the National Redress Scheme ...

The Queensland government has worked with federal, state and territory governments on the design of the national redress scheme since its establishment. Once the national redress scheme is operational, the federal government will be responsible for the scheme's operation, including decision-making with regard to applications.

The Queensland government's involvement will include: responding to information requests; providing advice on eligibility in certain circumstances; and paying invoices issued in relation to approved applications relating to Queensland government institutions. The Queensland government will not have the capacity to seek a review of decisions.

Submitters also raised a broad range of issues in relation to the provisions of the bill—primarily about the design and operation of the national redress scheme—that the bill seeks to adopt in Queensland. Submitters also raised issues outside the scope of the bill with regard to increasing vigilance to better detect institutional child sexual abuse and ensuring that the needs of abuse victims are properly addressed.

I want to thank my fellow committee members: the deputy chair, the member for Nicklin, the member for Rockhampton, the member for Lytton, our secretariat and all the staff who were involved. I hope I covered all of our members. This is indeed a very important piece of work that will affect thousands of Queenslanders. We thank the department very much for their assistance and responses to submissions, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bill before the House. I want to start by acknowledging all committee members who put time and effort into this bill not just in Brisbane but in travelling across the state and hearing from those people who have been affected and those people who are supporters of those people. I want to add my particular thanks to the secretariat. The secretariat do a wonderful job not just in this committee but in all committees. I think that we should acknowledge Rob Hansen and all of the ladies and men who work with him in the secretariat.

The bill before the House continues to address one of the great dark sins of our time: the issue of child sexual abuse. Over the decades it has remained hidden and in many cases ignored—and deliberately ignored—by institutions right across this nation. It is important that we continue to acknowledge the pain and suffering these little children endured and, of course, the pain they suffer now. How many took their own lives? How many are now addicted to legal and illegal drugs? How many are suffering at this second in time because of what took place all those years ago? There is no doubt that this bill is a proper step.

When I turn to the explanatory notes, under the heading 'Objectives' I see there are three topics. The first is to enable the national scheme to operate in Queensland by adopting the relevant Commonwealth law. That is an important principle that I will come back to. The second objective is to enable information to be shared by Queensland government agencies to enable the national scheme to operate. The third objective is to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments are not deducted from victim assistance payments under that act.

I note that the Queensland government has set aside \$500 million to provide redress payments for those who were abused in institutions run by the Queensland government over past years. I ask the minister in her reply to outline how that will be accounted for back to Queensland as time rolls by over the 10-year time line of the scheme so that we get some indication as to what that process will look like over that 10 years.

When this bill was introduced into the House, the Commonwealth National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill had not been passed. The Queensland bill came into the House on 12 June and the Commonwealth bill was passed on 19 June this year; however, it is without doubt that the bill in this House was placed into the House on the premise that the Commonwealth bill would be passed, as it sat as schedule 1 to the terms of the Queensland bill. The Commonwealth act runs to some 166 pages and contains the framework as to how the act will operate and provide payments that will be made from moneys set aside for the redress scheme. The bill, which is now an act, is at the very core of the Queensland bill, yet in the explanatory notes the government gave absolutely no detail as to what that bill stated. There is no detail as to the break-up of that bill and its terms.

The explanatory memoranda in the Commonwealth parliament ran to 127 pages, yet neither the government, the department nor the minister felt it was relevant that, as they placed the bill into the House, they should also place the explanatory memoranda into the House at the same time. As I said earlier, one of the aims stated in the explanatory notes was 'to enable the national scheme to operate in Queensland by adopting the relevant Commonwealth law'.

If we were adopting the Commonwealth law, in my opinion that conferred an obligation to put before this House not only the relevant bill that then became legislation but the explanatory memoranda as well. The government has failed to do that, and that is a fundamental issue in relation to how this parliament operates. It raises a concern in my mind: was this House simply meant to tick and flick this

bill because it had been passed by the Commonwealth? That is not the role of this House. This House has the clear obligation as the House of parliament for this state to ensure that an act passed by any other parliament is scrutinised adequately to ensure it provides protections for the people of this state.


The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009 was a similar style of bill. It was not identical, but it was similar. On that occasion the act was scheduled to the bill and, if I recall correctly, so were the explanatory notes in relation to that bill. At that point in time, given it was a schedule, it constituted one clause of the bill. It ran for pages and pages. A motion was put before the House by the then health minister, Stephen Robertson, to allow debate to occur in relation to each individual clause of the substantive legislation that formed the core of the Queensland bill, but that will not happen here today.

I want to turn to the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Sexual Abuse Assessment Framework*. This is a document that sets out the amount that can be claimed and paid by way of compensation. Schedule 5 of the act addresses what the amount of the payment can be. There are three categories: category 1, penetrative abuse, \$150,000; category 2, contact abuse, \$50,000; and category 3, exposure abuse, \$20,000.

I am not for one second downplaying the impact of any of those three types of abuse, but I am saying that contact abuse over many, many years will leave a child—now an adult—crippled psychologically. I want to understand why those figures are set out in that manner—why one is considered worthy of more compensation than the other. I can certainly imagine that a five-year-old child who has been abused for three, four, five or six years will be traumatised for life. An explanation of that would be appreciated, given that the bill enables the national scheme to operate in Queensland by adopting the relevant Commonwealth law.

In addition, clause 6 of the bill deals with counselling and the psychological component of redress. The amounts are: penetrative abuse, \$5,000; contact abuse, \$2,500; and exposure abuse, \$1,250. With respect, \$5,000 will not last long when it comes to psychologists and counselling fees. I need to understand, and the people who will be required to join up to the scheme need to understand, why those figures are put in the scheme to alleviate their suffering.

Section 104 of the Commonwealth act deals with the disclosure or use of assessment framework policy guidelines. It is an offence under the Commonwealth act to disclose or use details of those guidelines. I would like the minister to explain why that is the case—why the guidelines cannot be made public. Again, this parliament is adopting the Commonwealth law based on the explanatory notes. If we are asked to adopt the Commonwealth law then the state government has the clear obligation to explain the Commonwealth law to the people of this state and be subject to questions in this House to justify us passing the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to speak to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. I begin by thanking the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for introducing the bill and for her respectful and heartfelt words when the bill was introduced to the House. Queenslanders are truly fortunate to have such a committed, compassionate minister in this important portfolio, which I know is very important to her. I thank her.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for their respectful consideration of the bill; those who lodged written submissions on the bill; the committee secretariat; and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women for their assistance. After careful consideration, the committee has recommended that the bill be passed.

This is an important policy that delivers on the government's commitment to ensure that victims of institutional child sexual abuse committed in Queensland are able to access redress through the Commonwealth government's national redress scheme. The bill was introduced in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's *Redress and civil litigation report*, which was released in 2015. The report recommended the establishment of a single national scheme to provide eligible applicants with three elements of redress: a monetary payment, access to counselling and psychological care, and a direct personal response from responsible institutions. The federal government subsequently announced that it would create a redress scheme and invited states, territories and non-government institutions to opt in.

The federal government's national redress scheme has three core elements broadly consistent with the royal commission's recommendations, and on 19 June 2018 the Commonwealth parliament passed the national redress act, creating the 10-year national scheme. The Commonwealth


government led consultation on the national redress scheme, including with our state based stakeholders and victims of institutional child sexual abuse. In working with the Commonwealth, Queensland has reinforced the need for the scheme to be focused on the needs of the people affected by institutional child sexual abuse and to align with the recommendations of the royal commission.

The bill's primary objectives are to enable Queensland's operation of the national redress scheme to introduce a framework to enable appropriate information sharing by Queensland government agencies for the purposes of the national scheme and to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments may not be deducted from victim assistance payments under the act. The national redress scheme is intended to provide support to people who were sexually abused as children in an institutional context. It has been designed in accordance with the royal commission's principle that the relevant institutions should pay for the abuse experienced by children for which they were responsible.

There was a great amount of support for this bill throughout the committee process. For the benefit of the House, I would like to read an excerpt from the Australian Lawyers Alliance submission. They stated that they 'believe that the establishment of a national redress scheme ... has the potential to have a genuine positive impact on the lives of thousands of people whose lives have been affected by sexual abuse when they were children' and that it will 'provide meaningful redress for survivors'. I particularly acknowledge respectfully those who have experienced or have been victims of child sexual abuse. I acknowledge their pain and thank them for their contribution to this important task and for their ongoing courage.

The bill also makes necessary amendments to support Queensland government entities to participate in the national scheme, including the introduction of an information-sharing network. The national scheme operator will request information from Queensland government entities through a central point of contact to be established within the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. The provisions ensure Queensland government entities only share information with the central contact point and the national scheme operator and not with each other. This is designed to provide a safeguard by limiting the information that can be shared to that which is required to support the operation of the scheme.

In conclusion, this bill makes necessary changes for Queensland survivors to have access to the national redress scheme in respect of child sexual abuse committed in Queensland government and non-government institutional settings through the Commonwealth government's national redress scheme. It also allows a redress process that recognises the experiences of people who were sexually abused as children in Queensland institutions and is an important step towards recovery for those victims. It is time and it is appropriate. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (12.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. This bill is essential for the state government to participate in the excellent work of the federal coalition government's scheme to compensate victims of child sexual abuse by participating institutions and government agencies.

I thank the other members of the committee: the members for Thuringowa, Caloundra, Lytton, Rockhampton and Maiwar. I also thank the organisations and individuals that made submissions to the committee on the bill. Particular thanks must go to the committee secretariat staff, who work incredibly hard to ensure that the time lines for these committee reports are met, often under extreme time pressures, as I am sure we are all aware.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse uncovered shocking, disturbing and often unfathomable abuse across institutions, religious groups and government controlled entities. Some of the organisations that held our greatest trust and were supposed to care for our most vulnerable—our children—betrayed that trust, at times in the most heinous of ways. Many years later, people still suffer the mental and physical scars of that abuse.


Organisations have been left with their reputations in tatters, having failed our children so badly. Our Australian community will take a very long time to heal from the shameful revelations of that inquiry. The reality of what has been uncovered after being covered up for so long has meant that survivors could be heard, believed and begin the process of healing.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hunt, adjourned.



## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION (RIGHT TO USE GENDER-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.29 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Anti-Discrimination (Right to Use Gender-Specific Language) Amendment Bill 2018 [[1375](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Anti-Discrimination (Right to Use Gender-Specific Language) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1376](#)].

This bill will hopefully mark a turning point in the battle for common sense. It is ridiculous to me as a proposition to think that we find ourselves having to legislate to protect the use of the terms 'boy' or 'girl', 'husband' or 'wife', 'man' or 'woman', but here we are. For too long we have seen the attack against traditional values increase with a very vocal and very vociferous extreme left minority infecting our accepted way of life, and I believe that ever since the debate over same-sex marriage there has been an implied blank cheque to attack many other cultural norms that exist.

The aggressive push away from classifications of gender based on an individual's natural sex is undermining many traditional values and at some point we must draw a line in the sand and protect the values of those who wish to uphold or maintain those values. This bill is not imposing on those people who choose to adopt that value set. It is not imposing on them at all. It is protecting the rights of people who choose to have an alternate value set, and I make that very clear at the outset.

I want to give the House a few recent examples of the invasive extreme views, because it will be said during the course of this debate that this is not needed and that there is no evidence of this and already there has been some commentary in the media that some universities have come out and said that this is not right. Following that, we received a number of communications from students saying, 'Here's the evidence. We are being discriminated against right now in the language that we use,' which has prompted, in some part, the necessity for us to bring some protections into this House.

I will go through a few of those examples where these views have started manifesting themselves. There has been a call for compulsory dedicated gender-neutral bathrooms to be part of the building code. That is not to say that you cannot have them, but that is not to say that everyone has to provide them either.

Other examples are Commonwealth Games volunteers told to use gender-neutral language to avoid causing offence; the Queensland government committing to build awareness and education around transgender identities in schools by providing information to principals about gender-neutral school uniforms, school camps, use of toilets and participation in sport; changes to the Queensland driver's licence to remove a person's sex or gender; universities that mark down students for language that could be considered gender exclusive, even if that language is grammatically incorrect; the Qantas Words at Work policy suggesting a range of language that excludes that gender-specific language; an Australian Defence Force guide that encourages the use of certain language and the potential bullying impact of not using sensitive language; and They Day that is celebrated now in the Victorian Public Service.

The objectives of this bill are to protect an individual's right to use traditional gender based language if they so choose and also to protect businesses and other organisations from disadvantage and harassment if they only provide facilities and services that recognise gender as either male or female. The bill achieves these objectives by ensuring the existing anti-discrimination framework prohibits punishment or disadvantage against individuals who choose to use traditional gender based language in the workplace, academic environment or any other environment where behaviour is controlled by a third-party entity. The bill also creates provisions within the existing anti-discrimination framework that protects entities from prosecution and disadvantage in the provision of infrastructure, services or facilities based solely on traditional gender classifications.

The amendments define two types of discrimination: direct and indirect discrimination. Direct discrimination happens if a person treats or proposes to treat a person who uses the language less favourably than another person. A topical example is university students having assignments marked down because they use traditional gender language. Indirect discrimination happens if a person indirectly or directly imposes or proposes to impose a term or standard, whether written or unwritten, that a person will not comply with if the person uses the language.

The aspect of the bill that I consider vitally important relates to businesses and institutions that are more and more abusing their influence over employees and students to limit the use of traditional language. Those people who choose to use that traditional form of language are currently being punished, and that will grow in time. These organisations will disguise their extreme agendas as language guides or anti-discrimination policies that are suggestions around the use of gender based language, and this creates a malaise over this issue yet it has not brought it to a head for a mature debate around it. That is why we are introducing this bill—that is, so there is a debate, it brings the issue to a head and people can have their say.

The reality is—and I think most people would accept this—that if a boss or a person marking your university assignment has preferred language and you do not use it, you are going to be overlooked for that promotion or you might have your assignment marked down. A lot of this can be very discreet and underhanded in the way that it impacts on our lives. These implied threats and coercion used by organisations against members and employees are a worrying trend indeed. This sort of malaise can only come from weak governments and politicians not doing anything about a proliferation of these ideologies and not being held to account and not bringing it to a head to have a debate so that we can discuss this and have people vote on it.

We believe that there are extreme views being pushed and that there is a blank cheque, and I invoke the word ‘relativism’, where everything traditional gets compromised and has to be thrown out the window. We will even meet halfway, which is what this bill attempts to say—that is, we accept that there is progressive language used out there and that other people have different views. We accept that, but what we are proposing is that if we choose not to accept that we will still have some rights to do that. I think that is a pretty good compromise to have on this issue.

In essence, this bill protects true diversity because it allows people to have what are called progressive views and other people to maintain traditional values. They both will still have their rights protected. I think it is very important to acknowledge that there are different people in society who have different views and there are big cultural shifts in different parts of the state where different views are predominant. Nothing in this bill is intended to prohibit the use of non-traditional gender language. I have tried to make that painfully clear in this introductory speech. There is nothing to prohibit the use of non-traditional gender language or the provision of facilities and services by any individual entity that does want to cater for non-traditional gender classifications. I stress that again.

This is about a right to stand up for some traditional values in the House. We believe this issue has been brought to a head. Many would comment that this bill is not needed and there are no issues—and that already came out, as I said, in the media where universities were patting this issue down saying, ‘That’s not an issue at all. There’s no evidence of that.’ Contrary to that view, students wrote to us saying, ‘Here is the evidence where we have been marked down.’ This is happening now. It has to be discussed and debated by this House to bring this issue to a head. The KAP is proud to do that.

### First Reading

**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

## PROTECTING QUEENSLANDERS FROM VIOLENT AND CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.39 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill 2018 [1377].

*Tabled paper:* Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1378].

A government's first priority must be to keep its citizens safe. When the Attorney-General's application to extend the supervision order for notorious sex offender Robert John Fardon was dismissed, the LNP became increasingly concerned. After over 3½ years, it was clear that the Palaszczuk Labor government did not have a plan B to deal with some of the worst offenders in Queensland. The last thing we want to see is community safety jeopardised with offenders unsupervised on our streets. Labor's rushed plan, which passed last night, has been cobbled together at the last minute. It is a small step in the right direction, but it does not go anywhere near far enough.

Queensland already has some of the strongest laws that deal with violent and child sex offenders and what the LNP is proposing with this bill will ensure that they are further strengthened. Prisoners subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003—or DPSO—have committed some of the most disgraceful crimes imaginable. Their crimes steal their victims' innocence, they haunt victims' and their families' lives forever.

Recently, we learned of the potential of Queensland's most notorious and dangerous repeat sex offender, Robert John Fardon, walking the streets completely unsupervised. This is a man who raped a 12-year-old at gunpoint, attempted to rape a girl aged under 10, violently raped and assaulted a woman only 20 days after he was released from custody, and who has regularly breached supervision orders. This man has been described as a psychopath with an anti-authoritarian attitude. This man appears to have no remorse or, at best, perhaps some, as noted by his psychiatrist. This is a man whose historical risk factors place him in a group of offenders with above-average risk of reoffending. We cannot simply rely on a person's age as a significant factor for reducing a risk of reoffending as a measure to protect the community.

Last month, the Attorney-General's application to extend his supervision order was dismissed. Now, Labor is putting all of its eggs in the appeal basket. If the Attorney-General loses the appeal, Fardon will be in the community and unsupervised when his current supervision order expires on 3 October even with the amendments passed last night. We do not think that is good enough. We think that will pose an unacceptable risk to community safety.

What is clear is that Labor did not have a plan B for dealing with the potential release of Robert John Fardon nor for offenders of this nature generally. The LNP acted swiftly when news broke that the Attorney-General's application to extend Fardon's supervision order had failed. We considered that the only certain measure to keep Queenslanders safe was to legislate, to strengthen the laws around supervision, and to amend the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. Labor has had over 3½ years to do something about this issue and had failed to act and protect community safety until our plan was announced on Sunday. This approach is just not good enough. It is a risk too high for Queenslanders and a risk that could bear the most grave consequences.

The LNP bill significantly strengthens the post-sentence supervision scheme contained in the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 to ensure that paramount consideration is given to the safety and protection of the community. The bill will achieve this by giving the Governor in Council the ability to determine that a supervision order no longer applies to the released prisoner if the Governor in Council is satisfied that the released prisoner is no longer a serious danger to the community; expanding the post-sentence scheme to apply to repeat offenders by introducing an indeterminate supervision order in which an offender, who is convicted of two or more sexual offences, will, by operation of law and without specific order, be subject to an indeterminate supervision order; and strengthening the objects of the act to make it absolutely clear that, in making any decision, a person or body must give paramount consideration to the safety and protection of the community.

The bill is based on reasoning derived from the recent High Court decision in *Pollentine v Bleijie*, which established a legitimate interface between executive and judicial power with medical oversight. The bill also takes on provisions found in Victoria's Serious Offenders Act 2018, which was introduced this year. Those provisions were introduced by a Victorian Labor government.

Repeat sexual offenders pose a degree of risk until the day they die. A repeat offender's history says it all. There should never be a day when a repeat offender is considered risk free. This is why we have decided to legislate to specifically target repeat offenders. Greater safeguards need to be in place to ensure the paramount safety and protection of the community. There are circumstances, such as those that apply to Robert John Fardon, whereby a released prisoner is subject to very stringent supervision orders, such as living in a fenced compound out in the community. This provision offers continuous protection to the community.

The supervision order takes effect on a prisoner's release date, or on a day a repeat offender's supervision order ends. In the case of Fardon, the reporting psychiatrist observed—

There is a risk that in the community he will become anxious and react abusively to perceived or actual provocation, or that his personality style in general will bring him to conflict with others.

We think that is a risk too great for Queenslanders. This is why we need a mechanism in place where strong supervision needs to be maintained to protect the community.

In this regard, the bill also provides that, if a supervision order ceases, a repeat offender will be subject to an indeterminate supervision order by operation of law. This will include the requirement that the repeat offender wear a GPS monitoring device for ongoing around-the-clock monitoring and other requirements that include, among other things, that the repeat offender cannot be within 200 metres of a school or live within one kilometre of a place where children are regularly present, such as parks and shopping centres. These orders will be in place indefinitely to ensure that, if a repeat offender is no longer on a supervision order, they will at least be GPS monitored until they die.

While the GPS monitoring requirement is indefinite, other requirements contained as part of an indeterminate supervision order will be reviewed by the Attorney-General at least once every three years and will include the involvement of two psychiatrists. The bill provides that a released prisoner subject to a supervision order can have their order extended indefinitely by the Governor in Council until the released prisoner is no longer a serious danger to the community.

New supervision orders that apply after the commencement of this legislation will no longer be fixed terms. This will apply to a released prisoner currently subject to a supervision order that was made before the commencement of this bill. In this regard, it should be noted that the order is imposed by the court and only extended based on the review of the Attorney-General and the statutory criteria that the sentencing court had regard to. For the purposes of any review, the released prisoner must also be examined by two psychiatrists.

These changes mean that, under this bill, child and violent sex offenders may remain on their current supervision order. Unlike Labor's amendments passed yesterday, child and violent sex offenders have a much greater chance of continuing on their strict supervision order—a proposal that will make Queenslanders safer.

The LNP will always have a firm position on community safety and that is that the safety and protection of the community is paramount. We are not talking about indefinite detention; we are talking about indefinite supervision until such time the Attorney-General is satisfied that the prisoner does not pose an unacceptable risk to the community. In making this decision, the Attorney-General must give paramount consideration to the safety and protection of all.

The LNP wants to provide Queenslanders with a high level of certainty that there will always be some form of supervision in place and that should be a guarantee. Legislative regimes for the preventative detention of convicted persons by means of the imposition of indeterminate sentences have a long history in Australia and have withstood constitutional challenge in the state's Supreme Court and have also been assumed to be valid in a number of decisions by the High Court, including *Pollentine*. This most recent High Court case from August 2014 that touches on this matter is instructive.

In *Pollentine*, the High Court unanimously held the validity of section 18 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945, which allows a trial judge to make directions for the indefinite detention of a person found guilty of an offence of a sexual nature committed upon or in relation to a child. In doing so, Their Honours emphasised the validity of section 18 by noting that the executive decision to release a detainee was made with reference to statutory criteria. Once it is recognised that the release is not at the confined discretion of the executive but dependent upon demonstration by medical opinion of the reduction of risk of reoffending, there can be no notion that the court has delegated the fixing of punishment. Thirdly, Their Honours emphasised the fact that the executive power to release a detainee was subject to a criterion that admitted judicial review.

In relation to judicial review, there is nothing in the Judicial Review Act 1992 or the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 that excludes judicial review of a decision of the Governor in Council. In the absence of such an exclusion, as the Governor in Council's decision is a decision of an administrative nature, it will always be captured by the Judicial Review Act.

The bill respects the institutional integrity of the Supreme Court while promoting the safety of the community. We believe that sufficient safeguards are in place to respect the independence of the courts, particularly, as I have already said, given that any administrative decision of government is judicially reviewable. We have also included a three-year review clause.

We have consulted various legal practitioners in formulating the approach contained in this bill. The Queensland Law Society was advised of the bill prior to our announcement over the weekend and was granted a briefing prior to the bill's introduction today. The urgent nature of formulating a plan B in the absence of any plan from the government curtailed a more thorough consultation process. I note that this bill will commence upon assent.

These are tough laws, but they are what is needed to keep the community safe from repeat violent sex offenders. We need to do what we can to protect vulnerable Queenslanders from the worst kind of offenders. The LNP will always put community safety first and we make no apologies for it.

### First Reading

**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.52 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

### LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.53 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 43:**

**LNP, 37**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, 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, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Pair: Lynham, Perrett.


Resolved in the negative.

## NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2594, on motion of Ms Farmer—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (12.59 pm), continuing: The reality of what has been uncovered after being covered up for so long has meant that survivors could be heard, believed and begin the process of healing. It is in the desire to commence that process of healing that the federal government has negotiated this redress scheme.

Throughout the committee process we heard concerns that the compensation is not enough. We heard concerns that people would be encouraged to sign away their rights to perhaps greater redress than they might otherwise obtain through courts. However, it must be remembered that this scheme is entered into on a voluntary basis by both parties, that being the organisation concerned and the victim. It allows a process of redress free of courts, free of high levels of scrutiny or public exposure that victims might have more confidence participating in.

Monetary compensation, apology and counselling are offered under a system of application weighted heavily in favour of the victim to ensure that they are not put through more trauma.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



**Mr HUNT:** In relation to this redress scheme, it would be difficult to land on a perfect system. For some survivors, the trauma, betrayal of trust and ongoing mental scars will never be healed by the scheme. However, it goes some way to beginning the process of healing for the victims and for our community, which also feels betrayed. The Queensland government has elected to opt in to the scheme. However, it was a case of better late than never as the Queensland Labor government committed \$500 million to the scheme on 30 April 2018. It should be noted that the LNP called on Labor to take action on this issue well before the Premier reluctantly signed up to this vital scheme and that all other states have signed on to the redress scheme.

Modelling has suggested that under the scheme in Queensland there will be around 10,000 applications and that around half of those are expected to be for abuse within Queensland government-run institutions. If there is one thing we might learn from the royal commission it is that we always must be vigilant when it comes to child safety. No-one wants to be in this position again, where abuse is rampant, hidden and ignored and we fail in our responsibility as a government. We have to avoid being in this place again.

The responsibility of the opposition and, indeed, my responsibility in this place is to hold the government to account. It cannot be more important than holding the government to account in relation to child safety. Yes, child safety should be above politics and political games, but that does not mean that we should not demand transparency and point out where the government is dropping the ball on child safety. Unfortunately, we continue to see examples where the government has continued to let down Queensland children. If we do not remain vigilant on child safety, we face the danger of finding ourselves in the same position, debating a similar bill in the House in years to come. That is something that I am sure we all want to avoid.

For 16 months the Labor government sat on the final report of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee and then, to avoid scrutiny, only released it during the middle of estimates. Under Labor, child safety statistics have gone backwards. We are seeing notifications, separations and reported risk of harm rates going to pre-Carmody inquiry days. It is not good enough. Queensland Labor governments need to pick up their act on child safety and put children first, so that we do our bit to ensure we are never in this position again, with thousands of Queenslanders the victims of institutional abuse.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** They do not like to hear it, but it is our job to hold them to account on child safety. I will not sit down and be quiet on this, because we do not want to be in this situation again. It is our job to hold them to account and I will continue to do so. It is not good enough. Queensland Labor needs to pick up their act and put children first—


**Ms FARMER:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to make a ruling on whether the speaker is addressing his comments according to the long title of the bill. I ask you to make a ruling on that, please.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): The comments that I have heard were relevant to the bill. I ask the member to continue. There is no point of order.

**Mr HUNT:** We in opposition need to do our bit to hold the government to account, to ensure we are never in this position again with thousands of Queenslanders the victims of institutional abuse. I am not apportioning blame here; I am just pointing out that we need to hold the government to account and I will continue to do that unashamedly from my position in opposition. That is our job. They do not want to be questioned. They do not want to be transparent. We see it all the time. They do not want to hear about it. They sit on reports. They do not want to hear about transparency, but that is what is important. That is the important thing, otherwise we will be back here in years to come doing the same thing.

We accepted and implemented the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry, leading to the number of child safety notifications and substantiated cases of harm going down under the LNP. Under the LNP, child safety officers were not forced to juggle unsustainable caseloads. We built a system that was able to deal with the challenges of child safety through targeted funding and listening to the experts. The LNP stands for safe communities and the safety of all Queensland children.

I encourage and implore any organisation that has not yet voluntarily opted in to this redress scheme to do so. It can only do further irreparable harm to an organisation if it drags its feet on this and fails to acknowledge its actions, which is the very least it owes victims. In conclusion, this is a good system. While it is not a perfect system, it is a good system to begin the process of healing and making reparations to victims of child sexual abuse.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.07 pm): I rise to speak in support of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's *Redress and civil litigation report* was released on 14 September 2015. The report recommended the establishment of a single national redress scheme to provide eligible applicants with three elements of redress: a monetary payment, access to counselling and a direct personal response from responsible institutions.

Under the national scheme, applications will be received and assessed by the national scheme operator. The Queensland government central contact point will be established in the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. It is expected that the national scheme operator may request from participating institutions information that may be relevant to assessing applicants when an applicant has identified the institution as being involved in the abuse, the operator reasonably believes the institution may be responsible for the abuse or the operator has reasonable grounds to believe that the participating institution has information that may be relevant to determining the application.

As an institution participating in the national scheme, the Queensland government may be required to provide information to the national scheme operator. In order to streamline the administration of the national scheme, the Queensland government has established a central contact point to facilitate communication between all Queensland government agencies and the operator.


This bill will facilitate appropriate information sharing by empowering the chief executive of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to request and receive relevant information from other state agencies to provide to the national scheme operator, enabling the chief executive of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to give information to a state agency for the purpose of assisting compliance with a request made by the national scheme operator and clarifying that participating state institutions may give information to the national scheme operator for the purpose of complying with a request for information under the national scheme.

The bill will also ensure that redress payments may not be deducted from victim assistance payments by amending the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments under the national scheme are not relevant payments.

Participation in the national scheme will have significant resource implications for the Queensland government. The Queensland government has committed \$500 million for the purpose of providing redress payments to people who have experienced child sexual abuse in institutions run by the Queensland government. Additional costs will also be incurred by the Queensland government in operationalising the national scheme and performing associated functions.

All recommendations of the royal commission, including the recommendations regarding a national redress scheme, were informed by the royal commission's extensive consultation with stakeholders. The Queensland government has also conducted a series of meetings and round tables with key stakeholders to inform its response to the reports of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including the recommendations related to the national redress scheme.

I would also like to thank the other members of the committee and also the secretariat and staff for the work they have done with this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 and the amendments circulated yesterday. The passage of this bill obviously represents a watershed moment for survivors of child sexual abuse, giving effect in Queensland to the national redress scheme by adopting the federal scheme. The national redress scheme set out in the Commonwealth act stems from the royal commission's 2015 report into redress and civil litigation, in particular recommendations 1 to 84 of that report.

The Greens support the royal commission 100 per cent. Before it was established by then prime minister Gillard in 2012, the Greens and some MPs from other parties had been calling for a royal commission into sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. All through the process, and especially during the process of setting up the national redress scheme, Greens MPs across the country have been pushing state and federal governments to stick to the commission's recommendations. Senator Rachel Siewert at a federal level, Alison Xamon in Western Australia, David Shoebridge in New South Wales and many others have pushed to make the redress scheme fairer, more generous and more compassionate, including pushing for a higher maximum payment of \$200,000, fighting to make sure victims with a criminal conviction could still claim redress and pushing for a joint state-Commonwealth funder of last resort covering all cases of abuse.

The minister and the government should be commended for moving swiftly in bringing the national redress scheme into operation. The members of the committee were in a position of having to consider the federal legislation before it had passed the Commonwealth parliament.

A number of concerns remain around certain shortcomings of the national redress scheme and were raised by advocacy groups in submissions and in evidence before the committee. Submitters raised concerns about the ways in which the scheme fails to meet the commission's recommendations, including: the lowering of the maximum redress payment from \$200,000 to \$150,000; the limitations imposed upon the provision of the redress elements of counselling and psychological care services; the shortening of the period for accepting redress offers to six months as opposed to the recommended 12 months; and the requirement that redress applications be in the form of a statutory declaration.

While these issues are specific to the national scheme and outside the scope of this bill, it is important that the government remain mindful of these issues and the consequences of these kinds of shortcomings for survivors of child sexual abuse. More important, though, are the issues that do fall squarely within the scope of the Queensland government's responsibility, but have so far gone unaddressed. Submissions and evidence in the hearings addressed the government's failure to address recommendations made by the commission with respect to civil litigation. Specifically, there has been no legislative response to recommendations 89 to 95 of the commission's *Redress and civil litigation report*.

The committee heard evidence that a discussion paper on these issues was released in late 2016 and consultation followed, but that is where it finished. Survivors are still awaiting any amending legislation to redress these recommendations. I asked the departmental representatives what progress had been made on implementation of these recommendations and the only response was that they are under consideration by the government. A similar response was given to questions about the progress of the aforementioned issues paper. The committee was told that it really is a policy matter and would be more appropriately directed to the Attorney-General on the floor of the House. I will take this opportunity to ask: when will the government take the necessary and relatively simple steps to implement these recommendations?

It should be clear to the government that the commission's recommendations address the importance of promptly making necessary amendments around civil litigation. In fact, recommendation 46 of the commission's *Redress and civil litigation report* places responsibility on each state and territory to pass these civil litigation reforms before the national redress scheme commences. Recommendation 46 states—

Those who operate the redress scheme should specify the cut-off date—  
that is the commencement of the national redress scheme—

as being the date on which the Royal Commission's recommended reforms to civil litigation ... commence.

In other words, the national redress scheme should not commence until the states and territories have legislated to enact recommendations 85 to 95.


The rationale behind recommendation 46 is integral to this bill being debated and the commencement of the scheme. We are proposing to implement a national scheme that provides an avenue for redress as an alternative to litigation. In many cases, while the scheme will provide a less complicated and taxing avenue than civil litigation, the amount of compensation available through civil litigation will in many cases be far greater than the maximum available under the redress scheme.

This recommendation reflects the reality of these decisions for survivors and that every survivor should have a full right to civil litigation when they are offered participation in the redress scheme. To be offered redress with no genuine alternative to civil litigation is a form of duress against survivors and potentially undermines the redress scheme's integrity and legitimacy. Other states have progressed with implementing these reforms and Queensland needs to do the same now.



I would like to thank the committee secretariat as always for their tireless efforts in conducting this inquiry and my fellow committee members. I thank also the officers of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women for their assistance and information provided in briefings to the committee.

I want to extend particular thanks to the groups that gave evidence at the public hearing. These include: knowmore, Community Legal Centres Queensland, Queensland Advocacy Inc., Micah Projects and the Australian Lawyers Alliance. Taking into the account the need for immediate reform to address those issues I identified a moment ago, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.17 pm): Having represented both victims and perpetrators of offences, I know how important this legislation is to redress the hurt and harm that has occurred to disadvantaged children in our community. It is well documented that their suffering is real and long lasting. The bill seeks to adopt in Queensland the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act and introduce a framework to enable information sharing by Queensland government agencies for handling applications for redress under the national scheme. The bill also seeks to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments cannot be deducted from victim assistance payments under the act.

The committee recommended that the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 be passed. The bill adopts the national redress act within the meaning of section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution. Further, the bill refers powers to the parliament of the Commonwealth for the purposes of making express amendments to the national redress act. The adoption or referral may be terminated at any time by proclamation.

The bill is needed for Queensland abuse survivors to have access to the national redress scheme in respect of child sexual abuse committed in Queensland government and non-government institutional settings. The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill, which became the national redress act, forms the schedule to the bill. The bill also provides for the request and sharing of information.

On 12 November 2012, the then prime minister, Julia Gillard, announced that she would recommend to the Governor-General that a royal commission be appointed to inquire into institutional responses to child abuse. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's *Redress and civil litigation report* was publicly released on 14 September 2015. The report recommended the establishment of a single national redress scheme to provide eligible applicants who experienced institutional child sexual abuse with a monetary payment, access to counselling and psychological care, and a direct personal response from responsible institutions.

As the minister stated in her introductory speech on the bill on 12 June 2018, in 1999 it was the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, also known as the Forde inquiry, that opened the door and the eyes of many Queenslanders to the horrors that had previously been a terrible secret borne by too many people. In the foreword to the inquiry's report, Commissioner Forde stated—

I urge all Queenslanders to contemplate the experiences of children in institutions, how it came to pass that many of them were abused and mistreated, and why it has taken so long for their stories to be told. It was society that failed those children.


The report stated—

Reparation will require the government and responsible religious organisations to enter into a restorative process with survivors to redress the harm done. Accountability for the harm done cannot be characterised as a legal issue only; the government and religious organisations must also accept moral and political accountability.

The report went on to state—

The principle of compensation is accepted in our society as a means of restitution for damages resulting from the types of abuse many children suffered ...

I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.22 pm): I rise to speak to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. I start by particularly thanking the committee on this occasion. Not being a member of the committee, I particularly appreciate the thoroughness of the report and the work they have done in what is really quite a distressing area.

The purpose of this bill is to adopt in Queensland the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and introduce a framework to enable information sharing by Queensland government agencies for handling applications for redress under the national scheme.

On 30 April this year the government publicly announced that the Queensland government would opt in to the national redress scheme. The Queensland government has committed \$500 million to be part of that. The scheme is estimated to be worth \$4 billion nationally. Modelling indicates that approximately 10,000 redress applications may relate to abuse in institutions in Queensland alone. Of those, 5,000 are estimated to be from non-government institutions. Survivors will be eligible for up to \$150,000 in redress, an apology—and I think that is extremely important because that has far more value than the dollars may have in some situations—and psychological care under the national scheme. All states and territories have signed up to this scheme. The purpose of this bill is to make good on Queensland's commitment to be part of that scheme.

In going through the report, one contribution that stood out as, I think, exemplifying the broad agreement within the community on the importance and the value of this bill. I would like to read the contribution from the Australian Lawyers Alliance. This is an excerpt from their submission—

We believe that the establishment of a National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse has the potential to have a genuine positive impact on the lives of thousands of people whose lives have been affected by sexual abuse when they were children.

Many aspects of the National Redress Scheme will provide meaningful redress for survivors. Providing three forms of redress—a monetary payment, access to counselling and psychological services, and a direct personal response—

which I referred to before—

will all contribute to healing, and ensure that survivors know that what has happened to them has been acknowledged as wrong, and that there are also practical tools provided to assist with their healing. The proposed standard of 'reasonable likelihood' is appropriate and will minimise the level of re-traumatisation that is likely to arise as a result of engaging with the Scheme.

I think that I would speak for most members of this House, if not all, when I say that when you become a member of this House you are exposed to all sorts of aspects of society and public administration that you may have had very little idea about before. I certainly count myself as one of those. Looking back, I wonder how it is that, as a nation, as a society, we went for so long without delving into these dark times. I can only imagine—and I stress that I do not know but I can only imagine—the enormous trauma that has surfaced and has had to be dealt with in the course of redressing this terrible problem of institutional child sex abuse.

If you put yourself in the shoes of a young person in an institution, with nowhere to go, no voice and no-one to stand up for them, having to suffer these terrible traumas and injustices, you can see how vitally important it is that society do all it can to rectify the problem and acknowledge the difficulties that people have been through. As someone famous once said, an evil once recognised is halfway towards its remedy.

I am in awe of the victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, many of whom have had to overcome enormous personal hurdles in order to participate in the royal commission and provide submissions and information to legislatures like ours. This bill is not perfect. I am aware of that. I do not think any form of redress could be perfect in the eyes of people who have suffered so grievously.

If the House will oblige, I will read into *Hansard* the submission of a constituent of mine, Mr Kelvin Johnston, whom I came across very early in my time as a candidate for the electorate of Southern Downs. Mr Johnston is a passionate advocate for reform and legislatively addressing the wrongs that have happened to children in institutional situations in the past. I do not necessarily agree with everything he says, but I know that he speaks with the authentic voice of someone who understands the issue and has always been at the forefront of contributing to the parliament's inquiries on this matter. I will read his submission into *Hansard*. He states—

The Queensland Child Sexual Abuse Legislative Reform Council wishes to make the following comments re the state Bill and some comments pertinent to the overall issues.

1. The state labor government has watered down the Royal Commission recommendations by 50,000 and sided with the coalition in doing so. The Labor Federal government has raised concern about this point in the Senate.
2. The issue of solicitors fees previously being indexed has not been addressed at a Federal level and the state do not appear to have addressed this.
3. The Commonwealth Bill which the state has signed up too does not say how the formula matrix for payment will occur by Federal Minister.
4. Redress should also include adequate funding of Police and DPP work relating to matters where charges need to be laid. Queensland Police Officers have been unable to do their job and the offenders remain free.

The funding of Royal Commission adverse findings need to be dealt with read and prosecuted by Police and DPP now.

I am happy to speak to the Parliamentary Committee.

I give permission to publish my text.

Yours Sincerely

Kelvin Johnston.

Spokesperson


Queensland Child Sexual Abuse Legislative Reform Council.

I say again that I think it is appropriate that I read that into the *Record of Proceedings* because of the great respect that I have for Mr Johnston and the work he has done over many years in this field.

Although this debate is one which engenders broad bipartisan agreement, I would like to state for the record some of the things which my side of the House have on their record. In government the LNP established the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry to chart a road map for the future of child protection. We supported victims of crime by enabling a survivor to read their impact statement before sentencing in court if the survivor so wishes and it is reasonable in the circumstances, and we increased funding to support groups.

We introduced a number of criminal law reforms including mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years and the two strikes policy. We increased penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences, and inserted a new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code. We introduced a mandatory sentence of one year imprisonment for sex offenders who tamper with or remove their GPS monitoring bracelet. We increased the maximum penalty for the offence of procuring a child or a person with a mental impairment for prostitution from 14 years to 20 years—and that is no small thing—and made amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender. I am proud of our record in that matter.

I would like to conclude by saying that I deeply regret the trauma and the enduring effect that institutional child sex abuse has had on Queenslanders and Australians. Our regret probably does not count for that much when we consider what they have been through, but I would like to thank all those involved with the royal commission and the development of this bill for their forthrightness and for the bravery they have shown in exposing their own stories. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.31 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill. My uncle was a Victorian Labor state member of parliament, and in 2006 he spoke in the Legislative Assembly about his close friend Michael Keenan who was repeatedly offended against whilst at school. Whilst we will never know the true extent to which the damage done by Gerard McNamara—who was convicted—was responsible for Michael Keenan's suicide attempt some years ago, what we do know is that these offences have had damaging and long-lasting effects.

We know from the award-winning interview by Rachael Brown of the ABC that Michael Keenan's memories of the offences stay with him every day of his life. Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to this story to highlight the fact that these matters have been raised for many years before we had a royal commission. Whilst I applaud the action taken by the Gillard Labor government, I stand here reflecting about those victims who are no longer with us—victims who were not able to see a thorough investigation into the people and institutions who betrayed them. As Minister Farmer said in her explanatory speech—

The road to where we are now, to being on the verge of implementing the national redress scheme, has been long and, for many, far too long. For some who carried on the fight for many, many years it has, indeed, come too late.

Child sexual abuse is, by its very nature, a crime that thrives on secrecy. I want to acknowledge that we would not be debating this bill today had it not been for the brave voices of those who fought through incredible pain and have overcome enormous obstacles to bring about appropriate recognition and support for victims. Many of these people were robbed of their childhood. They were betrayed and let down by people and institutions that were supposed to be keeping them safe and nurturing them to grow up to be successful adults.

For many survivors it was years and even decades before anyone would listen to their stories. Some were called liars, some were threatened and some were even told that they were worthless. Tragically, for many they believed at the time that this was true. We have all heard about the horrific stories where many of our most vulnerable children were victims. The children and families who needed help the most were taken advantage of by people in trusted positions of power. We do not pretend, and

nor should we, that enough has already been done. However, here in Queensland we should acknowledge the work we have done over the last two decades to start addressing the recognition and reparation for the survivors of abuse.


The final royal commission report was handed to the Governor-General on 15 December 2017, representing the culmination of a five-year inquiry into institutional responses to child sexual abuse and related matters. The report recommended the establishment of a single national scheme to provide eligible applicants with three elements of redress: a monetary payment as a tangible means of recognising the wrong survivors have suffered; access to therapeutic counselling and psychological care as needed throughout a survivor's life; and a direct personal response from the responsible institution if the survivor wishes.

Subsequently, the federal government announced it would create a national redress scheme. On 19 June 2018 the Commonwealth parliament passed the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 creating the 10-year national scheme. The resulting National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse has three core elements broadly consistent with the royal commission's recommendations and it commenced operation on 1 July 2018.

On 30 April 2018 the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, announced that the Queensland government would opt into the national scheme with participation likely to commence from late 2018. All Australian jurisdictions have now announced an intent to join the national scheme. This year's state budget has also committed \$500 million towards our contribution over the next 10 years.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to doing all we can to ensure people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland have access to the redress they deserve. We know that no amount of money can compensate for the pain and suffering felt by all of those survivors. It is about healing, it is about recovery and it is about recognising past wrongs and ultimately doing what is right. This is a bill worthy of support and I commend it to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): On behalf of the House, I would like to welcome students from Emmaus College in the electorate of Rockhampton to Parliament House, your House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for communities to make a contribution to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. Much has been said in this House this week about protecting the most vulnerable in our society, our children, and doing all we can to ensure safe communities. Indeed, just yesterday, when talking to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I stated—

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.

As the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has made painfully clear, for far too long a significant number of children were let down by many of our key institutions, including government institutions, and child victims were robbed of the chance to grow up in a safe and prosperous community.

I have to say that personally I have been shocked and dismayed as to what has occurred in many government and non-government institutions over many years. The failed governance processes and failed timely responsiveness to either child sexual abuse allegations and/or proven offences has been deeply disturbing. In the 1970s as a child I remember being driven by my parents past a particular boys home in the western suburbs. Having read as part of the royal commission inquiry some of the incidents and abuse that took place there, I feel deep sorrow and hurt for those victims.

As members in this House also know, I am a specialist physician who has treated those with many drug and alcohol problems. There is no doubt that children who have suffered with childhood abuse and neglect are likely, unfortunately, to develop substance dependency problems, and I have certainly seen that in my professional experience.

The sexual abuse of a child is an unthinkable, horrific crime. It is a crime perpetrated on the most vulnerable in our society at a time when they must rely on the trust and support of those around them to help guide and nurture them through life. It is, quite simply, a fundamental breach of trust. In November 2012 former prime minister Julia Gillard announced her intention to establish a royal commission into institutional responses to child abuse. As many in this House will recall, at that time a growing number of allegations concerning child sexual abuse in institutions continued to be raised, leading to the formation of the royal commission. As the then prime minister said regarding those allegations and revelations—

The individuals concerned deserve the most thorough of investigations into the wrongs that have been committed against them. They deserve to have their voices heard and their claims investigated.

No-one in good conscience could dispute that. I commend former prime minister Gillard for instigating this royal commission.

Over the course of nearly five years, the royal commission analysed the experiences of close to 6,900 survivors who bravely spoke to the commission in private sessions. Some of the statistics from those personal accounts made for harrowing reading. The majority of survivors—64 per cent—were male. More than half of the survivors told the commission that they were aged between 10 and 14 years of age when they were first sexually abused. More than 14 per cent of survivors were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. More than four per cent of survivors said they had a disability at the time of the abuse. Nearly 94 per cent of survivors said they were abused by a male. Nearly 84 per cent of survivors said they were abused by an adult. More than a third of survivors said they were abused by multiple perpetrators. The average duration of child sexual abuse experienced in institutions was 2.2 years.

What is more, the commission found that there was a wide range of institutions—public, private and religious—where this sexual abuse occurred, including: child-care services; schools, including religious schools; health and allied services; youth detention; historical residential care; contemporary out-of-home care; religious institutions; family and youth support services; sporting, recreation and other clubs; youth employment; and the armed forces.

Understandably, with such findings by the royal commission and three reports, a number of recommendations have subsequently been made. We are here today to specifically implement the findings stemming from the royal commission's *Redress and civil litigation report* released in September 2015. This report recommended the establishment of a single national redress scheme to provide eligible applicants with four elements of redress: firstly, a monetary payment; secondly, access to counselling; thirdly, psychological care; and, finally, a direct personal response from responsible institutions.

With the federal government establishing the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse built on those elements I just described, it is now time for Queensland to opt in and finally enable survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to access the redress they so rightly deserve. For Queensland, what that entails is a commitment of \$500 million for the purpose of providing redress payments to people who experienced child sexual abuse in institutions run by the Queensland government. Current modelling has indicated that some 10,000 redress applications may relate to abuse in Queensland institutions—half of which are estimated to be from government operated institutions.

The significance of joining this national redress scheme and the importance it holds for survivors of this abuse cannot be overstated. No amount of redress can ever compensate for the hurt and suffering inflicted on those innocent Queenslanders, but it is a beginning. The importance of this scheme is about giving a voice to those who had theirs taken away. It is about Queenslanders who were once children and teenagers who have for far too long had to suffer and survive in silence to be silenced no more.


With the royal commission and this national redress scheme and the passing of this bill today, all of us in this chamber are acutely aware of just how paramount it is that we do all that we can to protect and provide safe environments and communities for all children into the future, because children are our future and there should be absolutely no-one or nothing in their way preventing them from reaching their full potential to innocently grow up as kids—although the term 'full potential' is really a misnomer, as potential is never actual.

The final report into institutional responses to child sexual abuse aptly put it when it stated—

Although, inevitably, the Royal Commission has looked at past events, it is important that the momentum for change initiated by the Royal Commission's work is not lost and that lasting changes to protect children are implemented.

Today we make significant inroads into ensuring that the good work done by the royal commission is not lost, but we cannot end here. It is incumbent upon all members of this parliament, on all of us, to ensure that we continue to promote safe and harmonious communities and institutions—communities and institutions which have no place or tolerance for such horrific abuse.

In closing, I would like to thank the royal commission and place on the parliamentary record my sincere appreciation to the work they did during its extensive investigations and hearings. I would also like to particularly acknowledge the many thousands of survivors and witnesses and thank them for bravely coming forward and making sure that their experiences were known—experiences which ultimately helped shape the recommendations and outcomes we see today. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.44 pm): I rise today to give my full support to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill. At the outset, I wish to commend Minister Di Farmer for taking the lead on this bill and also commend the Premier and Attorney-General who have worked hard to ensure Queensland can participate in the scheme. I had the privilege of representing the minister at a couple of the Commonwealth meetings with state ministers and the federal minister. I want to acknowledge Queensland departmental staff who have done sterling work on this scheme. We are indeed very fortunate to have the calibre of public servants that we have here in Queensland.

The adoption of the national redress scheme in Queensland will bring positive benefits to the lives of thousands of Queenslanders. I know there are many people in my electorate of Ipswich who have been affected by child sexual abuse, and I acknowledge them here today. There are in fact an estimated 10,000 applications expected to be received across Queensland that relate to child sexual abuse committed while the applicants were under the care of Queensland institutions. This bill acknowledges the hurt and the suffering that these survivors of institutionalised child sexual abuse endured while under their care. These institutions' primary duty of care was to protect children, not to harm or betray them.


This bill recognises that, while the abuse may have stopped long ago, survivors still face a daily battle with ongoing trauma which has effectively diminished and haunted their adult lives. While the past cannot be changed and no monetary amount can replace the personal experience of trauma related to child sexual abuse, Queensland's participation in the national redress scheme demonstrates our government's commitment to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. We are committed to giving these people a voice and to listening to their claims with seriousness and compassion so that they may take steps towards healing and justice.

In supporting this bill, I would also like to acknowledge the incredible five years of work led by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse which led to their report recommending the establishment of a single national redress scheme for individuals who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The royal commission gave a voice to those whose claims had been previously ignored or denied.

Over 16,000 individuals contacted the royal commission during their inquiry, over 8,000 private sessions were held and over 1,000 individuals provided written accounts to the royal commission. Many had harrowing personal stories to tell of their abuse, but they also told the inquiry stories of feeling hurt and betrayal as a result of institutions and society disbelieving their claims and denying that anything had ever happened to them. The royal commission allowed them to speak out about these terrible crimes and it led to the uncovering of the shocking toll of systemic abuse in institutions which, unfortunately, had claimed the innocence of far too many children and left them with scars well into their adult lives. In the royal commission's final report, it was rightly called a national tragedy.

To the survivors who came before the royal commission to give their personal accounts, I praise your tremendous bravery for having the courage to speak out. The national redress scheme acknowledges the harm that was done to you by trusted institutions and will hopefully help you move forward and heal. We are all responsible for keeping children safe. Ultimately, we want to establish a lasting culture whereby no child should be subjected to sexual abuse ever again.

I join with Minister Di Farmer in urging non-government institutions which have yet to join the national redress scheme to come forward and participate. I am pleased to say that many non-government institutions have already committed to the scheme, and their actions will strengthen the scheme and help Queenslanders applying for redress. Our Queensland government is committed to acknowledging and recognising past abuses in our institutions. We are proud to be participating in this landmark scheme. I wholly support this bill and commend it to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.48 pm): I rise to speak on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse bill. Australia has a very dark stain on its past with regards to abuse of children in institutions, whether they be state run institutions, church run institutions, sporting groups or community groups. It is something that we as a country should be embarrassed about and, quite frankly, ashamed of. It is good to see that at least there has been some sort of process done at both the federal and state levels to address and recognise the pain that tens of thousands of children suffered over many, many years. In fact in this day and age it is hard to believe how this could have gone on for so long unchallenged, and the enormous amount of pain, hurt and suffering from young people is frankly beyond belief and something that is very difficult to come to terms with.

The royal commission did address these issues and gave victims an opportunity to tell their story. For many it was the first time in their lives that they had their concerns validated and confirmed that this actually did happen to them. Hopefully in some ways this is an opportunity for a therapeutic process for them to get it out of their system and to tell others about it. Of course, it will never heal the suffering and the hurt that they felt, but something has to be done and this goes some way towards that.


The report recommended that there be three elements of redress: a monetary payment—and no matter what amount of money is given, of course it will not be enough—access to counselling and psychological care, which I hope many of the victims are accessing and will continue to access; and a direct response from the responsible institutions. We have seen over a period that some institutions have, unfortunately, had to be dragged kicking and screaming to admit that there was a problem and to admit liability. However, the royal commission shone a light on what was a very dark spot in our history, as I said earlier.

Modelling indicates that approximately 10,000 redress applications may relate to abuse in Queensland institutions. I suspect that 10,000 might be an underestimate. Of these, half would have been in government-run institutions. Again, as a father of four, I just cannot imagine a young child going through that harrowing experience, and for many of them it was relentlessly over a long period. Again, it is hard to believe that in our country something like this can happen. It obviously did and it is necessary that we address it, and this goes some way towards doing that.

Not only do survivors deserve this redress but we need to make sure that our future children are protected from abuse as well. There have been some great reforms done in this area. I know from my previous history as the CEO of SU Queensland, the largest employer of school chaplains, of the processes that now go into making sure that people who work with children are checked, double-checked and triple-checked to make sure that anybody who might be susceptible in this area is blocked. That is happening with church-run institutions, organisations, sporting groups and community groups like the scouts and Girl Guides. That is necessary and some good reform has happened there. It is important that we protect children from any chance of this happening again.

The LNP is very committed to this. We accepted and implemented the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry, which led to child safety notifications and substantiated cases of harm going down under the LNP, which is something we are quite proud of. It is one of the reasons that in recent days we have spoken again about introducing tougher laws to make sure that those who are responsible for these indescribable crimes are not let back out in the community again to do whatever their sick minds want to do with children.

I only intended to make a short contribution. I just want to put on the record my support for this bill. I congratulate the government on coming on board with this as well. I would also encourage any other institution that is yet to come on board to do so. It is important to own up to the mistakes that have been made, to say sorry and to help these poor, innocent victims somehow recover as much as they can from the tragedy that has been bestowed upon them.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.53 pm): Today is a proud moment as we sign on to commence the Queensland operation of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. This is a day that many Queenslanders have been waiting for. This bill will introduce the framework to enable appropriate information sharing by Queensland government agencies for the purposes of the national scheme and will amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments cannot be deducted from a victim assistance payment under the act. I think the committee reported it very well when it said—

While the National Redress Scheme may not meet every expectation, it stands to benefit many thousands of Queensland survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, and offer closure and support they may not otherwise receive.

I would like to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has been a tireless advocate in this space, Joan Isaacs. Joan attended Sacred Heart School in Sandgate where between the ages of 14 and 15 she was groomed, manipulated, harassed and assaulted by the chaplain of the school, Catholic priest Father Derriman. Joan has gone on to tell her story as a survivor of child sexual abuse through the legal processes against her attacker through her book *To Prey and to Silence*, named as a finalist in the *Courier-Mail's* People's Choice Awards last year. Of course Joan was the first witness to appear before the royal commission to share her experience of the Catholic Church's Towards Healing program. Once heard, Joan's story does not and cannot leave you unmoved. Her activism and her voice forge as a way forward for all victims. She is truly remarkable with a deep internal strength. I say thank you, Joan, for your work and thank you to the many activists who have spoken up in this space.

I want to read into the public record the epilogue of Joan's book. It states—

Through the Royal Commission and this book I now have a voice. I have taken back the power that was taken from me as a child. I have taken back the power that was taken from me by the Catholic Church through its Towards Healing program.

Being silenced through threat, shame or guilt serves only the abusers and those who protect them. It takes away the power of the victim and keeps them bound. It allows abuse to continue. Through this Royal Commission, I and other victims have taken back our power. Speaking out is the first step to taking back control of our own lives and destinies.


Through the work of the Royal Commission, the truth about the sexual abuse of children has been exposed. This country will never be the same. In the future, children in institutions who are targeted by abusers will be believed and supported. The Catholic Church will never have the moral authority that it once had and will never again be able to silence victims of clergy abuse.

Speaking out is crucial to healing, but it does not have to be before a Royal Commission. It can be to a partner, a trusted friend or a therapist. Only silence allows the abuser to win and keeps the abused a victim.

I now feel free to begin my healing, forty-seven years after my abuse, seventeen years since my perpetrator was jailed for his crimes and fourteen years after I was silenced by the Church. I am no longer a victim—I am a survivor.

*I am the master of my fate,*

*I am the captain of my soul.*

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.57 pm): It is, indeed, a very sobering piece of legislation that we are here to debate in the House today. I am glad that both sides of the House have indicated their support for the national redress scheme as proposed. I feel it is important to bring some context to the debate. I think it would be remiss of us to assume that in passing this legislation we have indeed addressed the problem for all time.

When I was first asked by Campbell Newman to be the assistant minister for child safety back in 2012, I took it on myself to read the findings of a number of inquiries over a two- or three-day period. At that point there were only two: there was the Forde inquiry of 1998 and then the subsequent inquiry that was initiated by the Beattie government via a CMC report of 2004. Then when we came to government in 2012 we launched a commission of inquiry, the Carmody commission of inquiry. I want to quote directly from the original report that was prepared by Leneen Forde. The terms of reference for that initial inquiry were that the inquiry—

... make full and careful inquiry without undue formality with respect to the following matters—

The priority matter of course was an inquiry into—

... any government or non-government institutions or detention centres established or licensed under the *State Children Act 1911*, *Children's Services Act 1965* or the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*.

I note the observations of Leneen Forde in her report to the parliament. In the forward she says—

I urge all Queenslanders to contemplate the experiences of children in institutions, how it came to pass that many of them were abused and mistreated, and why it has taken so long for their stories to be told. It was society that failed those children. In acknowledging that, we must ensure that the same wrongs are not repeated, and that this Inquiry has a positive outcome.

Those words were penned some 20 years ago. She goes on to say—

This is no ordinary report. This was no ordinary Inquiry. For the Commissioners and staff of the Inquiry, the experience has been deeply moving and deeply disquieting.

I think that is a significant word to sum up the challenges and feelings that all of us have when we try and get our minds around the fact that anyone would want to sexually abuse a child. I stand in the House today as the proud grandfather of my first granddaughter—

**Mr Brown:** You're too young, mate!

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Thank you. My son sent me a video clip this morning of Zoe May's first attempt at crawling, so it is a very poignant reminder for me that, as members of parliament, we are entrusted to protect our most vulnerable and precious Queenslanders. Some of the challenges that the Forde inquiry faced were daunting. The inquiry reviewed practices from as far back as 1911. The review looked into the behaviours and operations of some 150 orphanages and detention centres across the state of Queensland.

It would be remiss of me not to remind the House that we have made a number of attempts to address the plight of victims—or survivors, as many of them prefer to be called. There was an apology to those Queenslanders harmed in institutions during their childhood back in late 1999. Subsequent to that there was an apology to those children who had been in the care of the state of Queensland and suffered in any way as a result of mistreatment in adult mental health facilities. Then in our time in government, the Newman government, there was a further apology. While it is not completely relevant, it is still significant. There was an apology to those children, families and parents for forced adoption policies and practices.



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Members, there is far too much audible conversation. If you want to have conversations take it outside, please. Please listen to these speeches with the respect they deserve.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** These are incredibly deep matters of the heart. Again I quote from the Leneen Forde inquiry, where she raised the question how the abuse was allowed to happen. She said—

How was it that numbers of children, while under the guardianship of the State and in the care of some of our most esteemed denominational bodies, were able to be abused? This has been a difficult question to answer. There are a range of factors that have contributed. Until the early 1960s there was little understanding of the emotional needs of children, and even less understanding of the impact that harsh emotional and physical treatment has on children in later life. Ignorance played a role: both the Department and society in general believed that if children were in the care of trusted religious organisations or 'good upstanding citizens', they would be safe. There was also the lack of awareness or belief that sexual abuse could occur.

Institutions were under-funded, short-staffed and generally closed environments with limited opportunity for meaningful interaction with the local community. Isolation from the wider community and the lack of external scrutiny places an institution at high risk of harbouring abusive practices. Physical isolation also makes it difficult for professionals or relatives to visit.


As I stand in the House, I am pleased that this is no longer the case. Prior to and during the 1960s we had very limited legislation, disclosure or accountability around the treatment of our children but now, three inquiries on, we have much more rigorous practices in place.

Our job is not done; there are still too many concerns being raised. I pulled these statistics today from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women website. We continue to see an increase in the number of child concern reports to the department. We see an increase in the number of children living away from home. We know that, while there are many great carers out there, not all children living away from home are well cared for. This continues to be a challenge both for us in government and the Department of Child Safety.

I note that in her report Leneen Forde particularly expressed concern about Indigenous children. At the time of the inquiry in 1999 it was very difficult to secure evidence from witnesses in Indigenous communities. Sadly, as we stand here today about 56 per cent of all children in out-of-home care in Queensland are in fact Indigenous children. Our work absolutely has a long way to go and there is still so much more to do.

In the few minutes I have left I want to talk about someone whom I want to honour. You may have heard of the 'mower man', Claude Harvey. Claude is a wonderful gentleman from the Gold Coast who I had the pleasure of meeting 12 years ago at Hope Island, when he did his first mower push from Hope Island to Coolangatta to raise money for Bravehearts. It was around the same time that I had the pleasure of being invited onto the board of Bravehearts. Apart from my 12 months in child safety I have continued to work with the organisation, and I remain a director. In the 12 years that Claude Harvey has been pushing that lawn mower for Bravehearts—and this is remarkable—he has raised \$1,073,090 just for Bravehearts. He has pushed his mower some 24,500 kilometres around Australia.


Last Friday night I had the great pleasure of standing with him at Club CSI in Southport. He was there with the mower, and I promised I would buy him dinner and together we would collect a few dollars for Bravehearts. When I grabbed the microphone to interrupt the bingo and other games that were going on throughout the evening to tell people that Claude Harvey was there, almost everyone in the house stood to their feet and gave Claude Harvey an incredible standing ovation. I do want to pay homage to him because he is such a tireless and hard worker for the cause of child safety. He stands with me and others in the fight against child sexual abuse in our state and in our nation.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.08 pm): I rise today to speak very briefly but to add my support to the national redress legislation. In doing so, I commend the decision of the then Gillard government to order a royal commission into an issue that desperately needed—and still needs—to be addressed. It is wonderful to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which supports the national redress scheme in order to ensure that survivors of child sexual abuse have their experiences acknowledged and validated. I also acknowledge the bipartisan support that this legislation is receiving. I think it is important that the parliament is united in condemning these heinous offences and committed to doing whatever we can to right this wrong together.

Sadly, we know that a significant amount of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone who is known to the child and often to their family—somebody that they and their family trust. That is why child abuse is so insidious and why it can be so difficult to uncover. Worse still, some victims are not believed when they do disclose abuse, adding insult to injury.

This legislation is so important. My electorate of Mount Ommaney is very close to Wolston Park in Wacol, where harrowing abuse was perpetrated over many years. Many residents at Wolston Park have bravely spoken on the public record about the abuse they were subjected to. Some of them now call Mount Ommaney home.

It is horrifying to acknowledge that some of this abuse was carried out in facilities that were state run. That is why I am so pleased and so proud that, as part of the legislation, the state will ultimately take responsibility for ensuring redress is made in circumstances where the relevant body is no longer active. These survivors have waited long enough to have their hurts acknowledged. As the member for Gaven has said, there is no amount of money that can right these wrongs, but it is about doing what is right. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the national redress scheme bill. On 30 April 2018 the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, publicly announced that the Queensland government would opt in to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. As usual, Queensland was slow to the table. The Premier was dragged kicking and screaming, along with other Labor state governments, to support this scheme. This aside, I am proud to stand in this parliament as an elected representative and finally bring restitution to victims of institutional child sexual abuse.

The establishment of the scheme is an acknowledgement by the Australian government and participating governments that sexual abuse suffered by children in institutional settings was wrong. It was a betrayal of trust and it should never have happened. It recognises the suffering survivors have experienced and accepts that these events occurred and that institutions must take responsibility for this abuse.

The federal government acknowledged the need to provide public recognition of the suffering experienced by survivors and investigate the inadequate responses provided by institutions through the establishment of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the royal commission. The royal commission's *Redress and civil litigation report* recommended the establishment of a national redress scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. All governments and individual institutions were directed to make amends and take responsibility.

The royal commission estimates that almost 20,000 survivors were sexually abused in state and territory government institutions. The royal commission also identified more than 4,000 institutions where sexual abuse took place. Modelling indicates that approximately 10,000 redress applications may relate to abuse just in Queensland institutions alone. Of this, 5,000 are estimated to be from government run institutions.

The establishment of a national redress scheme acknowledges that the abuse occurred. It is the most significant step in addressing the wrongs of the past and providing a just response to survivors. It is also an important step towards healing. It ensures governments and institutions take steps to safeguard against these crimes being repeated in the future.

The national redress scheme will provide access to counselling, an apology from the institution involved and a monetary payment. This is an important part of the healing process as the institution acknowledges the harm caused to children in their care. Survivors in Queensland will be eligible for up to \$150,000 in redress, an apology and psychological care under the national scheme.

I hope for the sake of survivors that the rollout of the Queensland part of this scheme is implemented smoothly; however, sadly, Labor does not take child safety in Queensland seriously. Its track record on this seriously important issue has been appalling. When Peter Beattie called an election in February 2004 after being in government for six years, he acknowledged the need to repair the state's child protection system. Why? Because a Crime and Misconduct Commission report was released which outlined systemic child abuse within the state's foster care regime. This was also off the back of the Forde inquiry, initiated by former premier Anna Bligh in 1998, and nothing improved during that time. Labor remained in power for a further eight years, until 2012, under Beattie and Bligh, in which time child safety went from bad to worse.

In 2014 the LNP accepted all of the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and over the following 18 months began rolling out some of the largest reforms in child safety the state had seen. In three years and eight months under Palaszczuk, Fentiman and the current minister, we are now the second worst performing state in the country in child safety—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I would ask you to stick within the long title of the bill. I have granted some latitude, and you have strayed very, very far away from the long title of the bill. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BATES:** In South Australia there was a royal commission into child safety. This government sat on the final report of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee for 16 months and then only released it during the middle of estimates to avoid scrutiny.

The Labor government for three years has sat on its hands whilst crisis engulfs the department and put Queensland kids at risk. Despite being warned three years ago that something needed to be done, all we have seen is a government more concerned about renaming hospitals and hanging out with Dora the Explorer—

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have just made a ruling asking the member to speak to the long title of the bill. The long title of the bill is quite specific. I ask that—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. The point of order is on relevance. I call the member for Mudgeeraba but ask you to stay within the long title of the bill.

**Ms BATES:** Thank you. I will refer to the long title of the bill, which is about child sexual abuse in institutions. Last year, child safety data showed that over 60 per cent of investigations into suspected abuse did not start within the recommended time frames. Under Labor, the number of kids exiting care who had 10 or more placements has also doubled since 2014.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member, resume your seat. If you cannot come back to the long title of the bill, I will stop you from making a further contribution. Please stay within the long title of the bill.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have the long title of the bill in front of me. Not only does it refer to adopting the national redress act; it also refers certain matters relating to the redress scheme for child sexual abuse to the parliament of the Commonwealth, for the purposes of the Commonwealth Constitution. It also amends the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 for particular purposes. It is not so limited as the minister would have us believe. It is a very broad long title.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for that. I will take some advice. There is no point of order. The member for Mudgeeraba has the call. I ask her to stay within the long title of the bill.

**Ms BATES:** I note that stakeholders' views came from PeakCare Queensland, which is the peak care body that deals with child safety; Bravehearts, which deals with child sexual abuse; Community Legal Centres Queensland; Micah Projects, which has received quite a deal of funding from the current government; and, more importantly, the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner herself. Child safety across this state comes within the purview of the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner.

I notice that there were concerns relating to the national redress act which included the lowering of the maximum redress payments from \$200,000 to \$150,000—Queensland has followed the federal lead in doing this; limitations imposed upon the provision of the redress elements of counselling and psychological care services; restrictions upon eligibility that impact upon categories of survivors including noncitizens, survivors currently in prison and survivors who at some time of their life have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of five years or more; families of survivors who committed suicide not being able to access redress; the approach taken to providing a funder of last resort to provide redress in situations where the responsible institution no longer exists and/or has no assets or successor; the lack of enforcement penalties for entities that do not comply with notices; shortening the period for accepting redress offers to six months, as opposed to the recommended 12 months; and requiring that redress applications be in the form of a statutory declaration.

Other concerns worth noting are that the royal commission's recommendation of making religious ministers mandatory reporters of real or suspected child sexual abuse has not been adopted by the national redress scheme or this bill. Tasmania, South Australia and the ACT are working towards mandating reporting.


On a personal note, I would like to relate something that happened to me as a young mum in a small country town. I was applying for my children to go to the local Catholic school and some of the questions that the parish priest at the time was posing to both my husband and I were quite suspect, actually. I will never forget going home as my mum and my grandma are very strong Catholics and all they wanted was for my two boys to be altar boys. I was the first one in the family to have boys, so it was going to be a big deal to have your sons as altar boys. I just had a gut feeling about this priest. I went home and had a huge fight with my mum and said that I would not be doing that with the boys and 10 years later it came out that three other boys, who were the sons of another girl that I went to school with, were the victims of sexual assault by that priest. He has since been prosecuted, so there but for the grace of God go my two sons that something did not happen to them.

The national redress scheme will provide access to counselling, an apology from the institution involved and a monetary payment. This is an important part of the healing process as the institutions acknowledge the harm caused to children in care. The LNP has a strong record, as I said, when it

comes to addressing child safety issues. We accepted and implemented all of the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry and child safety notifications were going down under the LNP but have gone backwards under Labor. As usual, the Palaszczuk Labor government has taken a slowly, slowly approach to this issue. As I have said before, it has been dragged kicking and screaming to sign on to the national redress scheme.

The debate we are having today is about more than passing a bill, though, through this House or supporting a much needed scheme of redress. This bill is about righting a wrong. It is about ensuring that the countless victims of sexual abuse in their childhood are finally given the support, acknowledgement and remuneration they deserve. I am so proud that I have been part of the LNP which highlighted this issue nationally and announced this important policy which in turn saw legislation introduced into this House. Whilst the government's bill has flaws which I and many colleagues have highlighted today, I am pleased to see a bipartisan approach taken to finally support the survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the member for Townsville, I just want to remind members that every speaker that I have heard so far this afternoon has relayed some degree of information that is personal and no doubt difficult for them to relay. I would ask all members of the House to listen respectfully whenever anybody is giving a contribution because we are dealing with a very difficult subject matter and I am very pleased that we are conducting this debate in a very respectful way.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.22 pm): I stood in this House on 8 November 2016 and gave a speech on the Limitation of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and want to read an excerpt of that speech to establish a context—

In the early 1990s Bruce Grundy was a journalist and editor for a small independent newspaper in Queensland. He single-handedly broke the story to the nation of the decades of abuse at St Joseph's orphanage at Neerkol in Rockhampton.

...

Some 20 years later, the stories of Nazareth House, Silky Oaks and Neerkol have now come to light after decades of suppression by the keepers of those stories, those who were abused and tortured by those who were trusted to look after our children: the nuns and priests of St Joseph's Neerkol orphanage. However, speaking out about those atrocities comes at a price. The long-term pain and mental anguish that these people have harboured often comes bubbling to the surface when they relive those horrific events of their past. It does not stop there; threats upon their lives for revealing the truths about their ordeals were not uncommon.


This bill is the next step that we need to take as a society to recognise what has truly happened to those poor men and women and what they endured at various institutions. We will never be able to change what happened but we can change what happens into the future. This afternoon we have already heard different speakers talk about what the Australian Lawyers Alliance said. It said—

We believe that the establishment of a National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse has the potential to have a genuine positive impact on the lives of thousands of people whose lives have been affected by sexual abuse when they were children.

Back to the man who started this, Bruce Grundy—professor of journalism at the University of Queensland, now retired—is my uncle. I can remember the countless weeks, months and years where his research into the events at Neerkol would uncover some of the most horrific stories of child sex abuse and abuse of young children that would make every person cringe.

As a young teacher myself in the 1990s I would listen to Bruce tell story after story of barbaric treatment that the nuns and priests would inflict upon innocent children at these institutions. Bruce would also tell me that instances such as these were not confined to Neerkol but also occurred in other institutions such as Nazareth House, Silky Oaks and John Oxley. I am sure that if not for the work of Bruce Grundy during those early days of the 1990s when he was the editor of the independent newspaper and broke the story of Neerkol not only to Queenslanders but to the world perhaps this legislation would not be being debated this afternoon.

I thank Bruce Grundy, my uncle, for his work over the many decades and, in doing so, I commend the government's bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.24 pm): Today I stand to speak on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill. In doing so, I want to recognise the victims affected by this bill. Before continuing, I want to thank the members and the secretariat of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for their work on this bill.

As I am sure all would be aware, on 14 September 2015 the federal government's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released a report detailing its findings and recommendations. To put it simply, the findings of this commission were absolutely shocking. The

report revealed a history of almost systemic abuse and cover-ups amongst many institutions, ranging from religious groups to government controlled entities. Many individuals in these groups, often trusted with the protection and safeguarding of society's most vulnerable, had repeatedly breached this trust and committed unfathomable and heinous acts of sexual abuse against children. The mind boggles at how these acts could have remained hidden for so long, but now after their revelation the time has come for the wrongs of the past to be righted, the culprits to be put to justice and for the victims—many of whom will forever carry the mental scars of this abuse—to receive the support they deserve.

To begin this process, the report recommended the federal government establish and implement a single national redress scheme to provide victims of institutional abuse the support they require. The report recommended that this scheme take a three-element approach comprised of monetary payments to the victim, the provision of easy access to counselling and psychological care, and the request for a direct personal response from the institution responsible. Taking these recommendations on board, the federal LNP government quickly legislated its National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and invited the nation's state and territory governments, as well as non-government entities, to opt in to the scheme.

Across the country governments and non-government entities rushed to voluntarily join the scheme and begin repairing past wrongs. That of course was the case virtually everywhere—bar right here in Queensland. Indeed, only on 30 April this year—over 2½ years since the commission handed down its report—did the Premier announce that Queensland would finally be signing up to the national scheme. This announcement was another case of better late than never and it leads us to where we are today where we finally find ourselves on the precipice of implementing this bill which will see Queensland adopt the relevant Commonwealth legislation required to allow the national redress scheme to operate here in Queensland.

Whilst in opposition, it is the role of my colleagues and I to put this government to task and to ask the questions which show us what the government's real priorities are. Recent modelling suggests that 10,000 redress applications can be expected in Queensland. Given that many of these applications are expected to be made to redress abuse which occurred in government-run institutions, would it not make sense that the government prioritise allowing these applications to be made?

The delay in getting this legislation to the House says to me that this government is just playing politics with Canberra and is not prioritising assistance and redress to victims. It is evident that somewhere along the road successive governments in Queensland have failed in their responsibility to protect our children and have ignored or covered up rampant cases of child abuse. Why has it taken this government so long to realise that, by not immediately doing all that we can to rectify these wrongs, we simply leave the door open for more abuse? It is our collective duty to remain vigilant and protect Queenslanders. Although reports of prior negligence may be difficult to read, the government needs to stop pretending they do not exist. The heinous events of the past have been covered for too long. It is time to face up to the difficult truth and give victims the support they need to move forward.


As others have stated, some hesitancy on the part of the government could be attributed to what was contained in the committee's report—that some have raised concern that compensation is not enough. However, when looking at the ins and outs of the scheme, there is no excuse for lacklustre action. The national scheme is entered into on a purely voluntary basis. That means that both the government or the institution and the victim must elect to opt in. If it is clear that thousands of Queenslanders are willing to opt into the scheme on a voluntary basis and take up the support that it offers, again I ask: why has this government delayed doing the same?

The scheme provides the opportunity for victims to receive compensation and support without having to undergo the stress and trauma of court proceedings. In my previous role I have personally received complaints and heard stories of terrible abuse. I can tell members that I have seen lives lost to suicide as a direct result of the mental health problems caused by this abuse. This scheme is not a perfect solution and for some nothing will ever help repair the mental scars left by abuse or make up for the betrayal of these once trusted institutions. Nonetheless, for many victims of abuse, this scheme will go a long way to beginning the process of healing. It will help restore our community's trust in institutions whose reputations have been torn to shreds.

We know that this government's track record on child protection is not great but, by endorsing the federal LNP government's actions through this scheme, it gives it some opportunity for redemption. Finally, the Premier, albeit as slowly as possible, has come to the conclusion that implementing this bill is the right thing to do not only for victims of past abuse but also for the children of today. Any failure to take action places them at risk of being victims of the same abuse as were previous generations.

The safety of children needs to be the first priority. Today, we in this House have a chance to go a long way towards ensuring their safety. This scheme is good—not perfect, but good enough to help protect future generations, right the wrongs of the past and provide the long ignored victims of institutional abuse the chance to begin to heal.

In closing, I would like to join my colleagues in encouraging any institution that has been offered the opportunity to opt into the scheme to do so. Only they can rectify the mistakes that have been made in the past. Failing to acknowledge these mistakes and dragging their feet will only tarnish their reputation further. I say to them to face up to the accusations, acknowledge the wrongdoings and show everyone that they are willing to do what they can to reclaim the community's trust.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. I congratulate the minister on introducing this bill into this House for debate. The evidence that was revealed by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was truly sickening. I know that a lot of us were sickened by what we had heard, but I think the public is even more sickened by anyone playing politics with this issue. This institutional abuse occurred across many decades. The public want it fixed and the victims want it fixed. They do not want people making cheap political points on an issue that is very dear to their heart.


This bill is all about us, as representatives of this parliament, as mature adults, putting politics aside and standing beside these victims. Let us pass this bill to give the redress that these victims deserve after the many decades of abuse that was found to have occurred by the royal commission. We must accept that institutional sexual abuse has been occurring for generations. It falls on the shoulders of the members of this parliament to be mature enough to stand up and pass this bill so that we can get the redress scheme working to assist these victims.

We cannot ignore what happened. The commissioners were well aware of many of the measures that have been implemented already to better protect children and respond to the needs of survivors. I think the minister has done an excellent job in putting those measures in place. As the Minister for Education, I have made sure that our educational institutions have also implemented policies to protect our children.

I am very proud that this government has opted in to participate in the national redress scheme, which I believe will contribute to healing. Making cheap political points will not. This bill will help in the healing and provide recognition to those people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. As we know, many of them were not believed. Instead of acknowledgement, respect and support, many of them were subjected to institutional corruption and cover-up. These institutions were breeding grounds for perpetrators who found their way into them knowing that their victims would not be believed, would not be respected and that for decades action would not be taken. I am so proud to say that I am in a society that recognises this issue. The culture has changed and we now take these allegations and matters seriously and we are implementing changes.

We came into the redress scheme in April 2018 but, as a state government, we made sure that the scheme that we went into was the right one—one that would respond to victims, one that we would be happy to be a part of, one that would ensure that victims received what they required. From a government perspective, and as the Minister for Education, for 16 of the 189 recommendations Education is the lead agency. Those recommendations include measures such as making sure we have child safety standards and how institutions can implement them, which we have done, and which we continue to refine. We examine the record keeping and information sharing and, obviously, responses to child sexual abuse allegations in schools, the manner in which schools take these serious allegations and we have also introduced legislative changes.

As we know, the scheme offers redress in three ways: a monetary payment, counselling and psychological care, and the option to receive a direct personal response from institutions responsible for providing the redress. Today, I am very proud to say that we are opting into this redress scheme. I definitely support this bill. I urge any institution that has been named but has not yet opted in to do so. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.37 pm): I rise to speak to this truly important bill. The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 will provide Queensland victims of child sexual abuse with redress for abuse suffered while they were under the control of Queensland institutions. I believe that most Queenslanders were shocked and saddened by the evidence that emerged from the royal commission into child sexual abuse. This evil had been perpetrated across Australian society by unchallenged authority figures in some of Australia's most

trusted institutions, including Queensland government-run institutions. These crimes were committed against our most vulnerable and powerless—our children. The heart recoils and it is simply unforgivable.

While the royal commission was sitting, I know that the Gregory electorate office helped several constituents who wished to make a submission to the royal commission. In every case, it was an enormously difficult decision for these victims to take part in the proceedings and put that into action. Initially, many victims were very hesitant to come forward. I congratulate the former commission for the excellent way in which they handled the difficulties facing these victims. Thanks to their good work, many victims were encouraged to speak out so that the commission could collect the evidence of victims and a picture began to emerge of the scale of the crime that had been hidden.

The effects of the abuse suffered by these children has lasted their whole life long and has, in turn, affected their adult relationships, their work life and their family life. Despite the inevitable reawakening of old traumas by evidence emerging from the royal commission, these people were desperate for the events to be publicly acknowledged as historical fact and for their pain to be acknowledged as real. Indeed, part of the damage inflicted on them was the denial—by the perpetrators, by the institution and by society—that anything had happened. This bill is vital in completing that act of public recognition of what occurred at the hands of persons and institutions that should have been trustworthy but were the opposite.


This bill is vital in affording public acknowledgement of the pain endured by the victims. We acknowledge that pain by ensuring public redress is made. I know this does not undo the evil. That is impossible and it is not the purpose of the redress referred to in the bill title. The redress is a small public recognition of the past evils suffered by these victims. Old definitions of the word 'redress' define the term as having the meaning of 'to set upright' and I sincerely hope that this act of redress helps victims to set their world upright and that it contributes to them finding some peace.

Like many people in this House I am proud to welcome this bill. It is a necessary and overdue bill that will enable Queensland to participate in the federal government's national redress scheme, but I must note how long it has taken to get to this point. It must seem like a very long road for those victims. The royal commission ran from 2013 until its final report in December 2016. Its proper title was the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The revelations of what had occurred were horrific. The fact that our educational, religious, sporting, youth and state institutions had covered up, had aided and abetted the abusers, was a devastating betrayal of the victims and of our Australian ideals.

While not speaking to the federal bill, I am saddened that it does not fully translate the royal commission's recommendations. I would have liked to see this done. However, the federal government has made a sincere attempt and we must start somewhere. I do encourage the federal and state governments to continue to work together and work with the stakeholders to continue improvements to the scheme that will more fully capture the royal commission's recommendations.

I apologise to Queensland victims that it has taken so long for governments to bring this necessary legislation to the House. Pictures of little Mason Jet Lee were in the media again last week. His case is a reminder that we must do better—we must do so much better. While the Attorney-General is appealing the inadequate sentence in this case, SBS News reports that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council has found that Queensland child killers are more likely to be convicted of manslaughter than murder and spend less time behind bars than people who kill adults. It also found that offenders convicted of child manslaughter receive on average shorter jail terms than those who kill adults. Like many Queenslanders, and as a father, I question what it takes to take a child's safety seriously. Certainly we are seeing notifications, separations and reported risk of harm going to pre Carmody inquiry days. That was a very valuable inquiry which was instituted by the LNP and the LNP government accepted and implemented all of the recommendations fully.


Queensland stakeholders in this legislation were let down by governments of the day when they were children. Finally Queensland has joined the national redress scheme so that redress can be made to those victims. I hope that we are not going to further injure the victims by creating false hurdles and delays in making the redress. We must act now. I welcome the efforts to properly recognise the wrongs done to children who have suffered at the hands of these sexual abusers in institutions and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.43 pm): I acknowledge the immense work of the royal commission over the five years of its inquiry. I also acknowledge the immense bravery of all who have shared their horrific stories. I want to acknowledge the Central Queenslanders who attended St Joseph's Neerkol

orphanage near Rockhampton. Neerkol was a horror movie in real life for the children who lived there. The Rockhampton region must never forget the awful, horrendous and appalling treatment of children in a place where they were supposed to be cared for by people they were supposed to be able to trust. The Neerkol nuns' reign of terror ran for decades. It was only brought to an end by the orphanage's 1978 closure.

It was the royal commission that revealed the full horror of what went on in the dormitories, the yards, the dining halls and the priests' quarters not so long ago. Children were routinely slapped, flogged, starved, sodomised and ridiculed by nuns. There were public floggings, there was walking on children in high heels and forcing bedwetters to stand hungry in the dining room with their urine-soaked sheets draped over their heads while the other children ate breakfast. About 4,000 children, mostly state wards, passed through the orphanage over its 93 years of operation. I have personally met with many of these children, now adults, who experienced this horrific abuse at Neerkol and also others who experienced abuse in other institutions and they have told me how important this national redress scheme is to them to acknowledge the harm suffered by them as children which is so important to their healing.

I extend my gratitude for the immense bravery of all who have shared their stories and to those who supported them through the royal commission, including organisations like Micah Projects and Lotus Place. Whilst no amount of money can compensate for their suffering, the national redress scheme is an important step towards healing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.46 pm): In rising to speak on this bill, it is acknowledged that these dreadful historic child sexual offences do not leave the memories of those who have to live with the legacy of damage not only in their own lives but also, tragically, so often in their own families as well. The wounds from these types of abuses go beyond just the physical, they deeply affect people's relationships and deeply affect another generation in how they relate. Tragically, it is these sorts of legacies that even a redress scheme may not be able to fully address. But it is important and that is why we support the legislation before the House which provides a framework to make things better today even if it cannot rewrite the past.

There is a simple principle that whatever is done in secret will be shouted from the rooftops. When children are harmed these terrible, terrible crimes cannot be kept hidden forever. Tragically, the damage that is done in silence, behind closed doors and hidden in an abusive power imbalance is done before these stories come to light. That is why it was so important that those who were empowered and able to speak about the past had that opportunity to do so through the recent royal commission. We have heard the voices of victims speaking up and, tragically, the voices of families who have lost loved ones who took their lives because the pain was so great.

This program of restitution through this framework that we are seeking to ratify in this parliament will provide a monetary payment, access to counselling and psychological care, as well as providing a direct response from the responsible institutions. As we have heard, it cuts across all institutions, from state to church and right across-the-board. It is incredible today to think that these things could have been swept under the carpet. Children are powerless. They do not have economic power. They are reliant on adults to look after them. In recent days we have been horrified as we have heard about adults who should have been caring for children who have done terrible damage and even killed them. While they may be within a family setting, a very damaged family setting, it is no less reprehensible. Within an institutional setting there are a greater number of vulnerable victims put at risk and the opportunity for these sorts of abuses to go undetected for longer increases.


While this program of restitution will not completely heal or remove the harms of the past, it can be a step forward in the process of healing. However, we must remain ever-vigilant against any situation where a child is put at risk. It is an opportunity for us to better understand what it means for those who do not want to be victims of the past; they want to break through and provide meaning for themselves and the opportunity for a better future for others.

A few years ago, as Speaker in this parliament, I had the opportunity of welcoming and listening to the stories of some who had been through state institutional abuse. It opened my eyes to how that legacy of hurt had impacted their lives. I was incredibly and powerfully moved at their desire to ensure that their stories could bring about a better future for other people, especially children. Therefore, in the parliament there are plaques that recognise past apologies to some of the victims of those terrible crimes. However, an apology alone is not enough to heal the past. This is about empowerment, it is about ensuring that these things do not happen again and it is about providing not only counselling and appropriate support measures but also a framework that ensures that they can occur.




As my colleague the member for Gregory mentioned before, there can be a concern that, even with the best of intentions, the nature of legislation and the rollout of the provision of access may mean that there will be hurdles that some of the most vulnerable and sometimes fragile survivors of abuse can find difficult to overcome. In the implementation of this scheme, I urge sensitivity, as well as persistent and compassionate care, not only for the fragile but also for those less fragile as they seek ways to empower themselves to overcome. Whatever their story, we must ensure that accessing support is not made so difficult or onerous that there is a re-abuse or a re-damaging of people who may feel they are reliving the horror of the past.

In supporting the legislation before the House, I recognise that this is not the end of the process. It is a step along the way as we fight to ensure that there is support for those who have been subject to what they should never have had to endure and that there is a better future for others going forward.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.52 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. Every September I am very honoured to be invited by the survivors who live in my region to a remembrance ceremony to acknowledge and remember the adult survivors of childhood abuse in institutional care.

At first glance, that group of forgotten Australians from my electorate and surrounding regions look okay, but once you sit down and have a short chat to them you realise that they are carrying the burdens and scars of their childhoods. Most were former Neerkol orphanage children. Their stories of beatings, rapes and humiliations are horrific by any standard. As children, they were shunned and punished because their parents died or had become too unwell to care for them. That must never ever happen again.

The national redress scheme stands to benefit many thousands of people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland and offers the closure and support that they may not otherwise receive. On behalf of Francis, Cindy, the many Davids and Johns, Colin, Natalie, Janet, Shirley and their families, as well as many other adults, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.54 pm): I rise to speak in support of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. The bill is essential for the state government to participate in the excellent work of the federal coalition government's scheme to compensate victims of child sexual abuse by participating institutions and government agencies. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the High Court on 12 June this year. The committee's report was delivered on 9 August.

I thank all members of the committee and the secretariat for the difficult work they have done during the review of the bill. The bill seeks to adopt in Queensland the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and introduce a framework to enable information sharing by Queensland government agencies for the handling of applications for redress under the national scheme. The bill also seeks to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that redress payments cannot be deducted from victim assistance payments under that act.

The committee received and accepted for publication 16 submissions, including a late submission from the Bar Association of Queensland. On 25 June, the committee received a public briefing about the bill from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and then held public hearings. On 20 July, the committee received a second briefing from the department. Consultation for the issues traversed by the bill included extensive engagement with victims of institutional child sexual abuse, support groups and institutions by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

A series of meetings and round tables was hosted by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with key stakeholders to inform the government's response to the royal commission. Between March 2018 and June 2018, round tables were held in Cairns, Townsville, Caboolture, Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich and the Gold Coast. Recurring themes in the feedback from participants in the round tables included: an emphasis on trauma-informed and culturally safe service responses; the importance of community education; resourcing issues and the needs of rural and remote people; the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and the ongoing impacts of abuse on people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

As we would all be aware, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse uncovered shocking, disturbing and often unfathomable abuse across various institutions, religious groups and government controlled entities. Some of the organisations that held our greatest

trust and were supposed to care for our most vulnerable, our children, betrayed that trust, at times in the most heinous ways. Many years later, people still suffer the mental and physical scars of that abuse. Organisations have been left with their reputations in tatters, having failed our children so badly. Our Australian community will take a very long time to heal from the shameful revelations of the inquiry.

The reality of what has been uncovered, having been covered up for so long, has meant that survivors can be heard, believed and begin the process of healing. It is because of a desire to commence that process of healing that the federal government has negotiated this redress scheme. Monetary compensation, apologies and counselling are offered under a system of application weighted heavily in favour of the victim, to ensure that they are not put through more trauma by having to gather or produce evidence to a standard of proof that may be required at a court level.


The Queensland government has elected to opt in to this scheme, but it was a case of better late than never when the Queensland Labor government committed \$500 million to the scheme on 30 April 2018. The LNP called on Labor to take action on this issue well before the Premier signed up to the vital scheme. All other states have signed on to the redress scheme now. Modelling has suggested that under the scheme there will be around 10,000 applications in Queensland and that around half of those are expected to be for abuse within Queensland government-run institutions. Not only do survivors deserve this redress; Queensland's current and future children deserve to be protected from abuse.

The non-government members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee agreed to the committee's report on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, which recommends the bill be passed, but we wanted to bring some matters to the attention of the House, including issues raised by the Bar Association of Queensland. Its submission raised pertinent issues related to the administration of the national redress scheme, which the bill seeks to adopt in Queensland.

These issues related to aspects of the review procedures provided for in the national redress scheme, information requests for church institutions that are no longer in operation and the treatment of redress payments in family law proceedings. Given the lateness of the submission, the committee, in its consideration of the submission, did not have the opportunity to take advice from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women on the points raised.

In conclusion, the national redress scheme is the beginning of the healing process. It is an opportunity for us as a community to acknowledge the failures of the past. It is an opportunity for organisations that have historically done so much good in the community to commence the process of rebuilding trust. This is a good system not a perfect system. It is a good system to begin the process of healing and making reparations to victims of child sex abuse. I support this bill before the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Bonney, I notify you that at 4.04 pm the debate will conclude.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.00 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to make a contribution on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill. We have all seen the horrors reported during the royal commission that have led to these laws. The stories there will stay with fair-minded Australians for many years to come. This is a great day for the survivors of these horrible circumstances, but it is not good enough that they had to wait for so long. They will finally be able to access counselling, an apology from the institution involved and a monetary payment which will be in line with the national cap of \$150,000.

Two stories from my city, the Gold Coast, have stood out in particular. These were revealed in the royal commission's private sessions and are available on their website. They provide a clear picture of the tragic circumstances that have led to this redress scheme.

Darlene, not her real name, was sexually abused by three different priests at a Gold Coast Catholic school. The third raped her when she went to him to report the other two. I will not go into the details today, but they are nothing short of horrific. She said in her report to the commission that the scars that have been left on her from that time have shaped every part of her life. She struggled in her working life and in handling a committed relationship. She was diagnosed with PTSD and considered suicide more than once. Decades later she engaged with the church but hated the experience and considered the compensation pitiful compared to the suffering she had gone through. When a final offer was made she was told she had only hours to accept it and that if she did not she could take it to court and see how far she got. We are passing these laws today to ensure this sort of unacceptable situation never occurs again.

The second story is about Bobbie—a young girl requiring 24/7 care. She was the epitome of a vulnerable person that needed protection and care and yet it was her carer from the now defunct organisation FSG who sexually assaulted her. Even after police substantiated the report no prosecution was made and FSG covered up the matter, falsifying evidence and not even terminating the employment of that carer.

Over and over the stories of abuse like this are shocking and yet what is often more shocking is the lack of response or steps taken against the victim. It is good to see the government joining every other state and territory to provide much needed support to survivors. However, it should not have taken so long to get here.

There is expected to be 5,000 Queenslanders eligible, with the potential for another 5,000 who endured abuse in privately run institutions. Hopefully through the passage of this legislation we will see more survivors come forward to receive assistance for what they went through. I note the Premier said the delay in Queensland signing up to the scheme was due to complications surrounding a previous redress scheme. This is about the response to what these victims have had to deal with and it is a shame they have been left in the lurch.

I would like to recognise Bravehearts, based in my electorate at Arundel. They have been supporting victims for many years through the royal commission process, preparing them for hearings and providing child safety training for many other organisations to ensure they are reporting any complaints properly to protect children. I am proud to represent them and praise their efforts at giving a voice to those who are often not able to speak for themselves.

In conclusion, today we are making amends for what has happened in the past. I would like to end by talking about how this can all be prevented from ever occurring in the first place. I recently attended the launch of the *Brave Little Bear* book series at Labrador Community Hub. They were written by Xenia Schembri, a local woman.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Bonney, time for this debate has expired. Under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House on 18 September 2018 and the time allocated for consideration of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is—

That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 26, as circulated, be agreed to and clauses 1 to 18 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Amendments as circulated—

**1 Clause 2 (Definitions)**

Page 4, lines 20 to 22—

omit, insert—

**National Redress Act** means the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cwlth) as in force from time to time.

**2 Clause 2 (Definitions)**

Page 4, lines 26 and 27—

omit.

**3 Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**

Page 5, lines 4 to 7—

omit, insert—

(1) The relevant version of the National Redress Act is adopted within the meaning of section 51(xxxvii) of the Commonwealth Constitution.

**4 Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**

Page 5, line 9, 'sections 7 and 8'—

omit, insert—

sections 5 and 6

- 5 **Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**  
Page 5, line 11, 'the making of laws with respect to the matter'—  
*omit, insert*—  
making laws with respect to those matters
- 6 **Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**  
Page 5, lines 13 and 14—  
*omit.*
- 7 **Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**  
Page 5, line 15, '(4)'—  
*omit, insert*—  
(3)
- 8 **Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**  
Page 5, line 24, '(5)'—  
*omit, insert*—  
(4)
- 9 **Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**  
Page 5, line 29, 'end'—  
*omit, insert*—  
beginning
- 10 **Clause 3 (Adoption and references)**  
Page 5, after line 31—  
*insert*—  
(5) In this section—  
*relevant version of the National Redress Act* means the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cwlth) as originally enacted and as subsequently amended by any amendments enacted by the Parliament of the Commonwealth at any time before the commencement of this Act.
- 11 **Clause 4 (Amendment of Commonwealth law)**  
Page 6, line 1, 'Commonwealth law'—  
*omit, insert*—  
**National Redress Act**
- 12 **Clause 4 (Amendment of Commonwealth law)**  
Page 6, lines 8 to 10, from 'the adoption' to 'Constitution'—  
*omit, insert*—  
under the amendment reference
- 13 **Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 6, line 20, 'relation to'—  
*omit, insert*—  
respect of
- 14 **Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 6, line 23, after 'crime'—  
*insert*—  
, and any associated matters
- 15 **Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 6, line 28, 'relation to'—  
*omit, insert*—  
respect of
- 16 **Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 6, line 31, 'A matter referred by section 3(2)'—  
*omit, insert*—  
The amendment reference
- 17 **Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 7, line 6, 'adoption'—  
*omit, insert*—  
*National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cwlth), as originally enacted,

- 18 Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 7, line 7, 'relation to'—  
*omit, insert—*  
connection with
- 19 Clause 5 (State redress mechanism)**  
Page 7, lines 9 and 10, 'civil liability of institutions or officers'—  
*omit, insert—*  
relevant civil liability of institutions or officials
- 20 Clause 6 (Requirements for agreement of the State)**  
Page 7, line 18, 'A matter referred by section 3(2)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
The amendment reference
- 21 Clause 8 (Effect of termination of amendment reference before termination of adoption)**  
Page 8, line 17, '(but not repealed)'—  
*omit.*
- 22 Clause 9 (Definitions for part)**  
Page 9, lines 24 and 25, 'to the extent that the institution is part of or connected with the State'—  
*omit.*
- 23 Clause 10 (How agreement of the State is given, withdrawn and evidenced)**  
Page 10, lines 1 and 2, 'or may be evidenced for the purposes of'—  
*omit, insert—*  
and may be evidenced for the purposes of, and consistently with,
- 24 Clause 10 (How agreement of the State is given, withdrawn and evidenced)**  
Page 10, line 5, 'or'—  
*omit, insert—*  
and
- 25 Clause 18 (Amendment of sch 3 (Dictionary))**  
Page 12, lines 12 to 14, '*National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018*'—  
*omit, insert—*  
*National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cwlth)
- 26 Schedule 1 (Scheduled text of the Bill for a Commonwealth Act)**  
Page 13, lines 1 to 8—  
*omit.*
- Question put—That the motion be agreed to.  
Motion agreed to.  
Clauses 1 to 18 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

### Third Reading

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is—

That the minister's amendment No. 27 and the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

**27 Long title**

Long title, 'National Redress Act'—

*omit, insert—*


*National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cwlth)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That government business orders of the day Nos 2 to 10 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 6 September (see p. 2442).

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.06 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and speak in the address-in-reply debate. Firstly, I pass on to His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, my best wishes and also, on behalf of this parliament, my apologies that it has taken some 10 months for us to get towards the completion of the address-in-reply. I hope His Excellency receives this before the end of his term, which we are hearing will be about the middle of next year.

I wish to thank the voters of the Warrego electorate for putting their faith in me to represent their interests and goals in the forthcoming term. I also extend a warm welcome to the new voters of my electorate, those whom Deputy Speaker Weir is quite familiar with—those in the east at Dalby out to Colkerri and Kamkillenbun and those in the west from the Quilpie shire all the way to the South Australian border.

As I stood in this House last term to make my maiden speech, I did so as the first woman ever elected to the state seat of Warrego since Federation. With the support of my constituents, I stand here today again making history as the first woman to ever be elected for two consecutive terms as the member for Warrego since Federation.

I extend my congratulations to Deb Frecklington on her election as the first female opposition leader in the state of Queensland. The opposition leader has a strong connection with my electorate of Warrego, having lived in both Roma and Meandarra. I believe that Deb and Jason have attended just a few Roma Cup races and the invitation is always open to them to attend this race meeting which is such a signature on the country racing calendar and the events of south-west Queensland.

There is no doubt that opposition leader Deb Frecklington has already encouraged many women to break the glass ceilings in politics. I only have to mention the outstanding female LNP candidates who put up their hands for the LNP Senate position following the retirement of Senator George Brandis. I congratulate Amanda Stoker on her election as the LNP senator for Queensland. I look forward to working with her on issues in my electorate and in my shadow portfolio of local government.

I also welcome Susan McDonald and Nicole Tobin to their positions on the forthcoming Senate ticket. I have known both of these courageous and caring women for many years, and I am delighted that they are on the LNP Senate ticket for the forthcoming federal election. I wish to thank Senator Barry O'Sullivan and Senator Ian Macdonald for their service to the Senate and for the work that they have done over many years for Queensland. I look forward to working with all of our new LNP Senate candidates on that ticket.

It is a privilege to serve as a shadow minister in Deb Frecklington's shadow cabinet. It is an honour to work alongside and with the local governments in Queensland—the councillors, mayors and their staff—on the long-term financial sustainability issues and integrity issues, and I do add emphasis to the integrity issues. Local government are the level of government who are closest to the community. On a day-to-day basis they feel the community sentiment and are well placed to support good positive community outcomes.

Every day we should not forget the more than 550 Queensland mayors and councillors who work tirelessly for their communities right across Queensland. Across the South Australian border from my electorate there are communities like Innamincka and William Creek. Those communities yearn for local government representation. They do not have local governments in that part of South Australia. Those locals will tell you about how lucky Queenslanders are to have such a good system of local government in Queensland.

While I am talking about local government, I wish to publicly thank the LGAQ for their kind donation of \$20,000 to the Queensland Drought Appeal. It was a most generous donation to help communities struggling from the impacts of prolonged drought in Queensland. While I am talking about drought—and it is absolutely unrelenting right across my electorate—I wish to thank those many organisations, such as Rotary and the QCWA, that are doing a lot of work to ensure that that assistance flows through. Cash is absolutely king when it comes to providing assistance for drought because that cash goes back through to the landholder, to the farmer, and back through our local small businesses that are also hurting during this drought.

I must also make mention of the 30 councils across Queensland that currently have water restrictions in their area. I do fear that if we do not have some rain some time soon then we will see more serious restrictions from those local governments and potentially, as we have seen in New South Wales, some of our communities may actually run out of drinking water. I think that is a very serious situation.

We meet many people in our electorates who fight for causes. The fight to bring back the Queensland bilby is a cause that zoologist and co-founder of the Save the Bilby Fund Peter McRae helped create and continues today. Peter McRae is truly a champion of the endangered bilby and he has inspired many to embrace this cause. Sadly, Peter McRae passed away on 7 September, the day before the 2018 Charleville 150 celebrations, where he was to be presented with a bilby made from spoons to acknowledge his dedication and 34 years of work as a scientist for the Queensland state government and the time that he had spent in south-west Queensland. I extend my condolences to Peter's partner, Tracy, his family and his many friends.

Peter McRae started working as a zoologist some 34 years ago, based at Charleville. He was compulsive about real-life observation. He studied the grasses, he studied the birds and he studied the bilbies. His search for information was endless. He was not a nine-to-five observer. He often spent the day observing and recording and then he would go out spotlighting at night for five or six hours only to repeat that day in, day out. It was during these spotlighting nights, when it can get mighty cold out in the desert, that Peter would arrange for a little cup of bourbon to arrive on the rooftop of the ute to warm the spotlight holder. I am assured that that happened on more than one occasion.

Peter was regarded by his colleagues as a great mentor. His job was to advise, but he shared his experiences and knowledge in a manner that appealed to the ranger who changed the toilet paper or the top brass of the department. I believe at one time it could have also been Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, but that story about the throne is probably for another day.

Peter established the first captive breeding facilities for bilbies in Queensland and designed, funded and built the Currawinya fence with teams of Conservation Volunteers. He released captive-bred bilbies in 2005 and spent months spotlighting and radio tracking them. The population of these bilbies slowly built up over five years to an exciting estimate of around 300 animals. That is probably one of the larger populations that we had of bilbies in Queensland or in Australia at any one time.

Unfortunately, the last couple of years have been devoted to the painstaking eradication of cats that breached the fence following the wet season of 2010-11. Peter also established the Charleville Botanical Reserve which showcases major vegetation types in the eastern mulga lands. Peter had two very distinct greeting sounds—'badding' and 'wooshaaa'—in south-west Queensland. We will remember him for these unique greeting sounds of 'badding' and 'wooshaaa'.

As a result of the state Labor government, my electorate has lost a vital Closing the Gap service in the state-of-the-art IDEAS van that was visiting Dalby, Charleville, Mitchell, Roma, Quilpie and Cunnamulla. Interestingly, the IDEAS van was taking more appointments in Charleville than in Mount Isa—and there is a population difference between those two communities—but not anymore thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Had the LNP been elected to government, the IDEAS van would have had a commitment of \$3 million. It would be continuing to operate and prevent blindness in hundreds of people who will now have to travel thousands of kilometres for treatment. The simple fact is that people will go blind and diabetes will increase in regional areas because the state Labor government have refused to step up and help this service.

Due to the redistribution, the communities of Miles, Chinchilla and Jandowae have been moved from the electorate of Warrego into Callide, which is now well represented by the new member Colin Boyce. However, these communities are some of the luckiest in Queensland because when it comes to representation not only did they have an extremely dedicated and hardworking MP in Colin Boyce but also they have me going from one side of the electorate to the other on a very regular basis helping out, so they have the attention of two local MPs.

To the south, my electorate boundary is with the electorate of Southern Downs, which is now represented by the new member for Southern Downs, James Lister. James is a tireless worker for his electorate and, like him, I too share the frustrations that we experience with cross-border issues. I congratulate both my neighbouring new members for Callide and Southern Downs on their maiden speeches and all of the new members on this side of the House for their heartfelt maiden speeches. It was a pleasure to listen to the professional maiden speeches that embodied the members' life journeys, their families and their electorates.

Both Callide and Southern Downs share common issues with Warrego. I want to mention in particular the Chinchilla maternity services, which unfortunately have been on bypass and mothers and babies have been sent to the Dalby Hospital to birth. This is an appalling way to treat women and unborn children. It is not the first time that a state Labor government has neglected maternity services in regional areas or in Chinchilla for that matter. I distinctly recall the Chinchilla Hospital being on bypass prior to the state election in 2012. The matter was promptly addressed by the LNP as soon as we were elected to government. Now Labor is back in government what do we see? Chinchilla maternity services are back on bypass. This is appalling. When there is a state government that cares about birthing in the regions, these issues can be addressed just like the LNP did in Beaudesert and Cooktown. This is a dangerous situation for both mother and unborn child. It takes over an hour to drive from Chinchilla to Dalby when there are no roadworks, and I can tell you that it takes longer now given the amount of roadworks on that road.

There is another issue that is occurring at the Dalby Hospital. Staff unrest at the Dalby Hospital has reached boiling point as nurses are fearing for their personal safety every time they walk through the front doors. Steven Conn, who is a clinical nurse specialist at the hospital, said he risked losing his job for speaking out, but he was left with no choice. He said that nurses at the hospital lived with a very reasonable fear of personal harm on a shift-to-shift basis due to the alarming increase in mental health issues, gun ownership and the use of illicit drugs. We have had people with drug induced psychosis biting nurses and threatening all sorts of violence. The workplace health and safety policy is meant to be based on preventing reasonably foreseeable incidents. It is only a matter of time before a healthcare worker is seriously harmed at Dalby.

The nurses have approached the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service on multiple occasions to ask for increased security measures. However, they have been disappointed because this has fallen on the deaf ears of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Their job is to deliver health care as nurses, not to be security guards. This government and Queensland Health need to address this issue and ensure that these nurses are able to feel safe in their workplace and safe with the patients that they are trying to care for. I will stand up for the nurses in Dalby in this House even if the members opposite will not.

An issue that impacts on everyone in my electorate is the ever-increasing cost of electricity and the ever-increasing cost that the Palaszczuk Labor government has not addressed in regional areas for businesses, households, pensioners or local governments. We know from the Hugh Grant report that was tabled in the House that 50 per cent of the bill is network costs and 47 per cent of that 50 per cent goes directly to the state Labor government. Put simply, it is taken as a tax.

I received a very passionate email from Emily and Rodney Geiger of the Eulo General Store. This is what Emily had to say—

I wanted to forward you this copy of our power bill which is from 23rd November 2017 to 23rd February 2018 with a total of \$8129.29. Given that this is the most quiet period for our shop, this bill is very difficult for me to pay. I made a point of finding our account for the same period last year. We used more power and paid less for it. As you can see I pay \$200 a week to try to reduce our bill, but this is not a drop in the ocean of \$8000.

Electricity prices are just another kick in the guts for small businesses in rural areas. We are struggling alongside our local graziers due to the ongoing drought as well as losing a number of people from our community to foreign property investment and property sales for carbon credits.

This is what the Labor government's electricity policies are doing to small businesses in south-west Queensland. As I move around my electorate, I find more and more Emily and Rodney Geigers—good people; young people having a go in small business only to be slammed with electricity which this Labor government is using as an unfair tax on pensioners, households and businesses right across my electorate. We do not get the benefit of competition or concession deals on electricity that those in the south-east corner do. Those of us in regional Queensland just get to pay more tax. There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed Emily and Rodney Geiger, and the Labor government has failed every electricity consumer in my electorate. I welcome Deb Frecklington's proposal to introduce competition into the regional electricity market. This is a stark contrast to the Labor Party's do-nothing approach.




The Warrego Highway Upgrade Program is progressing. That program was agreed to by the former LNP state government and the former coalition federal government. I want to make some comments in relation to the Dalby eastern and western access that is underway. Sadly, during that construction this year a child has lost his life and another has been seriously injured. I have also received reports of heavy vehicles hitting power poles due to the camber on the road which they have had to traverse because there is no side track.

Small businesses along the highway are really suffering from the loss of passer-by traffic. Parking has been disrupted, business takings are down and these businesses do not know how they will survive. A fruit and vegetable shop has reported to me that it has lost about a million dollars due to the roadworks. The customer count through the registers has decreased during the period of the roadworks by 17,000 transactions. Several of the full-time staff have left and not been replaced and the casual workers are getting very few shifts, so those roadworks have caused job losses in that business. This business has been seriously devalued because of the roadworks.

A butcher shop has reported to me losses of \$70,000. Just the other day I visited an industrial shed business which has lost its tenant due to changes in the access to their business, and that has cost them \$80,000 per year. I welcome the updated completion date of November. However, if we suddenly get wet weather this will not be met, and local jobs will continue to be lost and businesses which are really suffering now will continue to suffer further delays.

There are numerous other roads across my electorate, but unfortunately I do not think I will have time during the address-in-reply to talk about all of those. I do want to make mention of a unique situation that has been driven by the Thallon Progress Association. It has launched the Thallon silos stamp. It is a beautiful stamp and I encourage everyone to buy some of those stamps. It is not every day that a very small community like Thallon gets the opportunity to showcase its local scenery on a stamp for the whole world to appreciate. The most beautiful mural has been painted on the Thallon silos. It is an amazing work of art, and I encourage all members to visit Thallon and have a look at what this community has achieved. The progress association will have those stamps on display. I might even bring some down and share them with members here in the parliament. I am sure staff will see some of them on the correspondence that I send in due course. That is an amazing achievement for a small community like Thallon which consists of one pub and a wheat receival depot. It is absolutely incredible what they have done.

There are numerous other matters that I could talk about, but I want to quickly applaud the Augathella progress association for raising the safety of the intersection at Augathella. Both the Murweh shire and I have written to the department of main roads requesting an inspection of that intersection, because we believe there is potential at that intersection for there to be further accidents and we believe the government has a duty of care to make sure that that intersection is upgraded in due course.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (4.26 pm): Representing the electorate of Woodridge in this House is one of the great privileges of my life. Woodridge is a diverse and multicultural community enriched and empowered by the range of nationalities that call it home. Our traditional owners are the Jagera people and the Yugumbir language group whose elders I respectfully acknowledge. But today 238 nationalities and ethnicities also call the city of Logan home. Our community is in a real and practical sense a genuine sample of modern Australia and a clear expression of the success of a nation that has always welcomed the outsider and that has always offered a new start and a fresh opportunity for people born overseas willing to take a chance on us.

What was once the tyranny of distance has become the catalyst of opportunity, and nowhere is that more evident in Queensland than in Logan and nowhere more evident in Logan than in Woodridge. One of the great features of my electorate is the tenacity and resilience of its people. Some who settle in our community have had direct experience of war. Many are refugees. A very large number know what it is to have struggled. Ours is not a community on cruise control. It is not the home of families who have had it easy. That is what has driven me in my political career and why I remain committed to the service of my electorate. I believe in the active, enabling and enlarging role of government and that equality of opportunity, always the central mission of the Australian Labor Party, is most effectively achieved through the power of quality government services.

This parliament achieves its highest purpose when it seeks to advance the interests of the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. I was honoured at the last election to have been returned by the voters of Woodridge with an increased majority, and I take this opportunity to thank them for the faith

they continue to have in me. I am committed to repaying that faith by working every day to do what I can to improve the quality of their lives by delivering real outcomes in areas that make a material difference to them.

Part of that commitment was manifested during my period of service as Queensland health minister and minister for ambulance services. I have spoken in this House previously about the great success of our government's specialist outpatient strategy which delivered a 63 per cent reduction in the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment—with a reduction of over 70 per cent in the Metro South Hospital and Health Service region which services the Woodridge electorate. Along with the Premier, I was delighted during the last election to announce the Palaszczuk Labor government would commit more than a quarter of a billion dollars to upgrade the Logan Hospital including a \$12 million investment to refurbish and expand the Logan maternity ward.

I was also delighted to deliver the Logan Community Health Action Plan during my service as health minister—an innovative program of health delivery which aims to improve health outcomes to disadvantaged communities by taking a more direct and interventionist approach. Initiatives under this scheme include: the provision of toothbrushes to every prep student in our region to support oral hygiene; the extension of the good start breakfast program; the establishment of a new youth drug and rehabilitation centre; the initiation of a refugee health information expo; and the setting up of a number of maternity hubs to deliver antenatal care in our community.

When we commenced the community maternity hubs, the statewide level of pregnant women not receiving the recommended number of six antenatal visits was six per cent; in Logan it was 16 per cent, almost three times the state rate. The initial plan was to establish three maternity hubs in the community based on a continuity of care model and targeting vulnerable groups, including Indigenous, refugee and Pasifika women. The hubs have been operational since February and, with all case loads either full or close to it, a fourth midwife is being added to each of the hubs. Additionally, plans to open a fourth hub have been brought forward to this financial year.

The results have been impressive and are a tribute to the effectiveness of the continuity of care model and the midwives who work in these clinics. Only 16 per cent of the births at the hubs have been by caesarean section—half the Queensland average. This is an outstanding achievement. The hubs are also directly engaging in the training of student nurses to support the future rollout of the model. This approach represents a new way of delivering health care that moves beyond the assumption that if you build it they will come. Sometimes it takes more than just hanging out the shingle; sometimes you need to take the shingle under your arm and go out and knock on the door. For some migrant communities, especially those who have escaped war or oppression, there is a degree of distrust of government institutions, so we have to try something different to achieve our objectives of improved health in the community, which is what the Logan Community Health Action Plan has been designed to do.

Following the re-election of the Palaszczuk Labor government, I was honoured to be asked by the Premier to serve as the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. It has been great to see the rise in confidence of the Queensland business community and to see the economy reap the benefits of the government's positive agenda, particularly the 177,500 jobs we have created since coming to office.

I wish to acknowledge the significant manufacturing sector operating within my electorate, particularly in the suburb of Crestmead. As the first dedicated Queensland minister for manufacturing for many years, I am committed to doing what I can to help those businesses prosper and to ensure the more than 170,000 Queenslanders who work in manufacturing continue to have a future in this important part of our economy, including through our government's \$40 million Made in Queensland program. In round 1, there were 53 applicants which received a grant, including the Evolve Group in my electorate of Woodridge which received a Made in Queensland grant of more than \$950,000 for the implementation of a sustainable growth project which will transform this plastic injection moulding company from a traditional blue-collar factory into a world-leading, fully automated, ultra-high-speed manufacturing facility.

A sense of belonging, a sense of participation, is critical to the collective identity and sense of wellbeing of a community. A community is not a suburb, nor a cluster of streets, nor even an electorate; it emanates from a feeling of connection, of relation to the group, of a sense of common purpose and shared experiences. How we live shapes who we are, and who we are is shaped by the communities we form and the infrastructure and services that support them. We should always be mindful of our duty to those we represent, not in a glib or arbitrary way but meaningfully through the conscious actions we take every day on their behalf.

We should always remember that, whilst we may be members of parliament, we are members for communities. Those actions need not be large to be impactful. Whilst I have been delighted by the investment in large infrastructure improvements in my community, like the upgrade currently underway to the Logan Motorway, I am equally proud of the smaller investments that deliver positive outcomes for the people of Woodridge—like the money invested in school refurbishments at Berrinba East State School and Crestmead State School; the health training hubs at Mabel Park State High School and St Francis College Crestmead; the upgrade of the Logan City Netball Association facilities; the installation of lights at the Logan metro football fields; the boost to disability housing; the Homelessness Base initiative; the Crisis Accommodation Program; or funding for a new clubhouse at the mighty Logan Brothers Rugby League Club and the refurbished and expanded BMX facility at Browns Plains.

We often hear that people enter political life because they want to make a difference, which is a concept that can seem so elevated that it can sometimes blind them to the difference they get to make every single day they serve in parliament. We should never lose sight of the great privilege it is to be a member of parliament, the great honour bestowed upon us by those who elected us and the great responsibility we have to them because of it.

One of the best things about these address-in-reply debates is the opportunity it provides to members to publicly thank those who have made it all possible. I am always touched to hear the gratitude that members on both sides of the House express to their families, friends and supporters for the encouragement and help they render in what can be a very challenging life, particularly around election time. Whilst each of us has entered into public life freely and willingly, it is appropriate to take time to remember that it is often those closest to us who must carry most of the cost.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank my beautiful wife, Therese, and my two sons, Samuel and Jonathan, for putting up with the demands my political life imposes on them. This is a job that offers all the rewards attached to community service, but the price it exacts is measured in the time it keeps us from those whom we love the most. It is humbling and a little overwhelming to reflect upon the sacrifices they so readily and selflessly make on my behalf. I owe them a debt that I can never repay and I thank them today for their unflinching love and support.

I would also like to thank all those who helped me in my campaign for re-election. I simply could not have done it without you and I am deeply grateful for all that you did for me. In fact, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to all the volunteers of all political parties. It says something about a person that they are prepared to get out on a street stall, or letterbox a street, or stand for hours on a polling booth because they are committed to an ideal, because they believe in an individual or a cause and have the resolve and drive to get up and do something about it. They are the heroes of our democratic system. In Woodridge, there are plenty of Labor heroes.

One of our party's greatest leaders, Ben Chifley, famously declared that our party's mission was the pursuit of the light on the hill. He believed—as all of us on the Labor side of the House do—that our great political project is the building of a society that is inclusive and fair, that promotes equality of opportunity and delivers affordable services, and where each individual has access to the minimum standards of material sufficiency necessary to lead a full and dignified life. The fact is the light does not burn on the hill but in the outer suburbs and in the offices, supermarkets, workshops, schools, farms, living rooms and everywhere people work, play and sleep—for government in the end is a practical art measured against the delivery of our single enduring key performance indicator: to make the lives of people better.


On 25 November last year, Queenslanders stood at a crossroad, presented with a clear choice between a government with a vision for a confident, inclusive, forward-looking Queensland and a ramshackle alliance between one party obsessed with sacking workers and selling assets and another promoting a toxic blend of xenophobia and the politics of intolerance. It was a great relief, particularly for multicultural communities like Woodridge, that the Queensland people opted for the former and re-elected Anastacia Palaszczuk as Premier of Queensland.

The dividends of that decision are already apparent, perhaps best exemplified by the success of the recent Commonwealth Games—an event secured and delivered by Labor governments. That event reiterated what history has demonstrated—that it is only Labor that has the vision and boldness to deliver on the big ideas. We are the dreamers, the planners and the builders. That our state economy is predicted to lead the nation in economic growth for the next decade is not an accident but the result of getting the policy settings right.

At the end of my address-in-reply following my first election to the parliament as the member for Woodridge in 2015, I made reference to three young African women I met during that campaign named Justice, Prosperity and Happiness. Considering the challenges of their childhood, I was struck by the exuberant optimism expressed in their names, written in the common language of human aspiration and the indestructible capacity for hope.

Whilst it is important to celebrate diversity, we should always take the time to reflect on human sameness in recognition that that which unites us in shared purpose is greater than the arbitrary distinctions we make based on different ethnicities and belief systems. Whilst our circumstances may vary, we are bound by a common motivation to live free from persecution, to win what satisfaction we can from our lives in the manner of our choosing and to leave the world we inherited a better place for our children.

At the last election I committed to work to deliver those ideals—justice, prosperity and happiness—to the people of Woodridge. I am honoured and humbled that the people of the electorate of Woodridge have returned me to this parliament to continue this endeavour.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.40 pm): I rise to respond to the Governor's opening speech from earlier this year. Firstly, let me start by thanking from the bottom of my heart the people of Toowoomba South who have given me the very great privilege of being their member here in this chamber for another term.

Like the minister who has just spoken who was reflecting about his electorate of Woodridge, I am also privileged, particularly as I had a redistribution ahead of this election. I actually took some territory from you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It also gave me the heartbeat of the Toowoomba multicultural community. People underestimate the diversity of Toowoomba. It is far from a retiring country town. One of the new areas that I gained in the redistribution is the area of Darling Heights. Out of 600 kids at Darling Heights State School 300 speak another language at home. The University of Southern Queensland, which is also now included in my electorate, is the heartbeat for our multicultural community in Toowoomba.

We have vast numbers of refugees coming to Toowoomba. I recently had the most moving experience at the Yazidi memorial. We have 400 Yazidis, an ethnic minority in Iraq that suffered horrific genocide. It was my great privilege to be there and be present with them in their grief. I acknowledge the Yazidi community across Toowoomba but also all refugees, in particular Syrian refugees—we are a refugee welcome zone in Toowoomba—both Muslim and Coptic Christian refugees. It is my great privilege to represent our multicultural diversity in my electorate, in our city, here in this chamber.

I also want to acknowledge the election campaign. It can be quite a fraught experience. However, I want to acknowledge the civility with which my other candidates approached the campaign. I acknowledge my fellow candidates, Labor Susan Krause, Green candidate Alyce Nelligan, One Nation candidate Jeremy Scamp and Independent Rob Berry, for the way in which the election was conducted. How could it be any other way when my second cousin and very good friend was the chair of the Labor candidate's committee? We could not help but get along very well. I acknowledge the civility with which the election process was conducted.

One of the most challenging aspects of the election campaign came about because five days before the Premier called the election my wife and I welcomed our third child—

**Mr Dick:** Anastacia!

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will not take that interjection. I must confess that I was watching very closely the honourable member for Keppel to try to divine when the Premier might actually call the election. I will explain where I am leading. Five days after our Samuel's birth, the Premier called the election and I bade farewell to my wife and family for pretty much the next five weeks. Again, as is so often reflected here in this House—and I know it has been said repeatedly that we are volunteers and our families and loved ones are conscripts. That is certainly no different in my family's case.

I want to acknowledge my darling wife and my precious daughters and the sacrifices that they make. In order for us to do this job as well as we ought, whether we are in the ministry, the shadow ministry, backbench, frontbench—whatever roles we play—doing this job well requires a 24/7 commitment. Even if we are not on the job, often our minds will be elsewhere. Whether it be the demands of social media, the demands of constituent requests or demands for help, our minds will always be elsewhere.

My wife and I both turned 40 this year. In our twenties when she was an opera singer we were travelling around Europe, we loved nothing more than to pack up our bags in about 20 minutes and move on to wherever her work would take us. During those years we had a motto that we would live by. It was three words: joy, freedom, simplicity. I reflect now at 40 how far away freedom and simplicity are from our lives.

**Mr Mander:** You're still clutching onto the joy.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am hanging onto joy; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is dead right. It is solely my wife's doing. It is due to her support and her character that we do have joy, and I thank her for that. I thank my family, my kids and her for the opportunity to pursue this calling of mine to give politics a go. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Next cab in line for thanks is my office. As we know we are so often away: we will be here or travelling around Queensland. I thank my office staff from the bottom of my heart, too. I brought Janice Nicholson with me after I was elected. I poached her from Heritage Bank; she had reported to me there. Her role there was to look after all the customer complaints, so I thought she would be perfect in an electorate office. I thank Janice for everything she does for me and my family. I also thank Kevena Franklin.

**Ms Leahy:** Icon.

**Mr JANETZKI:** She is an icon of the National Party and amongst electorate officers. I want to pay special tribute to Kevena. She was a personal assistant to Mike Horan when he was the Toowoomba Showgrounds CEO about 30 years ago. She joined Mike when he replaced Clive Berghofer as the member for Toowoomba South in 1991. Kevena came over. Since that time she has served faithfully in the Toowoomba South electorate office. I do not know how many times in the last two years since I was elected I have asked Kevena, 'What would Mike have done? What would John McVeigh have done?' I thank Kevena for her contribution to the National Party and to electorate officers right throughout our side of politics.

Finally, I want to thank Lacey Maguire. I have three extraordinary women working for me. Lacey, PR guru extraordinaire, always makes me sound far more intelligent than I truly am.

**Mr Powell:** It's not hard!

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will take that interjection from the member for Glass House. I want to thank Lacey for always being on call and always being willing to assist.

As so many of us reflect, it also takes a special campaign team to have us all here. I am under no illusion; I am not here under my own steam. I carry with me the fine reputation and values of the Liberal National Party. I never take that for granted. I am but a torchbearer. I look at the characters who have been here before me as the member for Toowoomba South and I am reminded of that regularly, whether it be Clive Berghofer, Mike Horan or John McVeigh. I realise that and I want to thank my campaign team who help regardless of who the candidate is. They help beyond what they ought.

I want to thank my campaign chairman Sam Wright, a fine young accountant, a fine director of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce with a very bright future ahead of him. My treasurer, I also thank Amelia Dobson, another young woman with a very bright future ahead of her. When I have needed assistance she has always provided it.

I look across my campaign team—and I have mentioned him in my maiden speech. We all know pre-polling is a pretty tough task. I have one gentleman in my electorate who pre-polls for me like no other. He will be there morning to night, eight to six, and he is Boyd Scheuber. I thank Boyd for his contribution over so many years. I look forward to him helping me again in 2020. I will hold him to that.

**Ms Leahy:** You've got him locked up.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, I have him locked up now.

I also have to thank a vast range of friends and colleagues who show up on the day, people who help me with fundraising like Greg and Jan Johnson. My mates Deano, Dwight, Michael, Luke and Matt are people who do not just hand out for me on the day but people who inspire me to do better, who challenge me to think outside the box. In politics we can be in a bubble, but they always encourage me to think of different ways of approaching issues—not to be caught up in the bubble, but to always be thinking firstly of others and how best we in this place can help them improve their lives or offer up new industries or new ways of doing things.

In July 2016 I won a by-election to become a member of this House, and I think it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, who played such a vital role in the winning of that by-election. He intervened, he gave me a great deal of advice

and he gave it his all as the Leader of the Opposition. I pay tribute to the member for Clayfield and I thank him for his assistance in guiding me through my first by-election campaign, which was not an easy one. I acknowledge his assistance.

When you come into the parliament after a by-election you are somewhat on your own. There are three gentlemen in particular who I want to acknowledge today for taking me under their wing and giving me some advice along the way. I can hear some chuckling already. Two of them, sadly, are no longer in this place. Firstly, I acknowledge the former member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg, who I do not believe was given the opportunity of a valedictory. I am glad, now that there are fixed terms, that that opportunity will not be missed again. Others have said this and I will say it: I think Lawrence was the finest premier we never had. He has been ably replaced by the new member for Southern Downs, but Lawrence was a giant and remains so. I will always be thankful for his counsel early on in my political career, and I pay tribute to Lawrence.

The second man who is no longer here in the House is my good mate—in fact, he is a good mate to so many of us on this side of the House—the former member for Hinchinbrook. I can still hear the echo of his cackle in this chamber. It is a sad loss. I do not think there could be any finer parliamentarian than the former member for Hinchinbrook. He is a fierce intellect and a formidable opponent. I am sure that even those on the government's side of the House would acknowledge his vast contribution. I know that so many of us here miss him and his personality, and I miss his frank and fearless advice.

The third person still sits here and gave quite a thought-provoking speech in reply, and that is the member for Glass House. I thank him for his wisdom, advice and perspective in my first couple of years in parliament. I thank him for that from the bottom of my heart as well.

**Mr Mander:** What about me?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am coming to you. I have nearly mentioned everyone. I do want to now move to the present. I want to thank the new Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I believe that they will one day make fine leaders of this state, and I thank them for the opportunity to serve as shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice. I was not anticipating that opportunity, but I am very thankful for it. I am committed to doing everything I can to ensure that, by the end of 2020, we have a Frecklington-Mander government. That would be wonderful for Queensland.

I also want to acknowledge the new MPs and their contributions. I think on this side of the House we are very, very fortunate to have a range of new MPs. We only need to see the force of their delivery, the cogency of their arguments and the articulate way in which they approach their contributions in this House. I think that our party is in very good hands.

I want to turn to Toowoomba briefly. I want to acknowledge that Toowoomba is a place on the move. Toowoomba is an economic hub for southern and western Queensland—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will take the interjection from the member for Miller. It is handy that the Labor government is going to Toowoomba next week, because they will see what entrepreneurial, innovative and hardworking people can achieve without any assistance from government.

**Mr Mander:** In spite of the government!

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will take the interjection. I would say it is in fact in spite of the government that the Darling Downs region continues to soar. When you have families like the Wagners, who are willing to put in \$200 million of their own money to build a jet-capable airport—

**Ms Leahy:** International!

**Mr JANETZKI:**—international airport to take our produce, our expertise and our innovation to the world, we are in a very fortunate position. It is not just the Wagners—

**Mr Mander:** They got three and a half million contributed towards it.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Exactly. It is people like the Gardners, and I look at what the FKG Group is doing. We have 98 per cent of Australia's agricultural industries within a 300-kilometres radius of Toowoomba. We have the opportunity—and we are already well on the way—to becoming a world-leading agricultural area not just of raw material, as you know all too well, Mr Deputy Speaker, but of value-added technology. When I think of what the second range crossing and the inland rail can achieve for our region to take our goods, services and know-how to the world, there is only one way but up for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs region. It is such a pleasure to represent such a fine part of Queensland.

I look to the amazing community and organisational groups that make up our great part of the world such as the Chamber of Commerce, led by Joy Mingay and Jo Sheppard, or TSBE, led by Ali Davenport. Last week I saw 2nd Shot, which is a great social enterprise in Toowoomba run by Nat and Tiff Spary, who are putting long-term homeless people into jobs, helping them train and making sure that everyone in our community has the best opportunity to get ahead, get a job and be part of our community, because we are a welcoming community. We are a warm community.

I will just return briefly to talk about the Labor government taking up residence in Toowoomba next week. It is good timing because we do have the Carnival of Flowers next week. The carnival parade is on Saturday. I hope that Labor ministers get there; it would be great to have their support.

**Ms Leahy:** Smell the flowers!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, come and smell the flowers in Toowoomba. While they are there I have a couple of issues I would like to raise, because I am disgusted and appalled at all too often being rejected dismissively by the Labor government when it comes time to asking for things in my electorate. I reflect on a ridiculous and overly political response from the member for Miller to a simple request from people in my electorate for a set of traffic lights at Donahue Street. We have a retirement village on the corner of Ruthven and Donahue streets. My request was dismissed without any due consideration.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Correct. We have elderly people who are concerned about this, and in the letter the member for Miller spent more time talking about the Newman government than the safety risks my people face. It is just ridiculous. Perhaps when the member for Miller is there I can arrange some time.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will take that interjection from the member for Theodore. I am not alone in receiving those overly political letters, which serve no purpose other than to reinforce the fact that they are not ready to govern. They are not willing to govern. They are too interested in playing politics.

There is a second major issue I want to address. It is a pity that Mr Deputy Speaker has left the chair, because it impacts both of our electorates. We have a congestion problem with schools in Toowoomba South and the south-west suburbs of Toowoomba. The South West Toowoomba High School is absolutely necessary, and we need the education minister to take it seriously. We need to have some land purchased and conversations need to be held. Harristown State High School is in my electorate. I understand that the minister is going to a sod turning at nine o'clock on Monday morning. I am still waiting for my invitation, because it is a high school in my electorate. A sod turning is being done for a resource that is years late. We need the education minister to take seriously the education needs of Toowoomba.

Finally, I again give my commitment to the people of Toowoomba South that I will continue fighting for them. I am so thankful for and honoured to have the privilege of being their representative in this House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
  - (a) the June Sensis Business Index recorded the Palaszczuk government as the least popular state government among small and medium sized businesses;
  - (b) the June CCIQ Pulse survey continued to show subdued business confidence, and the divide in business confidence between South-East Queensland and regional Queensland confidence levels continues to grow;
  - (c) the July CommSec State of the States report puts Queensland in fifth place in the nation, solidly in the bottom half of the economic ladder;
  - (d) the unemployment rate in Queensland is the worst in Australia at a rate of 6.4 per cent;
  - (e) over 170,000 Queenslanders are unemployed and looking for a job;
  - (f) the Palaszczuk Labor government has increased taxes and charges and debt is still projected to exceed \$83 billion;
  - (g) Queensland had the lowest economic growth of any state in the last quarter at 0.1 per cent; and
  - (h) ratings agency Fitch has downgraded Queensland's credit rating outlook on the back of the Palaszczuk government's poor fiscal management; and
2. Condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for its failed economic record of more taxes, increased debt and higher unemployment.

There is one thing this government is good at—that is, talking the talk. It can talk up anything. There is no greater example of this than the economic performance of this Labor government, which has now been in power for the past four years.

The motion I have moved lists a number of things that reference the poor economic performance of this government. The first one is the unemployment rate. At the moment in this state there are 170,000 people looking for a job. The latest ABS statistics show that the national average unemployment rate went down, from 5.4 per cent to 5.3 per cent. What was the unemployment rate in Queensland? It went up, to 6.4 per cent. That is the worst unemployment rate in the country. The national average unemployment rate goes down but in this state the unemployment rate goes up.

No doubt we will hear the Deputy Premier spruik the so-called economic performance of this government. One thing we should remember is that in the term of the LNP government the average unemployment rate was lower than the average unemployment rate under this government. The facts speak for themselves. The Treasurer will no doubt get up and talk about workforce participation and the jobs that have been created. What she will fail to mention is the fact that these things need to grow proportionate to population growth. The bottom line is that the unemployment rate is 6.4 per cent. This government is very good at talking itself up. When I was growing up my father told me, 'Tim, self-praise is no praise at all. It's not what you say about yourself; it's what others say about you.'

Let's have a look at some of the indicators. The very well respected CommSec State of the States report that looks at a series of economic indicators rates Queensland fifth amongst the states. We are battling to beat Tasmania or South Australia—those economic powerhouses.

**Mrs Frecklington:** How are they going to spin that?


**Mr MANDER:** That is exactly right. The June Sensis Business Index shows that amongst small and medium sized businesses the Palaszczuk government is the least popular in the country. The June CCIQ pulse survey continues to show subdued business confidence and an increasing divide between the regions and the city areas. People should not listen to the rhetoric and the PR that comes from the Treasurer; they should listen to the independent reports from the people who matter.

Of course, we never hear this government talk about the debt levels that we are rocketing towards.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Do they know what debt is?

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition: 'Do they know what debt is?' The people of Queensland know what debt is. Members will remember that it was the Bligh Labor government that lost the AAA credit rating. Just recently, Fitch has dropped its positive outlook for us. That means that getting back to the AAA credit rating is a forlorn dream.

This is a government that thinks economic growth will be stimulated by extra taxes and that thinks debt, which our children and grandchildren will have to pay for in the future, is the way to manage the economy. It is a government that has no economic plan and has no idea. It is all about new taxes, unemployment and increased debt.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (5.05 pm): Mr Speaker—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the Treasurer of Queensland. The member for Everton spoke for five minutes, yet still not one (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) in a plan. He could go to (z) and we still would not have a bloody plan.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Have you read this motion?

**Ms JONES:** Yes, I heard the motion. Everyone heard the motion because it went on and on. Thank God he stopped at (h) is all I can say.

What we see here is that the LNP has learned absolutely nothing. Let's talk about the promises those opposite made when they were in opposition and the promises they made under Campbell Newman. They do not want to talk about that. We know that the member for Everton and the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table when the decision was made to increase taxes and levies by more than \$2.6 billion, despite promising that there would be no increases. On top of that—this was a doozy—I remember having this conversation many times, predominantly with blokes, middle-aged men—

**Mr Minnikin:** Before you lost your seat?



**Ms JONES:** That is exactly right. It was before I lost my seat. Does the member for Chatsworth know what I said to those men—they were men—in the age bracket 45 to 55? They would say, 'But Kate, Campbell Newman is going to cut my electricity prices. You have worked so hard in our local community'—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you, member for Chatsworth. I take that interjection. 'You gave my child their school captain badge. You were at my child's speech night.'

**Mr Minnikin:** Why did you lose your job for three years?

**Ms JONES:** I lost my job because you made a promise to cut electricity prices, but you got in to government and you increased them by 43 per cent.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please, member for Cooper.

**Ms JONES:** That is why the LNP members are sitting in opposition. They letterboxed the electorate of Ashgrove 10 times saying that they would reduce electricity prices but they increased them by 43 per cent. Worse than that, they then promised—they made a little miscalculation. I do not think they realised how many public servants lived in my community because then they did a video saying 'nothing to worry about here', but they sacked 14,000 public servants in Queensland. What they also did not realise is that when people do not have secure, long-term jobs they do not spend in the local economy. What did we see?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left—

**Mrs Frecklington:** How's your record now?

**Ms JONES:** Better than yours, sister.

**Mr SPEAKER:**—the interjections are not being taken by the minister and I need to hear the member's contribution.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, I am giving a ruling. You are warned under standing orders. I want to hear the member's contribution.

**Ms JONES:** What they miscalculated is that if you sack 14,000 public servants, particularly in a state like Queensland, that has a direct impact on the economy. What did we see under their watch? We saw unemployment rise to the highest level in 11 years, peaking at 7.1 per cent. That is the record of the LNP. We saw small businesses closing. Small businesses in George Street closed as a direct consequence of the decisions of the LNP.

We are very proud that under our government, which partners with the private sector and which is building business confidence, we have seen 177,500 jobs created since we came to office. We understand that we have a role to play in stimulating the economy. That is why we have also invested over the forward estimates \$43 billion in new infrastructure, the majority of it being delivered outside of the South-East Queensland corner—most of which those opposite opposed, including the Kingaroy Hospital upgrade.

Our strong view is that we have a responsibility to work with the private sector, to grow business confidence and to invest in the infrastructure that will drive productivity. That is why when we were in government we made the decision, which those opposite were incapable of making when they were in government, to invest in the M1. We understand that if we invest in the M1 that creates jobs on the Gold Coast. What did those opposite do when they were in government? Not one dollar towards a major upgrade of the M1 and then their mates in Canberra want to short-change us at 50-50 instead of 80-20. That means this government has to find an extra \$500 million in the forward estimates to make up for the shortfall of their mates in Canberra. We do not hear anything from the member for Broadwater about that. No! He has nothing to say about that. He has an opinion on everything but—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Let us talk about our record. When you were in CBRC, there was 7.1 per cent unemployment.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair please, Minister.

**Ms JONES:** It is down under six per cent today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair please. The minister's time has expired.


**Ms JONES:** That is your record. You have nothing to be proud of.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough and member for Theodore, you are both warned under standing orders. You were almost having a drag-'em-down, knock-'em-out debate across the chamber.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, if you wish to make a contribution, rise to your feet; otherwise cease your interjections.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.11 pm): Tonight we have heard from the first government speaker on this motion. There was no word about business investment. What about infrastructure? In fact, the member for Cooper talks about stimulating the economy. I am not going to wait around for the stimulation, because in regional Queensland the windsock is limp! If you talk to members of some of the chambers of commerce in North Queensland—maybe Marie-Claude Brown in Townsville, Heather Woods in Mackay, Bruce Hedditch in Bowen at the Larrikin or go to Airlie Beach in my electorate and speak to Mark Beale at the Whitsunday Coast Chamber of Commerce or maybe Karen Vloedmans at the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce—they will tell the tale of the haves and the have-nots and the lack of business investment in this state under those opposite.

We have not heard a whimper out of the Palaszczuk Labor government in relation to what its federal colleagues in Canberra are saying. Mark Butler has come out in the last couple of days and said that he is not even interested in opening up the Galilee Basin, which does not involve government money—taxpayers' money—but private investment. What do those opposite have against private investment and growing the economy, stimulating—in the words of the member for Cooper—the economy?

**Mr McArdle:** They take the royalties though!

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Caloundra. Those opposite do love the royalties like Dracula loves the Blood Bank. They love it! There were \$4 billion in royalties last I checked. In fact, rather than a bit of train spotting, how about a bit of ship spotting? I saw 48 ships off Hay Point on the way down here for this week's sitting. The member for South Brisbane loves the money but she does not like mentioning the c-word, does she? No! What about the coal workers of the Bowen Basin? Those opposite have sold them out, and I note that the minister responsible for mines is back in the chamber this evening. They have sold out the coal industry.

There is no doubt that there is a widening gulf in terms of confidence between the metropolitan areas of this state and regional Queensland. The further north and the further west you go, the more the people of Queensland despise the Palaszczuk Labor government. When we talk about economic management, let us never forget the fact that the Premier could not even remember the rate of the GST. No-one was asking the Premier to come up with the Gold Lotto numbers. We did not want the magic six, Premier! We just wanted the rate of the GST, and people have never, ever forgotten that. During her recent state of the state address last week the Premier failed to mention—

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** The member for Thuringowa fails to mention many things, but the Premier did not mention the words 'tax', 'debt', 'unemployment' or 'infrastructure' yet that debt bomb ticked, ticked, ticked towards \$83 billion. There are 83 billion reasons why the people of Queensland, especially regional Queensland and North Queensland, want this mob flushed down the you know what.

Let us never forget the bikini-bashing member for South Brisbane. We cannot forget that. What does she have against the tourism industry in Airlie Beach? Plenty, no doubt about that. Her budget speech is part of folklore in this place—28 minutes, the shortest ever budget speech in living memory. I am sure there are a number of Labor luminaries who used to sit in here who would have been shaking their heads saying, 'Fair dinkum.' What was she rehearsing for? The *7.30 Report* so it could accommodate the budget speech? I worked in TV. We might have given her a start. We could have the openers and the closers—'Here's Jackie!' Just do not mention the debt.

**Mr McArdle:** Take the royalties!


**Mr COSTIGAN:** They will take the royalties, as I said—\$4 billion in royalties thanks to coal. It is unbelievable that we cannot even get the Premier and certainly the Treasurer to mention the c-word. We are crying out for investment in this state in terms of roads.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that use of the term 'c-word' and I would ask that it be withdrawn.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I was taking advice from the table. That is not cause for you to erupt into all sorts of other interjections across the chamber. The member has taken personal offence. I do not believe that he can take personal offence to that because he was not personally referred to. However, I did not hear the contribution but I understand it referenced use of the c-word. In the incorrect context, that could be viewed to be unparliamentary. I caution you, member, about the use of the language and I ask you to use your remaining 36 seconds wisely.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I will; thank you, Mr Speaker, for your advice and your guidance. 'C' stands for 'coal'. If there is any ambiguity in this House, let there be no doubt. I will always stand up for the coal industry. I want to sum up my contribution to the debate by saying that the LNP stands by our record in investment. In our 34 months in office we had the \$8.5 billion, 10-year Bruce Highway reconstruction plan and we delivered 11 new schools, including the first school built in Mackay since the eighties—in my own electorate. While those opposite are not interested in dams, last night we heard from the member for Rockhampton. He did not even know where Rookwood Weir was. They would not know Urannah from Uranus!

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.17 pm): A lecture from those opposite who lost the largest political majority in less than three years! What great economic insights we have been hearing from the other side! They gave us the highest employment rate in 11 years. They gave us a growth rate with a zero in front of it. They gave us 43 per cent electricity prices. They sacked 14,000 people. Not a single renewable energy project on a large scale started in their entire term and they ordered half-price trains from overseas, yet they have the temerity to come in here and lecture this government about economic credibility and competency. Spare us all! It is unbelievable!

The electorate of the member for Whitsunday has one of the biggest booms in renewable energy infrastructure going into it in the whole country, yet he never refers to it. He does not understand it and does not want to know about it. If you do not understand energy policy, you do not understand economics.

This government is committed to infrastructure. This has been an infrastructure budget. When we look at the sorts of infrastructure investments that are either underway or about to start, we are talking about the Caloundra Road upgrade at the back of the Sunshine Coast, the Haughton River flood plain, the Mackay Ring Road, the Cairns southern access corridor to start at Edmonton to Gordonvale, the two M1 upgrades followed by two more, the Eton Range realignment, the Smithfield bypass in Cairns, Rockhampton northern access, the cruise ship terminal in Brisbane and the Logan enhancement program. We are building infrastructure, including Cross River Rail.

If the members opposite oppose Cross River Rail, they cannot say that they have an economic plan. They do not support the single-most important infrastructure project in South-East Queensland. I might add that the members cannot—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth and member for Whitsunday—and you have just made a five-minute contribution—you will cease your interjections and allow the minister to speak.

**Mr BAILEY:** The members opposite cannot claim to have economic credibility while they snuggle up to One Nation with its absolute economic lunacy. I might add that, with their shabby economic record, what did the members opposite do? They made the treasurer in their fewer than three-year Newman government their leader. How did that go for them? In the last week of the campaign, he melted down three times and they lost. We became a majority Labor government. The members opposite do not learn, because they do not understand economic policy. Our record is much better than that of the opposition—over 170,000 jobs created versus fewer than 30,000 jobs under the entire term of the Newman government.


I looked at this essay that the member for Everton claims to be a motion and thought I would look a little deeper into his references because I suspected—and rightly—that there was a lot of cherry-picking by the member for Everton. The June Sensis Business Index finds that small and medium business confidence in Queensland went up seven per cent. The current perceptions of the economy among small and medium businesses in Queensland was up 20 points. That figure is better than the figures for Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. What do we see in terms of support for the federal government among small and medium businesses? There is a negative opinion of the federal government's policy and there is too much focus on big business. The member did not mention that in the motion.

We also see that, in terms of metropolitan business confidence, Queensland is doing better than the national average and better than Victoria, better than South Australia, better than Western Australia and better than the Northern Territory. Again, that is a measure that was not mentioned by the member for Everton. When we look at the June CCIQ pulse survey, we see that the Queensland outlook is improving.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

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

**Mr BAILEY:** In Queensland, the 12-month outlook has also bounced higher. Again, that is not mentioned in the motion. In terms of general business condition, a promising sign is the declining share of businesses that consider conditions as deteriorating—24 per cent. Sales and revenue are up. Profitability has increased from month to month. In fact, it is a long-term trend going in the right direction. Again, the trend employment levels are improving. The major constraints on business are political instability at a federal level and energy costs from a federal government that, in five years in government, has not had an energy policy.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.22 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. As we have heard, we now have conclusive evidence that this government is not only arrogant and out of touch but also absolutely incompetent. As I said in my maiden speech, the two highest priorities of any government are to keep its citizens safe and to provide an economic environment in which its citizens can prosper. As we heard yesterday, and as we hear today, in both of those areas this government has failed massively.

This is the second term of the Palaszczuk government. There is nowhere for the government to hide. This is its record. It is all its own doing. Labor has been in government for 25 of the last 30 years. Thirty years ago Queensland was the economic powerhouse of Australia, Now, Queensland is battling to avoid being awarded the wooden spoon. On every key economic performance indicator, this government gets an epic fail.

This government takes no responsibility or accountability and instead passes the buck. This government is arrogant and incompetent. This government lacks leadership and vision and fails to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive. More debt and higher taxes are at the core of the Labor Party's DNA. We have had more than a quarter of a century of Labor administrations addicted to debt and taxes. There is now no doubt that this government is following lock step in that tradition.

Under this government, business confidence has plummeted. The June Sensis Business Index has found this government to be the least popular government for small and medium sized businesses. Productivity is down off the back of 23,000 workdays lost to trade union strike action. We now have the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 6.4 per cent. There are now 170,000 Queenslanders looking for a job.

What does this government do when it cannot pay the bills? Apart from raiding the superannuation of our hardworking public servants, it creates new taxes—five of them. We cannot tax our way to prosperity. The report card outlined by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is proof of that. The saddest thing is that this situation will not change. There are few people sitting opposite who have run a business. Very few of them have managed a budget. Very few of them know the day-to-day dreams or fears of being a small business owner. They have jumped on the student politics, union official, state MP career path and found themselves out of their depth in managing the economy and getting their debt under control—a debt that they seem more than happy to pass on to our kids and grandkids. We know that this government robs Peter to pay Paul and has no plan to steer our state into a future position of prosperity. The June CCIQ pulse survey continues—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for McConnel and member for Buderim, you will cease your interjections at each other.

**Mr PURDIE:** We know that this government robs Peter to pay Paul and has no plan to steer our state into a future position of prosperity. The June CCIQ pulse survey shows the continuing decline in business confidence and the divide between South-East Queensland and regional Queensland, confirming that the Palaszczuk-Trad government is still a Brisbane-centric government. The members opposite purport to fight for all Queenslanders, but all they really care about is the inner city and South Brisbane and firming up their coalition with the Greens to secure their own seats.


In true Labor tradition, the government has a clear strategy of shirking the hard work, fudging figures, totally ignoring the real issues and failing to make the tough decisions to deal with debt. Obviously, the members opposite are happy to leave this hard work to a heavy-lifting future competent LNP government. These latest economic barometers have shone a light on the economic woes facing Queenslanders. Clever accounting and the resurgence of the resource sector is the only thing that has kept this sinking ship afloat. The Premier—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, you will use correct titles.

**Mr PURDIE:** The government has no economic plan, only more taxes, more debt and more unemployment. Thought bubbles about artificial intelligence and blockchain technology are proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government has well and truly jumped the shark. In stark contrast, the LNP has a plan to arrest debt, bust congestion and provide cheaper electricity.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.37 pm): I rise to oppose paragraphs 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 1(d), 1(e), 1(f), 1(g), 1(h) and point 2 of the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am very proud to be the assistant minister for Treasury and the member for Gladstone in this Palaszczuk Labor government. I am also very proud to work with the Deputy Premier of Queensland.

This government is unashamedly delivering for the people of Queensland, the people of regional Queensland and the people of Gladstone. We are getting on with the job. We are investing in infrastructure, we are growing jobs and we are delivering the high-quality front-line services that Queenslanders deserve. We are growing our economy in a way that is fair and does not leave anyone out in the cold.

In Central Queensland, we are investing \$1.44 billion on infrastructure in the next year alone. With that investment, we are supporting over 3,500 jobs in that area. We are building Rookwood Weir, we are upgrading the Bruce Highway, we are building the Rockhampton Hospital car park, we are building a new \$60 million high school at Calliope and a \$42 million emergency department at the Gladstone Hospital. Tenders have been called for the main building and it is due to start by the end of the year.

Since coming to government, there are over 144 extra nurses and 77 extra doctors in Central Queensland hospitals alone and an extra 137 teachers and 58 extra teacher aides in our Central Queensland schools. Programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work have provided training to over 2,036 people in Central Queensland and Back to Work has seen 1,677 people find work in our region.

The member for Keppel, the member for Rockhampton and myself are proud that we are seeing so many people utilising these programs. This is what we are doing in regional Queensland every day from the cape right down to Coolangatta. Those opposite may be a little confused by our approach. They may be thinking to themselves, 'Why haven't they adopted any of the LNP policies here in Queensland—great ideas like flogging off Queensland assets like the Gladstone port?'

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BUTCHER:** They even employed a person to work at the Gladstone port to help prep it for sale and ran him as an LNP candidate against me while he was employed there. Guess what? He failed and he failed miserably. Another great idea was trying to flog off the land that we had for a school at Calliope.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory!


**Mr BUTCHER:** They even went so far as to put a huge glossy big sign up to say it was for sale, which I had the greatest pleasure of pulling down with a community group in Gladstone and Calliope to get rid of it. It is great to see the new member for Callide getting on board and supporting not only saving the land but building a brand-new high school on the land that they wanted to sell. It is great to see that he is now on board. He is turning up to the committee meetings and he wants to see a high school built in Calliope. That is absolutely fantastic. At least now we can get on with the job. We know the LNP's history in Central Queensland when it was in government for three short years.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I have repeatedly given you suggestions about ceasing your interjections and you have not taken them.

**Mr BUTCHER:** It is like getting hit by the mayor of Gladstone in a charity fight in a couple of days. Those opposite sacked 22 front-line workers, 12 health practitioners, 31 nurses and nine QBuild staff under the Newman government. These are the policies and the approaches that saw the LNP drive the unemployment rate up to 7.1 per cent seasonally adjusted that saw a record 177,300 people unemployed. That saw the Sensis Business Index sink to plus 11 in regional Queensland while it is now at plus 41.

That is the record the Leader of the Opposition said she was proud of. As far as we know, that is the exact economic plan we will see replicated if she were ever to become Premier. She has promised more spending, to lower debt and no new taxes. In her budget reply speech alone she committed to nearly \$5 billion in new projects and spending. What is missing from this equation? How she is going to pay for it! While Labor governments build, train and invest, those opposite cut, sack and sell. I have news for the LNP: regional Queenslanders will never, ever forget that.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the private member's motion moved by the member for Everton. In doing so, I condemn the Labor government for its failed economic record of more taxes, increased debt and high unemployment. Those in my electorate of Bundaberg deserve better from their state government, as do all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government has no plan for Queensland except for taxes, debt and unemployment.

The June Sensis Business Index confirms the Palaszczuk government is the least popular state government amongst small and medium sized businesses. The June CCIQ pulse survey shows that business confidence continues to subside and the divide between business confidence in the south-east and regional Queensland continues to escalate. Further research also showcases that under this government our state sits in fifth place in the nation—firmly stuck in the bottom half of the economic ladder.

The Premier has no economic plan and this government's debt is projected to exceed \$83 billion, costing Queenslanders a colossal \$7,000 every single minute. The LNP is the only party that has a real economic plan in place to secure a bright future for our state. Queensland's success is dwindling at a rapid speed under Labor. We have the worst unemployment rate in the country, sitting at 6.4 per cent seasonally adjusted, with 170,000 residents currently without work. We also have the lowest economic growth of any state in the country over the last quarter, sitting at just 0.1 per cent. Once upon a time we had the highest, but Labor is now causing our economy to grind to a halt.


The national unemployment rate may have gone down, but this government managed to buck the trend and get Queensland's unemployment to increase. In this financial year alone Labor will steal \$2.25 billion straight from the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders, many of whom already struggle to make ends meet. This money goes straight to paying for Labor's five unnecessary new taxes. When announced, the government claimed these new taxes would not hurt Queensland mums and dads, but it does exactly that. Stagnant wage growth, high unemployment, a youth jobs crisis and flatlining business confidence are all symptoms of Labor's economic mismanagement. The track record of this government is shocking.

Many people in my electorate of Bundaberg are doing it really tough. We have a high number of retirees and small business owners who call Bundy home and the cost of living and the struggle to gain employment are concerns I hear on a daily basis. Our region has a whopping unemployment rate of over nine per cent. Labor likes to talk about records. Well, here is one for them: Bundaberg's youth unemployment rate is currently sitting at almost 30 per cent—the highest it has ever been. Now, there is a record Labor does not like to talk about, but it is talked about every single day in my electorate.

Wide Bay-Burnett has the greatest regional population outside of the south-east corner, yet this government gave us the second lowest capital budget in regional Queensland for 2017-18. Those opposite leave us at the bottom of the pile and do nothing to help us combat the struggles we face. I and members of my community wanted to see funding in this year's budget allocated towards projects which generally make life for Bundaberg residents better and easier, but alongside years gone by Labor has delivered next to nothing.

In comparison to the LNP's last state budget, the Wide Bay is facing infrastructure funding cuts and job opportunity losses of \$229 million and 710 jobs, further inhibiting our community from thriving. The Treasurer has even admitted that Queensland has an infrastructure crisis. This is a comment I find very interesting because during its first term the Palaszczuk government cut infrastructure spending by \$3 billion each year. They only have themselves to blame. Not only does this government have no economic plan; those opposite seem to think the billions of dollars of crippling debt will simply just go away.

This government also failed to implement any projects in Bundaberg that are lowering our unemployment rates. I put my name forward as a candidate in the 2017 state election because I wanted to see Bundaberg flourish. I want Bundy residents to have an exciting future full of growth and new opportunities. I want to build a better Bundaberg. I stand here in this House on behalf of the people of Bundaberg as their voice and their representative. I know what our community needs and I will continue to fight for that. The LNP is the only party that has the critical needs of Queenslanders ranked as their No. 1 priority and that is why I support the private member's motion before us here this evening.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.38 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I have to ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition: who writes your material?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr HARPER:** The LNP want to talk about the least popular state government. They want to talk about unemployment and economic records. This reads like a script from Seinfeld: it is a show about nothing. Seriously, here is a tip: bring back the former premier, Campbell Newman, and sack your writers because that is hopeless.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** I will tell you about the proud economic history we have in Townsville and the legacy that was left by the former member for Mundingburra, the survivor—14 per cent unemployment is what you left us. We have nine per cent unemployment. You sunk in \$100 million in investment in your time. We have invested over \$1 billion in infrastructure. You left us with absolutely nothing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Thuringowa! Pause the clock. I realise there is some to-and-fro happening. Member for Thuringowa, I ask you to put your comments through the chair. It will assist with the order of the House. Leader of the Opposition, I need you to cease your interjections. You could be heard above all others.

**Mr HARPER:** Obviously I touched a nerve in terms of the legacy that they left for Townsville, but we have a proud economic record of delivering for North Queensland. We are growing our economy and creating jobs. Under Labor, we are building the infrastructure that North Queensland needs to support a growing population. Perhaps some of the overinflated egos on the other side need to pop, because in their time in government they let down themselves, they let down Queensland and they certainly let down Townsville. We have reversed the savage cuts of the LNP and restored front-line services.

On any day in this House I will proudly stand up and talk about our investment in North Queensland. Thanks to that lot over there, we had 14 per cent unemployment. We are getting on with job creation by investing \$840 million in infrastructure and \$980 million in health. We have provided nearly \$30 million for capital works and maintenance for schools. I have yet to talk about Thuringowa and I am not even sure that five minutes is long enough to talk about all of the great projects underway in Townsville, but I will give it a red-hot go.

We have the Houghton water pipeline and \$225 million in funding, under Labor. We have the new home of the mighty North Queensland Cowboys, the Townsville stadium, under Labor. Works for Queensland is providing \$66 million worth of projects, under Labor. Pimlico TAFE is having a \$26 million upgrade, under Labor. The Townsville port channel widening project worth \$75 million is Labor funded.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** They are starting to get the drift of it. Under Labor we build things and we create jobs. In my electorate of Thuringowa, I am proud to have delivered \$5.5 million for a new school hall at Kirwan State High School and \$5 million for a new ambulance station, Labor funded. Riverway Drive—I am always going to talk about Riverway Drive—is a \$35 million job-creating project that is Labor funded. That project was promised by the LNP but never delivered.


We have programs such as Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. When I speak to small business operators in Thuringowa, they tell me that they are very thankful for the Back to Work Youth Boost payments, which mean that people can be employed. In our time in government, we have created 10,000 jobs; the LNP sacked people. That is their legacy.

What do they have to say about Townsville? The member for Nanango says that it is not a livable city. She should go and tell that to the people of Townsville. We are proud of our city and everything we are doing to build jobs. Do not talk our city down! They come to my home town of Townsville, where

I have raised my family, and they insult everyone who lives there. The Leader of the Opposition says that she wants to make it a livable city; you should have invested in your time. You lost all of your members—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Thuringowa, put your comments through the chair.

**Mr HARPER:** I say to the Leader of the Opposition: I live there, I love it and I am not the only one. Respectfully, back off talking down our city, please! The LNP should know better than to ridicule the people of Townsville. We have a great lifestyle and it is only going to get better under Labor, because we keep building, delivering and investing. For us, it is all about jobs, jobs, jobs. All the LNP has is a legacy of cut, sack and sell.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion standing in the name of the member for Everton and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. When I saw that I was one of the fortunate few who would get a chance to speak on this motion, I thought, 'Beauty; it's not going to be hard, because when you are talking about the economic management of the Labor Party it is a veritable goldmine.' If the member for Thuringowa thinks that we need speech writers, he is sadly mistaken. I do not need a speech writer, as I have everything that I need, as does everybody here and everybody else in Queensland.

The government does not get economics. The word 'Labor' is a byword for economic backwardness, taxes, debt and unemployment. That is what we will see from this government. In the past 30 years, we have had 25 years of Labor governments and look at the state they have left our economy in. Look at the terrible debt. What are the effects of poor economic management? We are bequeathing debt to future generations. My kids, their kids and their grandkids will face a debt that is approaching \$83 billion. That is a colossal debt. What are we seeing for it? Ludicrous things such as weight loss programs for dogs! My good friend the member for Cairns waxed lyrical about a wonderful program to spend \$100,000 on weight loss for dogs. At least we had a bit of a laugh for our \$100,000.

**An opposition member:** Barking mad.

**Mr LISTER:** He is barking mad. On unemployment, this government does not understand that it is not government that creates jobs; it is the private sector. Since the government came to power, there has been a woeful increase in the number of senior bureaucrats. In my speech after the budget, I mentioned that there are over 4,000 more senior and senior executive public servants in the state which costs \$1 billion. Those people are not nurses attending patients, police arresting offenders or teachers taking classes. They are bureaucrats who are getting in the way and costing the private sector—which generates jobs in the state—a fortune.

The Treasurer introduced the \$1.3 billion waste tax, among four others. I will look only at the waste tax, because there is so little time to talk about this. Across the whole state, \$1.3 billion has been allocated to fix the odious waste problem caused by their Labor mates in the old Ipswich City Council. What happened? The Deputy Premier announced it and then their Labor mates in the Ipswich City Council said, 'We're going to cease recycling.' Straightaway, faster than a ferret up a pair of trousers, the Treasurer raced to bring forward that \$1.3 billion impost on Queenslanders. What happened? Of course we see incompetence from all Labor administrations and the Ipswich City Council was no different. The very next day they decided to rescind their decision not to have recycling. Did the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer race back to rescind bringing forward the \$1.3 billion tax? No, such is the insatiable addiction that the government have to putting their hands in your pocket and taking your money!

What sort of priorities does the government have? I will speak in the context of my seat of Southern Downs. The people in Southern Downs were aghast to find out that the government is spending \$45 million on a bike track linking some Labor electorates in Brisbane. What sort of impact would that money have were it spent in an electorate such as Southern Downs? We could fix the Gore Highway between Goondiwindi and Millmerran. We could eradicate pests. We could build 4,000 kilometres of dog fencing to protect the hardworking graziers in my electorate of Southern Downs from dog attacks. We could give more money to the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, to ensure that the children in my electorate of Southern Downs and in other regional electorates have access to the help they need to get the right diagnoses, so that they can go to school.

**Mrs Frecklington:** What about maternity services in the bush?

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. There are no services in the bush. As far as Labor is concerned, the bush starts at Bald Hills. I started this speech by saying that Labor is a byword for economic backwardness and I talked about priorities. However, this is not



just about priorities; it is about ideology. It is about wasting our hard-earned money on thought bubbles and projects such as \$100,000 for weight loss for dogs. How can the state take seriously this government—the odious rump that sits over there? I commend the motion to the House.

**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.48 pm): We have heard five of the six speeches from members of the opposition, but still we have not heard a plan for the economy. I am looking forward to the contribution from the member for Maroochydore, because this might be her first contribution as the opposition's shadow employment spokesperson. I am really looking forward to that contribution. The Palaszczuk government is relentlessly focused on creating the conditions for small businesses to thrive, to grow and to employ more Queenslanders.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the minister is not taking interjections.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Small businesses are the engine room of our economy—more than 426,000 small businesses employing more than 900,000 people, contributing \$113 billion to the Queensland economy. Despite the negative comments from those opposite, NAB's most recent monthly business survey shows trend business conditions in Queensland to be the highest of all mainland states and trend business confidence to be the second highest.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, it is not time for commentary. There have been contributions made. I want to hear the minister. The minister is not taking interjections. She is being factual as far as I can hear.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The great feedback we are getting from business does not stop there. In response to our fantastic budget handed down by the Treasurer, CCIQ said—

This budget acknowledged that it is small business that grows Queensland's economy, and we saw this reflected in the priority given to small business in the budget papers handed down.

Nick Behrens—not known for being a fan of our side—referred to the payroll tax apprentice and trainee rebate as 'an excellent decision by the Treasurer'.

Just last week the Leader of the Opposition attended a business breakfast on the Sunshine Coast. She could not resist another opportunity to talk down the Queensland economy, despite the very positive comments from her host. The Sunshine Coast Business Council Chair, Sandy Zubrinich, said—

It's looking positive for business on the Sunshine Coast ... there is a lot happening here in terms of infrastructure investment, and generally as a region we are performing pretty well.

Why would they not be confident? More than 177,000 jobs have now been created. More than 50,000 small businesses have launched in Queensland in 2016-17. Small business survival is increasing.

There was a dramatic drop of 15,000 small businesses following the election of the Newman government. Since that time we have grown new businesses by 23,000. Small business finally has a government that understands their vital role in the success of the economy. We delivered the first ever small business budget paper which outlined our commitment to small business.


Our budget also included: \$40 million for the Business Development Fund for two years; \$26 million to extend the 50 per cent payroll tax rate for apprentices and trainees; \$20 million for the Business Energy Savers Program and \$4 million to continue Ecobiz; and continuation of the Advancing Women in Business initiative. That is on top of our fantastic programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work that are generating jobs in this state. Both those programs were slated for cutting by the LNP in their election costing document.

It is not just about the funding we are giving business to generate jobs. We are also taking action. Queensland small business has told us that they were being placed under enormous strain by mining companies not paying them in reasonable time. We have written to every resource sector company encouraging them to pay small businesses within 30 days—fair payment terms for regional communities. We are doing what we can to reduce red tape and make it easier for small businesses.

Let us look at the LNP's record. Despite all their talk about supporting small businesses, red tape went up dramatically under the LNP. The red-tape survey report in 2015 found one in four businesses felt growth was hindered by red tape and they were disappointed the LNP government had let them down. We can all remember how small businesses were impacted under the LNP. They took them for granted. They abolished the small business commissioner.

For three years Queensland had not one representative at national bodies talking about making things easier for small business. We know they sacked 14,000 public servants. They were customers of Queensland small businesses. We are the government investing in training and skills and small business while they still want to cut, cut and cut.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next speaker, I remind all members of this House that the debate is between those members who are actually speaking and not every member of this House. If you wish to participate in the debate then get on the speaking list. Apart from that, it is up to the members speaking to represent each side of the debate.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.53 pm): This is the big-taxing, low-delivering, union dominated Palaszczuk Labor government. Not only did they not pay their nurses; they are also not paying small businesses. It is ironic to hear those in this Labor government get up and say that they are going to tell people to pay people on time. They do not want people to look at their record, do they?

Small business should not be the bank for government. Let us look at the record of this government and the hypocrisy of this Labor government. This government wants to lecture others when we see that they have unacceptably high rates of late payments to their businesses. The figure is 17.2 per cent for the Department of Education. It was 8.98 per cent for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the last quarter alone. The latest available figures from the Department of Environment and Science show an incredible \$13.5 million in late payments for the period January to March this year. Why should small business be their bank?

The Labor government has a track record of not paying people, do they not? They did not pay public servants. They did not pay nurses. They put people in real hardship by their incompetence. Being a competent government matters and understanding the economy matters. What can we expect from a Labor government when the Treasurer delivers her budget speech and does not even mention debt, yet the state is heading towards \$83 billion worth of debt?

I am calling on this government to pay small businesses and get their act together because it is hurting people. It was the LNP that instituted a process to deal with the late payment of businesses and made it important to start reporting late payments and rein them in. This government is not paying attention and people are not being paid.

Small businesses and family enterprises are the backbone of this state. They are the ones who are creating the jobs. They are ones who are taking the financial risks. They are ones who have put their homes on the line when they create jobs in their local communities. When we get around the state, as we do, and talk to small business owners about what is happening it is heartbreaking when they say that they have lost their homes. That has happened under this government's watch.

We also have a government that does not want to talk about the downgrading of our credit rating. Our credit rating matters. In terms of that big debt that I talked about, who is paying for it? All of the taxpayers out there. This government is going to be bringing in an extra \$2.25 billion in new taxes and those who will be paying are Queenslanders. They will be paying more because there has been a downgrade and threat to Queensland's credit rating.

Who was it that lost Queensland's AAA credit rating? It was Anna Bligh, the mentor of the current lefty Treasurer of Queensland, the member for South Brisbane. We should never put a lefty in charge of the Treasury because they will always muck up the economy. There has been a \$9 billion underspend on infrastructure in this state. That hurts.

We see the hypocrisy of Labor Party members who have a very short memory. They have not seen anything that they do not want to flog off, yet they still put taxes up. I think we need to have a history lesson around the truth when it comes to who sold Queensland's assets. It was the Labor Party.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, will you please table that document and cease using it as a prop?


**Ms SIMPSON:** I will table the document.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'The truth about who sold Queensland's assets' [[1385](#)].

I will read from the list outlined in that document. In 2011 Queensland Motorways was sold for \$3 billion. That was sold under Labor. The Port of Abbot Point was sold for \$1.8 billion. It was sold under Labor. QR National was sold for \$4 billion. It was sold under Labor. The Port of Brisbane was sold for \$2.2 billion. It was sold under Labor. Forestry Plantations was sold for \$600 million. It was sold under Labor.

In 2009 the now Premier became a member of cabinet. Guess what? All this happened under this Premier's watch in cabinet. There is a long list of all the things that have been flogged off by Labor. Labor tell mistruths around who sold the assets. They still mucked it up. They destroyed the opportunity to build on the economic prosperity of Queensland.

We have heard the Sensis Business Index figures. They show that there is great concern around the future among small businesses and family enterprises. They want a government that is championing for them and not a government putting their hands in their pockets with the record number of taxes we have seen under this incompetent Labor government. They flog off the assets of the state and they still muck up the economy. We are more and more in debt.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.59 pm): It is good to see that those opposite have had their fun tonight. When we talk about the economy, we are talking about people's jobs. We are talking about people's businesses. We are talking about the opportunities for generations to come. This is the first economic contribution from those opposite. This is the first motion around the economy that those opposite have brought into this House. It has taken them almost a year, but they did it and they should be commended for it.

What they should not be commended for is cherry-picking. Both sides of this chamber can cherry-pick statistics and cherry-pick facts, but the fundamental deciders of who are responsible economic managers and who are to be trusted with their jobs and their children's jobs are those Queenslanders who decide who should be elected to govern this state. They are the ultimate arbiters of who should be responsible for our economy and their jobs, and they chose the Palaszcuk Labor government. They chose us because their very real lived experience is, under Joan Sheldon and Rob Borbidge, almost 10 per cent unemployment. Their experience under Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls was 7.1 per cent unemployment—14,000 Queenslanders sacked.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing orders. I have already cautioned you. Member for Toowoomba South, you are also warned under standing orders. I have already given clear instructions that this is not a debate between every member of the House. It is a debate between those members who have the call. Please respect the standing orders.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier referred to a member of this House by their first name and last name who is currently serving in this place. If there is going to be a rule, Mr Speaker, with respect to decorum in this place—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you have assumed that I have heard this and allowed it to happen. I did not hear that. If this was indeed the case, I am sure the Deputy Premier would be happy to withdraw those comments.

**Ms TRAD:** Under Campbell Newman and the member for Clayfield, we saw unemployment peak at 7.1 per cent. That is the lived experience of Queenslanders in this state. That is why those opposite have not governed for more than one term in the last 30 years, because you cannot trust them with the economy and you certainly cannot trust them with your job. You cannot trust them on electricity prices. You cannot trust them on taxes. You cannot trust them on debt. You certainly cannot trust them with the future.

Let me say quite clearly: since January 2015, under the Palaszcuk Labor government, we have gone about rebuilding the economy, creating jobs and restoring confidence, which was absolutely demolished by those opposite. Referring to our economy as the 'Spain of Australia' and that our economy was 'diving into the abyss', those opposite take out the gold medal for talking down Queensland.

Since we have come to government, 177,500 Queenslanders have a job. Under Labor, our economy is growing three per cent in 2018-19. Taxes as a proportion of the economy are at 3.9 per cent. What was it under those opposite? It was 4.3 per cent. Confidence is back. Let us talk about confidence because the June Sensis Business Index showed business confidence is positive 48 points in June 2018, up 13 points from December 2014 under Campbell Newman and the member for Clayfield. They want to talk about the CCIQ pulse survey. The CCIQ pulse survey also shows that the employment index is at its highest level since 2010. The employment index is up—the highest level since 2010.

They want to talk about the Fitch credit rating. They should have read beyond the headline because what Fitch recommends is massive cuts to expenditure—a billion dollars—and asset privatisation. If those opposite have a plan, they should declare it to the people of Queensland. They claim to have a plan. The member for Ninderry says there is a plan. The member for Everton says, 'We're not ready yet.' He said, 'It would be crazy to have a plan.' The sooner the member for Ninderry becomes the shadow Treasurer the better off they will be. I think we should bring back the member for Southern Downs into the leadership position of the LNP. He did a much better job than any of their frontbench.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 42:**

**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.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**NOES, 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, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.


**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Lynham, Perrett.

Resolved in the negative.

## MOTION

### Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.10 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That government business orders of the day Nos 2 to 10 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 2633.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.11 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament meets and recognise the traditional owners of the land of the Mackay electorate, the Yuwi people, in particular the Yuwibura group. Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker.

I am very honoured to be elected for a second term as the member for Mackay. I am also honoured to be the first woman to be elected to the seat of Mackay. My electorate is very progressive and inclusive. The expanded Mackay electorate now takes in all of Mount Pleasant and Glenella. Mackay is such a beautiful place to live, work and play. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Mackay region's economy is up there with those regions leading Queensland's economic recovery after the mess we were left in after winning the 2015 election.

Life is bright for Queenslanders under a Labor Palaszczuk government. Since the 55th Parliament we have seen unemployment come down, new industries in the region on the rise, infrastructure builds underway or nearly completed, diversification of agriculture, development of the biofutures industry and a developing entrepreneurial and innovation community—and all this is being driven by the Palaszczuk government.

Our government's training packages for the long-term unemployed are having a visible positive effect in my community. The Palaszczuk government is a progressive government putting the building blocks in place for a bright future for my region. Everyone loves having a job. That is why it is exciting to see so many people in my region return to work. The Mackay region has the lowest unemployment rate in Queensland. At the moment it is 3.2 per cent. There is still more work to be done, especially for our youth. Reinstating Skilling Queenslanders for Work has given the long-term unemployed in my electorate the opportunity to gain skills and qualifications and get back into the rhythm of regular work. There are many great news stories from this program. The work placements and certificates gained are varied, with the long-term unemployed gaining fully accredited skills.

I will share some of the good news stories with the House. Canegrowers participants gained licences for heavy vehicles for on-farm—skills also transferrable to the mining sector—through the harvest haul-out program. Ideal Placements graduates gained certificates in aged care, administration, business and hospitality. Energy Skills Queensland graduates gained skills needed for careers in the railway. These are just some of these positive programs.

The Mackay showgrounds have been transformed over several rounds of Skilling Queenslanders for Work by participants who have constructed gardens, pathways, artwork and assisted in the construction of a new grandstand, equestrian centre and seating. Participants graduate with a certificate in construction.

Because of the quality of the programs, the majority of graduates have found stable full-time work. I was at the Mackay showgrounds just the other day and Steve Gavilli pointed out the businesses surrounding the grounds where their graduates have secured permanent work. They are all doing well. The best outcome for my region is having graduation ceremonies cancelled because the graduates cannot get time off work to attend.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has been an opportunity for some participants to develop their skills beyond the program. Ian McNaulty, for example, when working on the Mackay showgrounds redevelopment was spotted by Woollam Constructions, which was supervising the project, and was offered a carpentry apprenticeship. This program has changed the outlook of Ian's life and that of his young family's future. To change the cycle of unemployment, children need to see their parents heading off to work as part of a normal way of life. Skilling Queenslanders for Work has given this opportunity to many families like Ian's.

Apprenticeships are on the rise in my region, although we are still seeing a skills shortage. Hastings Deering have increased their intake across Central Queensland. Ergon have continued strong numbers and BMA's intake has increased to 41 this year. Our small contractors are also doing a lot of heavy lifting engaging in training and apprenticeships. The intake of apprentices is a mix of school leavers and mature age people reskilling. It is also good to see a mix of gender and cultures. The brightest and the best are being selected.

The Palaszczuk government's incentives through payroll tax exemptions and discounts to WorkCover payments for employers to take on apprentices are showing strong results. Businesses have expressed that they need more support to get enough skilled workers trained to take up vacancies in the trades sector servicing the mining industry.

The Minister for Training and Skills Development, Shannon Fentiman, hosted the first of a series of round tables to ensure regional views will shape the government's policies and activities so apprenticeships and traineeships continue to deliver the skilled workforce businesses and communities need. She heard firsthand from Mackay residents about their successes and barriers, and their experience of taking a worker from starting a training contract through to earning their qualification. While in Mackay she also announced the \$1 million Advancing Apprentices Fund, which will partner with industry groups and businesses to produce promotional campaigns to highlight the successes that apprenticeships and traineeships are producing and encourage more people and businesses to get involved.

The Palaszczuk government has a good mix of funding for training, incentives for employers and information for all stakeholders available, along with strong support from industry groups and businesses. There are about 1,600 vacancies for skilled workers in my region. If there is anyone with any spare trades out there, please send them to Mackay. We desperately need them.

Another program to be embraced by employers was the Back to Work program and the Youth Boost payments. These programs have given employers the confidence to take on more employees. When the green shoots started showing in the economy, businesses started to employ youth and long-term unemployed people. Business owners told me that they would not have taken on additional employees without the payments. The economy was too uncertain.

Uneek Industries and Mackay Screen Repairs are just two of the varied types of businesses employing and training staff through this program. Mackay Screen Repairs, with three new employees, could spend funds on additional equipment and work stations. Uneek Industries are a group of cafes, and they could spend time on delivering professional development and skills in hospitality. Both businesses are adding to the skill sets of the community.

I have been told by contractors that the only thing that kept the financial wolves from the door was the Palaszczuk government's maintenance and upgrades of schools and other public buildings. In my region, the construction industry struggled when the commodity prices dropped. The former LNP government had no projects in the pipeline to support the regions or contractors in my region. Some of Labor's school infrastructure included the brand-new purpose built classrooms at Mackay special school which is supporting students to reach their academic and personal potential. The new facilities also assist teachers and support staff with modern equipment that meets the unique needs of their students.

Students at Mackay State High School have refurbished state-of-the-art home economics facilities fitted out with professional standard, hospitality equipped kitchens and modern manual arts classrooms. The school is also able to offer sports excellence programs with a brand-new gym. Local contractors were engaged to carry out the construction work. It was fantastic to visit the works and to meet young local apprentices working on the job. There have been so many upgrades and I will share one more—the air conditioning at Mackay North State High School. The students in the north need good-functioning air conditioning to enhance learning. The north is too humid for schools not to have it working. Victoria Park State School—

**Mr Whiting:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs GILBERT:** Yes, a former student. Victoria Park State School had their aged swimming facilities rebuilt and the teaching facilities upgraded. They were nearly 50 years old. Mackay West State School have refurbished teaching areas. These are more locals on the job at all of these schools. Slade Point State School and Mackay North State High School are excitedly waiting for their new fences, and the list goes on. All students and teachers deserve to be learning and teaching in modern, well-maintained spaces.

The new Mackay Fire Station was officially opened by the Premier and Minister Crawford earlier during Governing from the Regions in Mackay. The \$7.5 million project has seen fire and emergency services workers moving from the old, cramped site to this modern facility, where equipment can be stowed appropriately, training can be undertaken and, for the first time, there is space for them to be able to appropriately maintain the fire units. The new facility has modern communication equipment, which is essential in any emergency. The men and women working in emergency services deserve to have quality facilities. The contractor awarded to build this wonderful facility was Woollam Constructions, using local workers and local contractors—painters, plumbers, concreters, block layers. About 130 workers worked on this project. This meant 130 families in work.

Improvements and upgrades to health services continue under the Palaszczuk government. The Mackay Step Up Step Down facility construction has begun in Shakespeare Street and is due to be completed early next year. The facility will allow for patients to move safely from acute care and back into society with support. The facility will be staffed with trained mental health staff and also have rooms for consultations and rooms for visitors, all in a home-like atmosphere. The aim of this government is to support those with mental health issues so that they can participate in society.

Queensland's procurement strategy, Buy Queensland, has ensured that local contracts have been awarded to local contractors. TMR and the Department of State Development ran seminars and coached contractors to be procurement ready when the \$500 million Mackay Ring Road came online. This infrastructure project is the largest seen in the Mackay region. It is fantastic to visit the construction site and see vehicles with local logos. Without the foresight of the Palaszczuk government, work may have been awarded out of the region and our regional companies would have missed out on this valuable work.

This is not the only major piece of road construction that has been delivered or planned to start with a mix of state and federal funding. The Peak Downs Highway four wooden bridges replacement project has been completed. The \$80 million northern access upgrade is still to be started, as is the

long-awaited Walkerston Bypass, which will continue on from the ring road project. I am pleased to announce that the \$28 million Vines Creek Bridges project, which I have reported on in the House several times, was fully funded under the Labor Palaszczuk government and will be finished in October, months ahead of schedule. There have been many improvements to the Bruce Highway with additional overtaking lanes to make it safer.

This commitment to road infrastructure improves the pit to port, farm to port and business to port supply chain. This modern transport supply chain is giving industry the confidence to expand. Businesses will expand and support services for the mining sector are on the rise. As I said, we need more skilled workers. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$3 million for the mining centre of excellence. Workers across Queensland needing to get their mining tickets to work on a mine site will be able to train in this state-of-the-art facility. The design process is well and truly underway. With the combination of the Resource Industry Network and the Mackay Regional Council, we will soon see work starting.

Regional Queensland, and in particular my region, is geared up and ready for the biofutures industries. Mercurius, a US company in partnership with QUT, is developing the technology for producing aviation fuel, marine diesel and biodiesel from the waste after sugarcane milling. Bagasse and other plant waste products can be used. A pilot plant will be situated in Mackay with five processing plants built across Queensland. Bio Processing Australia, a New South Wales company, have been enticed into Queensland via a state government grant. They are looking at using crop waste to build bioproducts. Companies like these are attracted to Mackay and the wider region because of our agriculture feedstock, cogeneration electricity produced at our mills, land availability and water supply. Developing new industries is important for regional Queensland to take the reliance and fluctuation out of the coal and sugar prices in our economy.


I would like to thank some of the people who helped me get here. I would like to thank my office staff, Suzanne and Jane, for their unwavering support for me and the Mackay constituents and constituents from the surrounding regions. Election campaigns cannot be won without hardworking campaign teams and branch members. I thank all the volunteers in my team. I am so blessed to have a large and supportive family who are always there to get the campaign underway and organised.

I say thank you to my parents, Bev and Jim; my three sisters, Michele, Susan and Caroline; their husbands, Jeff and Jason; and my two brothers, James and Anthony; their wives, Leesa and Ophelia; and my numerous nieces and nephews—do not worry; I am not going to name all of those—my daughter, Catherine; my son-in-law, Ian; and my grandchildren, Kia, Keione and Sienna. I also say a big thankyou to my stepsons, David and Edward.

I would like to thank my former colleagues from the Queensland Teachers' Union—Graham Maloney, Kevin Bates, Sam, Brendan, Kate, Thalia and Mark. I say a special thankyou to Barry Thompson, who came out of retirement, and all of the wonderful teachers in Mackay. I thank them for their many collective hours of work after school, on weekends and working on booths on election day.

I would also like to thank the AFULE—Mick McKitrick, Muddy Waters, Phil Brown and all the members from across the regions. Their members have done it tough over recent years, so I say thank you for giving me support. I would also like to thank the NUW for their support. A big thankyou needs to go to the support staff from the ALP office, especially to Lucy Collier. She is a real champion.

I would like to also thank my campaign manager, my husband, Frank. I say thank you for his consistent support and guidance and thank you for travelling on this journey with me—thank you, thank you.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.30 pm): Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the newly elected members of the parliament. It certainly is a great honour to represent our peers in this place. I would like to congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his high election to Speaker of the House. I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker on his election.

It has certainly been a great honour to serve the residents of the Albert electorate over the past five years. As we all know, the Albert electorate has entered the history books once again. The Albert electorate was first created in 1880. It was dissolved in the 1950 redistribution and was reincarnated in 1960. As we know, it was reassigned to the history books last year, in 2017. I must say I have always thought Albert a wonderful, personal name for our local area. The Albert River flows through the northern Gold Coast and separates the northern Gold Coast and Logan City regions. A lot of residents were a bit upset that they lost their name.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim.

**Mr Crandon:** The old Albert shire as well.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, also the old Albert shire. A lot of residents were a little bit dismayed at losing that name and that bit of history. They have always identified as living in the Albert region. As the member for Coomera rightly said, we used to have the Albert shire council in the region.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Well led.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take that interjection. A member of this chamber was the mayor of that shire.

**Mr Krause:** The last mayor.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** He was the last mayor of that shire. The new electorate was renamed Theodore after a former premier of Queensland. It encompasses about one-third of the old Albert electorate. Most of the Albert electorate was divided between Coomera, Macalister and Logan, leaving the Theodore electorate to take in the small section of the southern boundaries. The new Theodore electorate encompasses parts of Upper Coomera, Oxenford and Maudsland. It also services Guanaba, little parts of Coomera, parts of Helensvale, Wongawallan, Clagiraba and Pacific Pines with a tiny little corner of Mount Nathan in the very southern part.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Unfortunately, the fruit shop is not in my electorate. It is a great honour to be elected by the people of Theodore to represent their views and opinions on matters that affect them in their daily lives. I have to thank the wonderful volunteers who gave up so much of their time during the 2017 campaign, whether they were doing letterbox drops, helping me to doorknock in the area or participate in my community roadsides, which I religiously do. Even to this day I try to get out in the electorate every single afternoon to listen to the people's concerns and then voice their opinions in this place or write letters to the ministers or council about issues concerning them.

We have a wonderful team in the LNP in the Theodore electorate; we have a very strong team. We also have a team of wonderful community leaders who came out to support me during the election campaign. I am forever in their debt for the amount of time they put in to assist the campaign and, most importantly, for the sacrifice of family time to fight for the principles of the Liberal National Party.

I have to also thank my family. My father, Peter, was my campaign manager. Every single day he enjoyed—and some people would find it strange—going down to the pre-poll and setting up at 5 am and making sure he got a good spot. He loved the banter with the other candidates and campaign teams. I must say that overall we got on very well with each other. Sometimes I even bought the Labor members a coffee or two. We got on quite well—

**Mr Krause:** That is compassionate conservatism.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** That is compassionate conservatism. I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. Overall, we got on very well. It was testament to my campaign team, the Labor campaign team and the One Nation campaign team. We also seemed to sync up very nicely.

I thank my mother, Marg, who certainly finds it a bit of a struggle these days. She was determined to also participate in the pre-polls when she could. I must say that you cannot say no to my mother. I thank my brother, Paul. He may be older than me, but he looks like a younger version of me these days. I have to say thank you for all the effort he put into the campaign. Like my father, he would not give up and he was always down there helping out and setting up booths.

I say thanks to my wife, Kanako; my daughters, Eleanor and Maya; and my son, Samuel. Whilst I am seldom home these days—and I am sure that as members of parliament we are all subjected to this—our lives are to serve the community and, unfortunately, our families do seem to suffer because of that. I know my son, Samuel, likes to call my father 'Father', which can be a little bit embarrassing sometimes, especially when I am at the school. He says, 'Daddy's here,' and I say, 'No, I'm Daddy, thank you very much.' It is a personal sacrifice that we as members of parliament make.

I would like to thank my office staff members. Sheree Allaway has been on my staff from day one. Next year she will have been in my office for six years.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** All I can say is I must be a good boss. My other two staff are Robert and Daniel. They are very enthusiastic individuals who also have a great passion for serving the community, sorting things out and helping people in need.



It would be remiss of me not to thank the LNP for the last state election. Tim Nicholls, the leader, fought a good campaign. Whilst it may not have been the result we were hoping for, he ran an exceptionally good campaign and he should be very proud of that. To our new leader, Deb Frecklington: I am sure we are going to have better times ahead with you.

Whilst the community of Theodore lost quite a few suburbs to the north and gained some suburbs to the south, we have great rural fire brigades in the electorate of Theodore: the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade and the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. They recently conducted controlled burns and fire callouts. Recently the Coomera Valley and Guanaba fire brigades went out to Esk to help their brothers in the rural regions, and that is a testament to the dedication of these rural firefighters.

With the encroachment of urban fire brigades into the region—obviously there is population growth on the northern Gold Coast—there is a fear that we will start to amalgamate rural fire brigades, and that is the worst thing we can do. We do not want to lose the expertise of these wonderful volunteers who have had years and years of experience. We do not want to lose them, because the Gold Coast region is a fantastic region. We can call on these firefighters if they are needed elsewhere throughout the state, but we need these rural fire brigades to remain strong on the Gold Coast.

We have great Lions Clubs in the Theodore electorate. The Helensvale Lions Club has been around for many, many years. The Upper Coomera Lions Club has only just formed, and I want to give a big shout-out to Carey Dobson for all his hard work in setting up that club. We also have the Coomera Valley Rotary Club, which is synonymous with barbecues at Bunnings and the Nucrush open day. They give up a lot of their time to serve the community in much the same way as the Lions.

I also have to give a big shout-out to the Coomera CWA ladies. They are truly the heart and soul of my region. They performed 51,000 hours of community service last year, and that is phenomenal. It just shows you how passionate they are. Recently they have made up women's toiletries to help remote communities, and they make Care Bears for kids who are sick in hospital. I know that my wife does that on a regular basis. Some nights when I come home there she is, sewing away. It is something that the CWA ladies are truly passionate about.

As I continue to get out into my community, whether it is doorknocking or my regular afternoon roadsides, residents continue to express their frustration at the lack of infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast to deal with population growth. We are one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland.

**Mr Bailey:** Cut, sack and sell!

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** It is interesting that the member for Miller has to jump into the debate on the matter. A Labor government was first elected from 1989 to 1996. Then we had a little gap with a National Party government, and then we went back to Labor from 1998 to 2012. Then we had another little gap, and now it is Labor again from 2015 to 2018. If you think about it, for 25 out of the past 30 years there has been a Labor government.

Let's not forget Labor's asset fire sale over those years: in 2006 Sun Retail was sold by Labor for \$1.2 billion; in 2007 Sun Gas was sold by Labor for \$75 million; in 2007 PowerDirect was sold by Labor for \$1.2 billion; Golden Casket was sold by Labor for \$530 million; gas assets were sold by Labor for \$268 million; wind energy assets were sold by Labor for \$460 million; Brisbane Airport was sold by Labor for \$289 million; in 2008 the Cairns and Mackay airports were sold by Labor; when the Premier was a member of the cabinet she participated in the sale of the Forestry Plantations for \$600 million in 2010; in 2010 the Port of Brisbane was sold for \$2.1 billion; and in 2010 QR National was sold for \$4 billion.

**Mr Krause:** It was not for sale, I thought.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take that interjection. What was the—

**Mr Krause:** Rachel Nolan, Queensland Rail.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, 'Rachel the Rail Wrecker', that's it. In 2011 Abbot Point was sold for \$1.8 billion.

**An opposition member:** Who was the transport minister then?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, who was the transport minister then? I think it was the member for Inala. Queensland Motorways was sold for \$3 billion. That is an interesting little treasure trove.

As many of my residents ask, 'What did we get from all of those sales?' We got debt and deficit. We also got dams without pipes, pipes without dams. We had a payroll system that did not pay our nurses. The funny thing about it is that it was the LNP who started the process to get exit 54 fixed. I remember that the member for Coomera and I met with the federal minister. The member for Coomera was working on a task to build a partnership between Westfield, the federal government and the state.

One of the biggest problems in the northern Gold Coast is the M1 motorway. Every time we have an accident on the M1 motorway it reminds me of the 2017 election campaign. The Premier was on a bus coming down the M1 motorway and she was stuck in a traffic jam because there was an accident on the M1 motorway. Also, because of what was happening on the M1 motorway that day, it was almost impossible for me to traverse my electorate. If there is an accident on the M1 all of my local roads go into meltdown because people continuously have to use the service roads, and the service roads are the lifeblood of the Theodore electorate. Let's talk about what the—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Members, there is a bit of banter going on across the chamber. I remind members that several of you have warnings under the standing orders. They are: the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Theodore, the member for Maryborough, the member for Chatsworth, the member for Gregory, the member for Everton and the member for Toowoomba South.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** What did the member for Miller do for my electorate in recent times? Exit 57. We were looking at this cleared area. We were looking at the trees being removed and we were sitting there thinking to ourselves, 'We're going to get our slip-road! These are exciting times! We're going to get our slip-road!' I sent an email off to the department to find out what was going on.

**Mr Krause:** Did you send it to mangocube?


**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I did not send it to mangocube. It probably would have been answered sooner.

The funny thing is, they told us they are going to build solar panels. We had 1,416 residents express their dismay in a petition, thinking that this minister, the member for Miller, is a very naughty boy. They were absolutely dismayed that a minister could be so silly and ridiculous as to put solar panels where we need a slip lane.

We need a direct access road to the M1 northbound. We need a direct access for the local trucks and local quarry vehicles that use that road every day. It is their main thoroughfare. They have no choice; they have to use that road. They are gazetted to use that road. One of the quarry truck drivers said to me, 'You can't be serious. How could somebody be that obtuse, that stupid, as to put solar panels where we need a slip lane?' Just think of the pollution from all of those cars—all of the carbon monoxide pouring out of those vehicles—sitting at the traffic lights. If you had a slip lane, those cars could slip up the side and go straight to the M1 northbound. We are asking for a bit of common sense, but obviously that is in short supply.

There are many other issues in the electorate about which I have been writing to the minister. Unfortunately, we get rather disconcerting replies blaming the LNP for everything, in the same way he blames the federal government. It is like they had a meeting on the Gold Coast with the deputy mayor and decided, 'Let's blame the federal government for everything.'

*(Time expired)*

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.51 pm): I rise to deliver my address-in-reply. I acknowledge His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, for his address at the opening of parliament. I also acknowledge Queen Elizabeth and congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his appointment as Speaker.

It is an honour to be re-elected for the fourth term and with increased support. I am deeply honoured by that increased support and the trust that the people of the Cleveland district, now called the seat of Oodgeroo, have placed in me and in the Liberal National Party. I appreciate the support in every suburb of the electorate: North Stradbroke Island, Ormiston, Wellington Point, Birkdale, Cleveland and Thornlands.

I am grateful to the residents of the Cleveland district for their continued support. We have continued to achieve much on their behalf, whether in government or in opposition. Sadly, though, when in opposition we have had to fight hard for our fair share of state funding for things like health services at Redland Hospital; better education in our schools; a safer community; better transport, whether rail, bus or ferry; roads; job creation and small business; and to stabilise the situation on North Stradbroke Island after Labor laws are stalling the island's economic transition, which is impacting on 2,200 people in the three townships. We will continue to fight for our fair share and to hold this government accountable for it.

I want to thank my campaign team and the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Key campaign volunteers include Chris, Mike, Ann, Henry, Emil, Julie, Shaun and Paul and many others. I also thank my staff—Sue, Josh and Simeon—who worked tirelessly throughout the previous parliament. I also thank my dear wife, Julie, and our wonderful children for their support and help. I acknowledge the hard work of the LNP candidates in the Redlands district: Matt McEachan, Cameron Leafe and Julie Talty.

The strong win in the Cleveland district provides the platform for continuing to pressure this government for our fair share. Early signs are that this will continue to be a fight, with little investment being planned in Redland Hospital, roads and transport, among other areas. I look forward to this term—to serving in the community and here in the parliament, on the panel of Deputy Speakers and in the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.

In terms of jobs, business and major projects, small and medium sized businesses, including small tourism operators, continue to employ the vast majority of Redlanders. Sadly, many are struggling under the weight of Labor's taxing regime, including direct taxes, levies, fees and charges, and the de facto high cost of water and power and car registration. Then there are the compliance costs and the regulatory burden that Labor inflicts on businesses—various forms of red tape and green tape.

More local jobs need to be created to reduce the number of people who have to leave the Redlands every day for work, clogging up our state roads. Very few job-generating substantial projects, sadly, are being planned, and no big-ticket items of infrastructure are being planned for the next four years at this point—public transport items, road duplications, hospital upgrade and other major infrastructure. Sadly, with no pipeline of big-ticket infrastructure items, few jobs are being generated from government investment. Again it comes back to the faithful small and medium sized businesses to create jobs and turn around the bad employment figures under this Labor government. It is about local people getting ahead despite their government.

There is no worse or better example, depending on how you look at it, in Redland City than North Stradbroke Island. The 2,200-plus North Stradbroke Island population continues to struggle under the weight of Labor's laws and Labor's stalling economic transition strategy. The LNP's carefully managed plan to phase out sandmining was to happen over a lengthy period of years to allow a smooth economic transition over time. Instead, Labor rushed through a decision, without a plan, to close the mine prematurely, by 2019. The local residents of the three towns overwhelmingly opposed this rushed decision. Sadly, Labor pushed ahead, in line with its inner-city Greens preference deal to save the member for South Brisbane's seat, resulting in hundreds of workers being sacked over a number of years and hundreds more jobs being put at risk.

Last week it was revealed that Labor's ETS was stalling badly, when Minister Dick was replaced as lead minister at the same time as it was revealed that only two of 23 projects had been completed in two years. Those two projects were the sprucing up of some camping grounds and a festival—good projects but not major infrastructure projects, not large-scale job-generating projects. That explains why there has been little job creation and net job losses on the island. The Premier admitted that much in question time on Tuesday, admitting that a hundred jobs were lost with Sibelco in recent times—but many more over time and then hundreds of indirect jobs put at risk. The Premier admitted that only five people who were sacked had been re-employed. Out of all of those who had been sacked, only five people were re-employed in all of that time—and some of those five are possibly part-time or on shorter term contracts. That is definitely a Labor broken promise.

Then minister Kate Jones and then premier Bligh had previously promised 400 ecotourism jobs. That was their promise to plug the jobs gap that their decision was creating, but Premier Palaszczuk has forgotten all about that promise and the member for Cooper would also like us to forget that promise. Sadly, they all ignored the warning from Brisbane Marketing that the government would have to build five Tangaloomas to plug the jobs gap created by shutting down mining so soon. Brisbane Marketing went on to tell then minister Jones that it could take 17 and up to 20 years, based on other regions, for that level of job creation to be achieved. Then minister Jones ignored the tourism experts, because she knew better and because the facts did not suit what Labor wanted to do and had already predetermined to do. As they failed to produce the jobs in the previous promise, I have no faith in the new round of promises that are coming and will come from Minister Jones about tourism jobs. They did not happen under her leadership as the minister then, and little is happening quickly now.

Debate, on motion of Dr Robinson, adjourned.

## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Parliamentary Precinct, Mail**




**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday parliamentary attendants accepted delivery of sealed envelopes addressed to each member. Normally mail addressed to members by name, as distinct from leaflets et cetera, is scanned and delivered to members. There is a range of material delivered for members including mail from Australia Post, couriers and hand deliveries. All mail received is delivered to members' offices.

In this instance, because of the identity of the person who delivered the material, attendants sought advice from the Clerk, who referred the issue to my office. My office was supplied the envelope addressed to me. I viewed the material contained in the envelope. Whilst I certainly do not share the views and arguments made in the letter or the manner in which it was presented, I did not consider the material to be threatening, intimidating or grossly graphic. I discussed the matter with the Clerk. The dilemma posed was that the Parliamentary Service was in the possession of addressed envelopes to members and did not want to interfere with members' correspondence. Ultimately, we decided to distribute the envelopes in the normal way.

Some members have expressed disappointment at the decision to allow the distribution of envelopes and we apologise for any distress caused by the distribution of the material. We apologise to the member who was named in the material. Because the distribution of members' mail in the precinct affects all members, I intend to take this issue to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly so that the CLA can determine a clear policy for the receipt and distribution of material on the precinct.

## ADJOURNMENT


### Kenilworth, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the condition of the roads in the Nicklin electorate that lead to the beautiful town of Kenilworth. Kenilworth is on the western boundary of my electorate and attracts many daily visitors and campers to the showgrounds. The Kenilworth showgrounds are a community owned asset and managed by the community and welcome visitors to the town, and Kenilworth thrives on and relies on this tourism—from the famous Kenilworth Dairies, whose Kenilworth cheese is second to none, to the Kenilworth bakery and its one-kilo doughnut challenge. There is the Kenilworth Hotel and many other small businesses in town that rely on visitors to keep the economy going. Then there are the fantastic events that the town also manages to put on with the help of the community—the Kenilworth cheese and wine show, the Kenilworth ArtsFest and the Kenilworth Show and Rodeo, which I visited just this week for its 99th show. There are car shows, quilt shows and all sorts of activities in Kenilworth.

As I have before, I am heading out to Kenilworth for a mobile office next Wednesday at 10.30 am to talk to locals about their concerns. I know one of the major issues that will come up is the roads into town, as they did on my last visit. Whilst Kenilworth is one of the best places on the Sunshine Coast hinterland to visit, getting there on the roads as they currently are, particularly if towing a caravan, can be treacherous. The member for Buderim tells me that his late grandmother used to close her eyes as a passenger in a vehicle as she went down Obi Obi Road for fear of going over the edge. We ran a petition on the Obi Obi Road and I have met a few times with the local Transport and Main Roads staff about options for this road and will continue to fight for it.

The other important road into town used by most due to the poor condition of Obi Obi Road is Eumundi Kenilworth Road. This is the only other option from the north to get to Kenilworth. Due to the proximity of a quarry, this road now sees hundreds of trucks travelling along it daily. This road was obviously not originally designed to cope with this extent of use and is showing the signs of neglect. I have put a question on notice to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads about plans to ensure that this road is safe for current use. As this road is used frequently by tourists often towing caravans, camping families and day visitors, the upgrade of this road is urgent. I will be launching a petition at the mobile office next week and I take this opportunity in the House to call on the minister to urgently fix this road for the safety of the community of Kenilworth and the many people who visit the area each day.

### Miller, Ms E

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.03 pm): I stand in the chamber today proud to be the first member of the new electorate of Miller. The new electorate was created during the 2017 redistribution and includes the suburbs of Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood, Tennyson, Yeerongpilly, Yeronga, Fairfield, Tarragindi and parts of Moorooka, Annerley and Rocklea. My electorate is named after Emma Miller, the pioneering unionist, suffragist and activist renowned for her fight for getting women the vote and for equal rights. I am very proud to have her name as my electorate name.

Emma Miller was born on 26 June 1839 at Chesterfield in Derbyshire in England. Like many young women of her time, she was forced to leave school at an early age in order to help support her family. Her parents, especially her father, who was quite politically active as a Chartist, instilled in her

the values of improving the living conditions of working people. Emma Miller migrated to Queensland in 1879 with her husband and children but was widowed, sadly, shortly after. She relied on her specialist skills as a seamstress to provide for her family.

She was well renowned for her trade, but the working conditions at that early time in Brisbane's history were such that many women were required to work extremely long hours in terrible conditions for very little money. Drawing on her progressive values, Emma Miller encouraged women to join the trade union movement in order to improve their working conditions and pay. Just like the Labor Party, Emma Miller was a champion of the worker. This was best evidenced by her courageous decision to front the royal commission into shops, factories and workshops to give evidence of the appalling conditions women workers were facing in 1891.


Emma Miller may have been physically tiny, but her personality, values and courage were immense. She marched in the streets to support the shearers' strike prisoners when they were released. She was a trailblazer in the Australian Workers' Union by becoming the first woman to hold a position as an organiser and also the first woman to be a member of the Brisbane Workers Political Organisation.

As well as campaigning for workers' rights, she was also a champion for equal pay and equal opportunity for women. Emma Miller was at the forefront of agitating for legislative change to enable women to vote in Queensland and, as an early suffragist, she was steadfast in her position of one person, one vote. The modern Australian Labor Party owes a great debt to its groundbreaking pioneers like Emma Miller. Within trade union circles she was proudly known as 'Mother Miller' and she maintained her strong principles and activism through her long life, which ended at Toowoomba on 22 January 1917.

Last year I and the local branch members of the Miller electorate chose to honour our namesake and established the annual Emma Miller Memorial Speech. We were honoured to welcome other trailblazers of the union movement Sally McManus and Claire Moore last year and this year we welcomed Minister Leeanne Enoch as the first Indigenous woman elected in Queensland, hosted by Matt Foley and with Jules Campbell the first ever secretary of the Queensland branch. I pay tribute to Emma Miller's great role in Queensland's history.

*(Time expired)*

### **Pumicestone Electorate, Road Infrastructure**

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (7.06 pm): It belies belief that the state Labor government can look a \$20 million gift-horse in the mouth, but that is exactly what has happened when the federal government gifted \$20 million to fast-track vital upgrades on Bribie Island Road in my electorate. It is not every day that part of the state road network is given a \$20 million injection. One would think that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads would be the first out of the blocks to get this funding into play for the people in my electorate, but this is not the case. On the day this funding was announced I personally wrote to the Premier and the Minister for Transport—and I table the letter—so there could be no mistake of federal funding being ready and waiting to go.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 July 2018, from the member for Pumicestone, Ms Simone Wilson MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding road upgrades to Bribie Island Road [\[1386\]](#).

Some three months later the Minister for Transport and Main Roads finally replied to my letter and he even took the time to pen a little handwritten comment that reads—

PS—Any lobbying of your Canberra colleagues to unlock this funding certainly can't hurt, Simone.

I also table that.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 September 2018, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Simone Wilson MP, regarding safety upgrades on Caboolture-Bribie Island Road [\[1387\]](#).


Clearly the minister is too lazy to do his own homework and, if he cared to ask, he would discover that I have in fact had numerous conversations with the federal government regarding this funding that I fought hard for. If he cared to ask, he would be pleased to know that the \$20 million has never been locked since it was announced on 6 July this year. It is there ready and waiting for him. I have done my part. The only roadblock is the minister himself.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is on track to hit \$83 billion in debt and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads literally will not take money that has been offered to it. This funding is so important to the parents who drive their children each day to St Michael's school and are forced to

navigate a highly dangerous intersection on Old Toorbul Point Road. It is important to the residents living within the Spinnaker Drive precinct who become gridlocked on weekends and public holidays when trying to exit on to Bribie Island Road.

It is most important for the commuters who drive along Bribie Island Road and residents who have waited patiently for the state government to start improving conditions by putting in a dual carriageway and intersection so that their travel along this vital road is safe and not congested. It is of the utmost importance to the emergency service personnel who navigate, under intense circumstances, the poor conditions of this road when attending to potentially lifesaving emergencies. The minister needs to stop playing politics with this funding, do his job and get on with putting this funding to good use for the residents in my electorate and the sooner the better.

### **Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.09 pm): I am pleased to speak about growing business and investment in Ipswich and how the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry is providing leadership and support to the Ipswich business community. I believe that Ipswich has a prosperous future. While Ipswich has experienced some challenges recently, as the member for Ipswich I am determined to help build confidence within my local business community and raise awareness of Ipswich's potential as a great place to invest. I also want to assure the people of Ipswich that their city is in a strong position to capitalise on projects that will help their local economy thrive and generate jobs.


Recently, I attended the South-East Queensland regional projects forum, which was organised by the Ipswich office of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The forum showcased significant projects in Ipswich and its surrounding regions that will generate hundreds of construction and operational jobs and many more created indirectly through wider supply chain activities. Ipswich will benefit from its proximity to projects like the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank, the Ipswich Hospital upgrade, the inland rail project and Cross River Rail.

A growing local economy cannot do without a good business support network. To that end, the people of Ipswich are fortunate to have the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The chamber plays a valuable role in building a more connected and informed business community and advocating strongly for investing in Ipswich. Although the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry is in its 112th year, it is looking ahead and capitalising on innovation to drive Ipswich towards a prosperous future.

For instance, the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry was one of the inaugural stakeholders of the Advancing Regional Innovation Program and it has launched the Ipswich region Food and Agribusiness Network to advance the food and agribusiness industries in Ipswich and its surrounds. The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry will partner with Trade and Investment Queensland to represent Ipswich at the Smart City Summit in Taipei next year. The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry provides business support and mentoring through successful initiatives, such as the Ipswich Indigenous Business Networking Breakfast, the Business Women Connect morning tea, the Bremer State High School senior mentoring program and the Domestic and Family Violence, it is your business! morning tea.

The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry also recognises business success through its City of Ipswich Business Excellence Awards. For over 30 years, the awards have celebrated Ipswich businesses and employees who have contributed to the continued growth of the local Ipswich economy. These awards will be held again this year on 20 October. As proof that the Ipswich local economy is growing strongly, more than 700 nominations were received for this year's awards, exceeding the number of nominations last year by 62 per cent. The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry has a long and proud heritage of supporting Ipswich businesses. I would like to thank the president, Phillip Bell, and his right-hand person, Carol Levin, and the rest of the team at the chamber and all of the businesses in Ipswich for their tireless advocacy of Ipswich and support of local businesses.

### **Operation Lift**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.12 pm): Despite my best efforts, I fear that, unintentionally, I may be in conflict with the law. Well may members ask how this somewhat worrying state of affairs has occurred—and not just to me but to thousands of other Queenslanders? Let me explain. I own a four-wheel drive vehicle—a three-year-old Prado. Many members know that I love hitting the beaches and the tracks of Queensland—Straddie, Moreton, Bribie, Fraser, the Simpson Desert, the Glass House Mountains, Cape York and the Creb Track just to name a few. To do that safely, I have installed a

suspension lift and one size larger tyres. Thousands, if not tens of thousands, of Queenslanders do exactly the same—a two-inch lift and a tyre upgrade—and all within what was understood to be the law without the need for certification or approval and the extra cost that that would involve. Let me say to the minister that there is more to an adventure drive than going down the M1 and taking exit 69 at Gaven.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield, you are on a roll. I ask you to direct your comments through the chair and not to the minister.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Indeed. Everyone was surprised when, suddenly in 2018, the law was clarified. The result of that clarification of the code meant that vehicles with electronic stability control, that had a lift of greater than 50 millimetres—or two inches—were suddenly defective. I table documents from February 2018.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated February 2018, titled Queensland Code of Practice—Vehicle Modifications, Transport and Main Roads—CODE LS9 [1389].

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated February 2018, titled Queensland Code of Practice—Vehicle Modifications, Transport and Main Roads—CODE LS10 [1390].

Then the government launched Operation Lift. I table the media alert and a vehicle defect notice issued by police.

*Tabled paper:* Documents, undated, titled 'Queensland Police Service—Media Alert, Illegal vehicle modification training—Gold Coast District' and 'Vehicle Defect check list' [1388].

The police started issuing defect notices with no consultation with four-wheel drive groups, clubs, industry professionals or the wider four-wheel drive owning public. That makes a mockery of this government's mantra of transparency and accountability. This is bureaucracy gone mad. Would we expect anything else from this minister? Changing codes of practice away from the commonly understood rules and practices—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order. Given that the member made the last change in 2012, I think his points are very creative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order; it is argumentative. Minister, I appreciate there is a little bit of goading occurring in the chamber and I am paying attention to the member's contribution.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Changing codes of practice away from the commonly understood rules and practices without telling anyone and then fining motorists and issuing defect notices is bad enough, but the situation gets more ridiculous. Now, the minister says that he is going to change the rules. All of those people who copped fines and defect notices would not have copped them if he had not changed them back in February 2018 when he clarified them. The minister has made ordinary motorists complying with the law in carrying out modifications illegal in their own state. This is a ridiculous situation.

The minister is also being tricky with his media release when he refers to lifting the height to 75 millimetres without referring to the tyre size. Let me call out to the people who alerted me to this issue: MrBuckaroonie on YouTube, Brett Hooker from the Drifta Fans group, and the group I Got Bogged at Inskip Point. I did not, but I want to try again.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order members!

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

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

### Toohy Electorate, Events

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohy—ALP) (7.16 pm): I take this opportunity to talk about events that have been occurring in my electorate. I would like to talk about the mid-autumn festival and gala concert that was held at SunPAC last Friday night, 14 September. On display was local talent, with some of the talent and dancers on their way to China to participate in the talent contest *China's Got Talent*.


The mid-autumn festivals are a really big part of what happens in my community. The member for Stretton and the member for Mansfield have also had the pleasure of participating in the mid-autumn festivals. Basically, the mid-autumn festival is a reunion. The people of my community place a heavy emphasis on these festivals, because they are a gathering of family and friends.



They are also a big part of what also will be occurring next weekend in my electorate—and I am sure I will again run into the member for Stretton and the member for Mansfield at this event. One of the wonderful things that comes with the mid-autumn festival is mooncakes. Although I must admit that they may not be everyone's favourite food, they are exchanged between people who attend these functions.

On Saturday we had the opportunity to see the second Australia-China International Photography Festival here at Parliament House. Unfortunately, the event was held on a Saturday, so members did not get the opportunity to see the great photographs that were on display. This is the second time the photography festival has been held but the first time it has been held at Parliament House. The photography festival included exhibitors from throughout the world. Not only were there local people displaying their talents but also people from China had sent some of their photos to be displayed. There was one cheeky exhibitor who actually had a photo of the Opera House and had managed, through digital enhancement, to have the Opera House in red.

### Carey Park

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.19 pm): I rise today to speak about the very concerning response from the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games this morning during question time when she refused to rule out Carey Park in front of Australia Fair as Labor's favoured site for a global tourism hub and a second casino on the Gold Coast.


I really do not understand Labor's desire to keep selling off public land. True to form, the member for Cooper dressed up her response with promises of community consultation but gave no commitment to honour the previous resolutions of the Gold Coast City Council or the wishes of the Southport community. Let us hope the minister does not treat the people of Southport as she did the people of Cairns by deliberately waiting to run consultation during the Christmas summer holidays of 2017 when everyone was away on leave.

I am putting on the public record very clearly now that I do not believe that the Southport CBD, especially Carey Park, is an appropriate or responsible location for a casino or, for that matter, a global tourism hub. Carey Park provides important recreational space and car parking for our growing CBD and the Broadwater Parklands events precinct. Southport does not need a casino at Carey Park. The impact would be devastating for our local clubs and community. Local clubs, Club CSi, formally known as the Workers' Club, and Southport Sharks have recently invested millions and millions of dollars upgrading their facilities. Southport RSL, after many years of struggle, is finally thriving and I cannot even begin to imagine the negative impact a casino in Southport would have on Chinatown and some of the smaller licensed venues like Not Tonight and the new Mr P.P.'s rooftop bar in the surrounding area.

Labor clearly does not understand the Gold Coast. Our city's tourism legacy has been built on the back of Surfers Paradise and what so many of us refer to as the glitter strip between Surfers and Broadbeach. It is counterintuitive to develop new tourism infrastructure away from Surfers. Frankly, I believe there should be a PDA over Surfers Paradise to fast-track new development and keep the glitter strip shining well into the future. The Southport PDA, declared by the previous deputy premier of Queensland, Jeff Seeney, has been an outstanding success. Southport is now recognised in our city plan as the official CBD of the Gold Coast, a centre of excellence for health, knowledge and business.

Mayor Tom Tate's recent announcement to redevelop two council owned sites in Southport for council and state government offices is a cracker. I also support his call for a permanent Supreme Court presence in Southport. We are the second-biggest city in Queensland and we should have our own Supreme Court. It gives us the prestige that we rightly deserve as the second-largest city in Queensland.

### Townsville

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.22 pm): Last Thursday the Leader of the Opposition flew into Townsville with what the *Townsville Bulletin* has dubbed 'Deb's blueprint to win over the north'. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin* online, dated 13 September 2018, titled 'Deb's blueprint to win over North' [[1391](#)].




The Leader of the Opposition must not have read her prepared speech too well because in an ABC Radio interview that morning the Leader of the Opposition said she wanted to make Townsville a livable city. Immediately my phone started to ring, with people from all over Townsville saying how insulted they were that the Leader of the Opposition would infer that Townsville is not a livable city. One phone call was from Col who said, 'Mate, she's just like a seagull: flies in here, messes all over the place and flies back out leaving us to clean up the mess.' That is a parliamentary acceptable interpretation of what he actually said. If this is the way the Leader of the Opposition is going to win over the north then I can give her one tip to start with: do not insult those you are trying to impress.

Let us look at this fabulous blueprint and how it is going to win over the north. No. 1 is to develop a long-term water strategy to safeguard supply. I am not sure that the Leader of the Opposition is aware, but the Palaszczuk government has already committed \$225 million to stage 1 of the water pipeline duplication. The Townsville City Council has already started the project and it is due for completion by December 2019. The new pipeline will supply the growing city with its needs for the next 20 to 30 years. No. 2 is to introduce competition into the regional electricity market.

The Queensland Productivity Commission said that the Leader of the Opposition's plan will actually increase the cost of electricity for the average family by \$430 per year. No. 3 was to build a new drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. The Leader of the Opposition announced earlier this year that she would do community consultation across the state to develop a whole-of-community strategy to address this issue. One of those community consultations was held in Townsville, 19 months after the Premier sat opposite mothers for two hours and listened to every single one of them tell her the impact of drugs on their families.

The Premier has a statewide strategy already and has co-funded to the tune of \$1 million, with the Salvation Army, a brand-new residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Townsville. It is operating. It is actually located beside the airport. The next time the Leader of the Opposition flies into Townsville I suggest she have a look around first. Townsville is a great city with fantastic schools, great hospitals but, more importantly, outstanding people whom the Leader of the Opposition just does not understand.

### Dairy Industry; Roads

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.25 pm): Today I was bitterly disappointed that the state government rejected my motion for a debate to support the Queensland dairy industry by calling for the immediate introduction of a 10 cent per litre levy on the price of milk sold in supermarkets. We as a House should be united in the call to condemn any supermarket or processor who does not agree to implement the scheme and pass on the levy in full to our dairy farmers. This shows the utmost contempt this government has towards our farmers.

A petition was launched only three weeks ago by Queensland dairy organisations and already has over 100,000 signatures. This is a strong message from the public that they want action from the government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, I have had advice from the Clerk to suggest that the matter you are referring to is on the *Notice Paper* and as such what you may be doing if you continue is anticipating debate on that motion. I would strongly suggest that you cease your contribution along that line as it relates to that motion and choose your words carefully going forward.

**Mr KNUTH:** I bring to the attention of the House the Millaa Millaa to Malanda Road. Contractors from the south and Western Australia are receiving government tenders to upgrade our roads, only to have to come back and do those roads over and over again. We need to ensure that local contractors tender for and receive local government contracts because they understand the region and the weather conditions. When local contractors are awarded these tenders the money goes back to the local communities. Western Australian companies that are receiving these government tenders do not have a clue. They do a shocking job and three months later we have the same problem. As I have said a number of times, we need to ensure that we have local contractors doing local jobs.

I thank the minister for the \$5 million we received for the Upper Barron Road. Local contractors performed state-of-the-art work on that road. We also need to have funds for the Palmerston Highway. It is a major arterial route that is used by Tablelanders and coastal people. There are a massive number of trucks that pour up and down that road day in, day out. We are happy to have the \$4.8 million, but it needs \$20 million. It is important that those roads receive funding support from the government and that local contractors are awarded those jobs. I have organised meetings with local contractors and Main Roads. I hope that the minister can provide support at those meetings to resolve this problem.

### **Sandgate's Super Sausage Sizzle; Trieve, Aunty R**



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.28 pm): It is no secret that in the west Queenslanders are doing it tough in the face of prolonged drought. In response, last Saturday my community of 4017 came together to support 4470 residents in the Charleville region. What began as an acorn of an idea by Sandgate resident Ken Francey turned into an oak tree of community spirit. Sandgate's Super Sausage Sizzle was born, held in the Einbunpin Lagoon Park, in the heart of Sandgate village. Five local independent butchers created special gourmet sausages for the event. Each butcher auctioned a kilogram of sausages and that act alone raised more than \$2,700. Together with the funds from the hundreds of sausages sizzled, more than \$16,000 was raised in one afternoon.

That would not have happened without the tremendous support and leadership of the Sandgate and Districts Chamber of Commerce, led by President Bill Gollan, my friend and colleague Councillor Jared Cassidy of the Brisbane City Council and the many sponsors and donors who gave so very generously alongside wonderful volunteers who supported the event. I also acknowledge the member for Warrego who expressed her heartfelt thanks on behalf of Charleville, which was communicated to the crowd along with a message from Mayor Annie Liston from the Murweh Shire Council.

For a moment I will turn to another community and offer my condolences to the family of Aunty Rowena Evelyn Trieve OAM. Aunty Rowena was a well-respected and much loved member of the Australian South Sea islander community in the Mackay region. I had the pleasure of meeting Aunty Rowena, who served her community with great passion, generosity and dignity. Although we mourn her passing, it is an occasion to celebrate her life.

With years of commitment to achieving equality and recognition for Australian South Sea islanders, Aunty Rowena made a profound and enduring impact. She was the second Australian South Sea islander to receive the Order of Australia Medal for services to the community in 2003 and she received a Queensland Multicultural Award in 2013. I offer my sincerest condolences to her immediate and extended family, her friends, the Mackay community—I know the member for Mackay will join me in that regard—and the Australian South Sea islander community—and I know the member for Mirani will join me in that regard. Aunty Rowena was a great servant of her people and her community. She will be sorely missed.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson