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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 31 October 2018

Subject Page

CW PITT
SPEAKER

NJ LAURIE
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

JM MATHERS
CHIEF HANSARD REPORTER

WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Armistice Centenary

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, 11 November this year marks the centenary of the signing of the armistice—the historic agreement that ended the First World War. Over the coming weeks there will be many events across Queensland as communities and organisations commemorate this centenary. The Queensland parliament will commemorate this anniversary by remembering the role of the parliament during the First World War and paying tribute to the 38 former members of parliament who saw active service during that war, leaving behind an invaluable legacy. Two of these soldiers would later become Premiers: Ned Hanlon, from the Australian Labor Party, in 1946, and Sir Frank Nicklin, from the Country Party, in 1957. The parliament's website contains links to informative fact sheets about the role of the parliament during the war years and these 38 members.

As part of our Parliament Remembers program, there will be a special event in the Legislative Council chamber tonight commencing at 7 pm where a War Service Honour Board will be unveiled. The honour board will be installed outside the Legislative Assembly chamber in time for Remembrance Day. I invite all members to attend the Parliament Remembers event tonight at 7 pm.

School Group Tour

Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that this morning we will be visited in the House by students and teachers from Wallangarra State School, in the electorate of Southern Downs.

PETITIONS

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

Toogoolawah, Old Mount Beppo Road and Brisbane Valley Highway Intersection, Speed Limit

Mrs Frecklington, from 170 petitioners, requesting the House to decrease the current speed limit from 100 km/h to 80 km/h at the intersection of Old Mount Beppo Road and the Brisbane Valley Highway, Toogoolawah [1775].

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

Antibullying Education

Mr Krause, from 1,893 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce anti-bullying education to primary aged students [1776, 1777].

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

Moreton Bay Regional Council, SEQ Regional Plan

Mr Mander, from 624 petitioners, requesting the House to review the SEQ Regional Plan with particular attention to the projected population building requirements placed on the Moreton Bay Regional Council [1778].

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

AusBiotech; Johnson & Johnson Innovation Partnering Office

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): In June I was in Boston where Queensland biotechnology companies pitched their world-leading research and discoveries to venture capitalists at the BIO International Convention. This annual US event is an increasingly important date on the world stage for Queensland's life sciences trailblazers. This week, the national and international biotechnology focus is on home soil at the 2018 AusBiotech conference here in Brisbane. AusBiotech is Australia's largest life sciences conference and my government is a proud sponsor of the event. It is another tremendous opportunity to showcase Queensland's life sciences, research and business capability to the world.

This conference is running for three days and will also help Queensland industry form new research collaborations and attract investments with about 1,000 delegates. In addition to representatives from interstate, AusBiotech is welcoming attendees from India, China, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

The life sciences industry in Queensland is growing, with 186 life sciences organisations employing more than 28,000 people. Queensland researchers are world leaders. Our $650 million Advance Queensland initiative has so far backed more than 3,600 innovators across the state, with their projects supporting more than 12,500 jobs. This is all part of my government's commitment to life sciences and driving innovation in the state to deliver the jobs of the future for Queenslanders.

I am also delighted to announce today that Queensland's medical and healthcare research has been boosted by the three-year extension of the Johnson & Johnson Innovation Partnering Office at the Queensland University of Technology. In 2016, I launched the agreement between my government, Johnson & Johnson Innovation and the Queensland University of Technology to enable innovative research and development and to deliver new products to the worldwide market. This three-year extension will continue to deliver valuable support to Queensland's life sciences industry by accelerating the commercialisation of health technologies to the marketplace. On behalf of my government, I welcome everyone to Brisbane for AusBiotech 2018 and look forward to more great outcomes for Queensland and Australian companies.

Anzac Legacy Gallery

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): One hundred years ago in July, as World War I was coming to an end, Queensland soldiers recovered a German tank from the battlefields of France near Villers-Bretonneux and a year later it was transported to Brisbane. For more than 90 years it was on display at the Queensland Museum, where generations of school students and members of the public went to see the famous armoured vehicle, which had been named *Mephisto*.

In recent years, *Mephisto* was on loan to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra for the Anzac Centenary. It underwent conservation work and was returned to the Queensland Museum earlier this year. *Mephisto* is the last remaining armoured vehicle of its kind in the world and it is now the centrepiece of an outstanding new feature at the museum at South Bank, the Anzac Legacy Gallery. This permanent exhibition will open soon in time for Remembrance Day on 11 November. This year is the 100th anniversary of the armistice.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of visiting the Anzac Legacy Gallery with the Deputy Premier and local member, Jackie Trad. This impressive and important permanent display explores the First World War's impact and legacy in Queensland and, in the words of the exhibition, enduring themes of freedom and democracy, service and sacrifice. The government contributed $8.4 million—just over half of the $15.7 million cost of the gallery—with the rest coming from the Queensland Museum and the federal government's Anzac Centenary Public Fund.

Mephisto takes centre stage for new generations of students and museum goers to experience, but the gallery also includes many other very special displays. I encourage everyone to visit this wonderful new permanent exhibition. Mr Speaker, I also look forward to joining you and other members of parliament tonight for the unveiling of the parliament's War Service Honour Board. During this Anzac centenary period it is appropriate to acknowledge the 38 members of the Queensland parliament who served their country in World War I.

Domestic and Family Violence

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): Domestic and family violence is unacceptable and has no place in our society. Three years ago, after receiving the *Not now, not ever* report, my government made a commitment that enough was enough. Ever since we have been working hard in leading significant reform with the goal to achieving a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. It is part of our $328.9 million investment over six years to drive a comprehensive program of reform that will deliver lasting change.

Among other initiatives, the Respectful relationships program is now taught in schools, we have dedicated specialist domestic and family violence courts and we launched the Do Something campaign, which urges bystanders to speak up about domestic and family violence. I understand that Minister Farmer talked about this campaign at the national summit recently. Other states are very keen to also pursue that type of campaign. I thank Minister Farmer for attending that event.

Today I would like to update the House on our year 3 highlights report card on the positive progress we are making and the work still to be done. I table the report.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Queensland says: not now, not ever—Year 3 highlights card' [1779].

I am encouraged that more Queenslanders affected by domestic and family violence are accessing support services and that more perpetrators are voluntarily seeking help. It also shows Queenslanders have a high level of intolerance towards all forms of domestic and family violence and that 95 per cent of Queenslanders feel safe from domestic and family violence. While this is encouraging, some Queenslanders still feel unsafe and we are determined in our efforts to change this. We have now completed 95 of the recommendations directed at government from the *Not now, not ever* report, with the remaining 26 recommendations underway.

Today I will attend a red rose rally outside Parliament House with the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. We will remember the 11 women who have been killed in Australia in the past month. Unfortunately, that includes Queenslander Toyah Cordingley whose death at Wangetti Beach remains unsolved. I am quite sure all members of the House join with me in extending our deepest condolences to her family. I know that the entire Far North community is feeling the impacts of this death on their tight-knit community.

The rally today coincides with others around the country. This is not only a national issue, violence against women is happening in towns and cities all around the world. As a community we must all say not now, not ever. I would like to recognise the hard work of all of those who are driving change and supporting those affected by this violence. My government knows delivering genuine reform takes time and we will continue to monitor our progress and impact to ensure a safer Queensland for all.

Domestic and Family Violence

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.41 am): I rise today to speak about the work the Palaszczuk government is doing to tackle domestic and family violence across every region in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is doing more to end domestic violence than any Queensland government has ever done. We are taking a multi-faceted approach to addressing the complexities of this horrific issue. I join with the Premier in expressing my support and sympathy for the family and friends of Toyah Cordingley, whose death has shocked and sickened everyone across this state.

This government is investing over $328 million to implement the recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report. It is very good to see some of those early signs in the third-year report card about the attitudes of Queenslanders to domestic and family violence, about the number of perpetrators who are voluntarily seeking help and a range of other pleasing trends. This government has made major investments to increase the capacity of domestic violence services, such as court based support, counselling and sexual assault services.

I am proud to announce that a new shelter in Roma is fully operational, providing five self-contained units. Shelters are critically important. They provide the women and children who have made the courageous decision to escape violent homes a safe place to live and the support they need to rebuild their lives. Two more shelters, one in Caboolture and another on the Gold Coast, will soon come on line, bringing to seven the number built by the Palaszczuk government. These are the first shelters built by a Queensland government in more than two decades. Once all of these shelters are operational there will be 319 places available per night.

The Palaszczuk government continues to establish new shelters but is also investing in mobile support, an important component of the domestic and family violence service system. Contemporary models of wraparound mobile support services are effective in providing immediate safety and support to victims of domestic and family violence. They deliver an effective response where shelter places are under construction, not available or not appropriate for victims. They provide outreach support and case management to women experiencing domestic and family violence wherever they are living. They undertake risk assessments, help women develop safety plans, help women find safe housing options and link women with other support agencies.

These mobile support services are incredibly effective in providing immediate safety and support to victims of domestic and family violence. These just add to the suite of support services that we are providing to victims. We are more determined than ever that no Queenslander should be forced to live with violence in their homes. As a government and a community we have a responsibility to ensure that victims are never afraid or ashamed to seek help.

Queensland Economy; Central Queensland Coal Network, Supreme Court Decision

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.44 am): I too express my sympathy and sorrow to Toyah Cordingley's family and friends but also to her community. It is such a shocking death. I know that everyone in this parliament feels grief for that community and the family of Toyah.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering an economy in which private investment is growing and new jobs are being created. I am pleased to announce that total private investment in Queensland, which includes private dwelling construction and business investment, increased by 5.3 per cent during the 2017-18 financial year, bringing total private investment to more than $67 billion. Notably, private business investment, which excludes dwelling construction, has risen by 12.5 per cent, driven by significant investments in renewable energy projects as well as tourism related construction.

The Palaszczuk government has achieved these significant investment results because we are delivering the policy environment and confidence that business needs. Greater business investment means more jobs. Our plan will continue to grow investment and create jobs into the future. Since 2015 we have created more than 170,000 jobs in Queensland. The strong outcomes for private investment and private sector jobs growth reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to attracting greater business investment, in particular advanced manufacturing, to Queensland. In fact, nominal capital expenditure in the state's manufacturing industry rose 10.8 per cent in 2017-18.

The Palaszczuk government is continuing to support businesses to grow or base themselves in Queensland with a range of industry attraction initiatives. Initiatives like the Business Development Fund and the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund will bring over $350 million of private investment, creating more than 2,000 jobs throughout Queensland. In addition to this, businesses supported under the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund will bring $393 million of private investment, also creating over 2,000 jobs in parts of regional Queensland facing high unemployment. Our economic plan and our policies are working and businesses are voting with their feet and setting up here in Queensland.

While I am on my feet I would like to advise the House of the decision in the Supreme Court yesterday in a judicial review application brought by Aurizon against the draft decision by the Queensland Competition Authority with respect to the draft access undertaking for the Central Queensland Coal Network. The Supreme Court dismissed Aurizon's application, paving the way for the QCA to proceed and make a final determination. I welcome the Supreme Court's quick decision in this matter. Now that it has been decided I call on Aurizon and other representatives from the resource sector to work together with the QCA to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. I call on all parties to get around the table and resolve this in the best interests of all Queenslanders and our economy.

Cairns South State Development Area

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): Last week I attended the Cairns Regional Projects Forum. It was great to see the member for Cairns, the member for Barron River and you, Mr Speaker, in your capacity as the member for Mulgrave. At that event I announced that the Palaszczuk government will declare an 856-hectare state development area south of Cairns to support the future growth and diversification of the Cairns economy. Our government wants the Far North to be able to participate in the economy of the future, including capitalising on the advanced manufacturing, biofutures, biomedical and defence related industries. We need a supply of industrial land to achieve this. Our projections

indicate that without this special economic zone being declared, the Cairns region is at risk of having insufficient industrial land for the future. That will, in turn, limit economic opportunities in the region which will lead to fewer jobs.

Recent positive sales results of industrial land at the Woree industrial estate demonstrate that confidence in the Cairns economy continues to grow and that confidence is driving investment. Our government is determined to do what it can to keep it that way. If we are going to deliver the jobs of the future for Cairns in advanced manufacturing, high-end tourism and agriculture, it is important that Cairns and the surrounding region has sufficient industrial land.

As a result of feedback from MSF Sugar and local growers, around 60 per cent of the SDA will either be protected for rural purposes to support cane supply to the Mulgrave mill or be set aside for environmental purposes. That is welcome news for Far North Queenslanders who want to see the Mulgrave mill and agriculture reliant regional projects continue to thrive. Within the SDA, the Coordinator-General can facilitate investment through up-front detailed land use and infrastructure planning and offer a one-stop shop to streamline development approval applications. Decisions like declaring the Cairns South SDA—and I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your support of this project—are all about our government planning for the jobs for the future.

AFL, Major Event

Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.49 am): You will hear the mighty roar! Today I can confirm that the Magpie army is headed to Queensland to take on the Brisbane Lions at the Gabba on 18 April. This is Collingwood's first Easter Thursday game in five years and we are thrilled that it will be a blockbuster for Queensland's tourism industry.

Ms Trad: Anyone but Collingwood.

Ms JONES: That is right, 'ABC'—although in this case we actually want them. The Pies are notorious for their large contingent of rusted-on supporters and we know they will come out in force at Easter. This event will generate millions of dollars for Queensland and our local businesses. We are working closely with both clubs to make sure we lock in the event for years to come. We all know that Eddie McGuire can sell ice to Eskimos and all we are asking him to do is to sell a bit of sunshine to Victorians.

Through Tourism and Events Queensland, we want to grow the event into the future to lure even more footy fans to spend more time and money in Queensland. That is the real benefit of having a Thursday night game. It means we have the opportunity to pull together tourism packages that are four nights long. By building a festival across four days in years to come, we are confident that we can build the fixture to be worth more than $6 million annually to Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government has the runs on the board when it comes to growing Queensland's major events industry. In June next year, Townsville will host its first-ever AFL premiership match when the Suns host St Kilda at Riverway Stadium. Since Annastacia Palaszczuk became Premier, we have more than doubled the value of the sector—this year, tipped to be worth more than $780 million—for Queensland. We will continue to work with the AFL to grow the footy content offered in Queensland. Go the Lions!

Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait, Health Services

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government is determined to ensure that Queenslanders get the best health care, no matter where they live. Last week I travelled to Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait to see firsthand how vital health and ambulance services are delivered to some of our most remote and isolated communities.

At Cooktown, over lunch I had a great chat with aged-care residents at the Multipurpose Health Centre. I also met Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker Anna Cleary from Wujal Wujal Primary Health Centre, south of Cooktown. Anna is one of Queensland Health's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. We will be deploying ATSI health practitioners just like Anna across North Queensland to improve the delivery of accessible and culturally safe medical care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

From Cooktown we drove north to visit the Hope Vale Primary Health Care Centre and meet staff and local community leaders. In Weipa, I chatted to patient Christine Jacobs while she had chemotherapy right there in her local hospital, close to home, supported by local nursing staff and linked by video to specialist cancer care staff at Cairns Hospital.

On Masig and Saibai islands in the Torres Strait, I visited the health clinics and talked to staff and elders. From Saibai you can literally see PNG, exposing locals to diseases such as polio, TB and leprosy. On Thursday Island I met our hardworking ambulance officers and helped open their new $2.8 million station. I visited with dialysis patients at the Thursday Island Hospital. If you have to have dialysis anywhere, that is the place to do it, overlooking the crystal-clear waters.

Throughout my journey I was impressed by the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm exhibited by all Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Service staff in the delivery of their services. Truly, they are our single greatest asset.

I also thank the member for Cook for travelling with me. There was not a single place we went where the locals did not hug and kiss her, and tell her what a good job she is doing for them. That is quite a feat considering that on just one of the days we flew in two planes for three hours, from Weipa to Masig, and still had not left her electorate. Queensland is a great big state, but from the New South Wales border all the way to Saibai Island we are blessed with fantastic public health staff.

State Schools

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government has a plan to deliver the new schools, new halls, new classrooms and school facilities that Queensland students need to be 2020 ready, and beyond. This year we plan to spend almost $1 billion to deliver school infrastructure across the state. That investment will support nearly 2,700 full-time construction jobs.

Four new primary schools have been opened this year at Baringa, Picnic Creek, Townsville North Shore and Yarrabilba. I am sure that the member for Logan will agree with me when I say that Yarrabilba, which we officially opened only last week, is a fantastic school that is much loved by students, teachers and families. In fact, due to strong enrolment growth—

Mr SPEAKER: Apologies, Minister. Member for Maryborough and member for Caloundra, you are both warned under standing orders.

Ms GRACE:—there are almost 100 extra students since the school opened. We fast-tracked construction on stage 2 of the Yarrabilba State School, which I am pleased to report is already being used.

Last week I officially opened the new $6.7 million classroom block at Ironside State School, with the member for Maiwar. That building is now home to more than 240 year 5 and year 6 students, and it also houses the after-school care services on the ground level.

I am pleased to report that strong progress is being made on the inner-city north and inner-city south secondary schools. Those two projects will deliver a once-in-a-generation change to the way secondary schooling is delivered. The construction contract for the inner-city north secondary college has recently been awarded to Hutchinson Builders and I am looking forward to turning the sod very soon. This week, as the Deputy Premier would be aware, local residents in the inner southern suburbs are having their say on the design of their new high school.

This year, almost $117 million is being invested in building new and upgraded halls at 30 state schools across the state. Last week during State Education Week, I was pleased to join the Premier and the member for Cairns to officially open the new multipurpose hall at Trinity Bay State High School. What a great experience that was. That impressive $6 million facility has provided an enormous boost to the school's talented athlete academy program and opened up new opportunities for wider engagement with local sporting organisations.

I have also been joined by local members to officially open new and refurbished halls at Bounty Boulevarde, Toolooa, Mabel Park, Balmoral, Wilsonton and Kingaroy state high schools. The Palaszczuk government's education infrastructure spend is not only providing students with fantastic facilities but also generating much needed local jobs right throughout Queensland.

Roads Infrastructure

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): This government invests in transport infrastructure, creating jobs and boosting economic growth. The Palaszczuk government is delivering our record $21.7 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program. QTRIP will support an average of 19,200 direct jobs over four years. Transformational projects are happening across Queensland, thanks to this government's investment.

The $1.1 billion Gateway Upgrade North project is on target to be finished by the end of this year. The $812 million Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, including widening between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway, will improve travel times, increase road safety and reduce congestion. The $400 million Ipswich Motorway Rocklea to Darra project will improve safety and travel times, supporting 470 jobs.

Our government has secured $2.3 billion in joint funding for four major M1 upgrades. Two major upgrades to widen the M1 are well underway at Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes and at the Gateway merge. When those works finish, two more major upgrades will start immediately, between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill and from Varsity Lakes to Tugun. At a minimum, those works will provide six M1 lanes from Brisbane to the border.

Work is almost completed on the Warrego Highway Upgrade Program, including the $59 million Dalby Western Access Upgrade between Condamine Street and Watt Street, and the $35 million overtaking lanes project between Dalby and Miles. Procurement has started for the $63 million widening project on the Warrego Highway between Dalby and Miles. Construction is expected to start on that earlier next year. The $1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2019, providing a long-awaited heavy vehicle bypass for Queensland's largest inland city.

In Central Queensland, the $497 million Mackay Ring Road project is progressing well with construction completion expected in mid-2020. The $189 million Eton Range realignment project on the Peak Downs Highway is on track to finish mid next year. I know the member for Maryborough will be very pleased to hear that we are also expected to finish the $26 million upgrading of the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road and the Scrub Hill Road-Wide Bay Drive intersection ahead of schedule.

In Rockhampton procurement is underway for the $121 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade stage 1 project, with construction scheduled to commence before the end of the year. Three massive road projects in North and Far North Queensland will deliver jobs for our north. Construction on the $514.3 million Haughton River flood plain project on the Bruce Highway and the $104.1 million Cairns southern access corridor between Kate Street and Aumuller Street project have started. I was very pleased to be at the sod turning recently. Both are scheduled for completion in 2021. The construction of the $152 million Smithfield Bypass project will also start soon. Procurement is underway and construction is due to start before the end of the year. This is another project commenced by this government.

Unlike the cut, sack and sell policies of the previous government, the Palaszczuk government continues to invest in new infrastructure and new jobs for Queensland. People will get investment in infrastructure from us—not cut, sack and sell.

Electricity Prices

Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.00 am): Power prices continue to fall under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, it is not an invitation for mass interjections. Let me be clear today that I will not tolerate a disorderly House.

Dr LYNHAM: With that in mind, I will not say climate change. The latest report from the independent Queensland—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is a time and place to debate issues, and now is not that time.

Dr LYNHAM: The latest report from the independent Queensland Competition Authority says that power prices have either fallen or remained stable in South-East Queensland for the fourth quarter in a row. Households can save on average $65 per quarter by switching from a standing offer to a market offer. Overall, consumers can now save $260 a year on average. Small businesses can save around $83 per quarter on their power bills. As we have said consistently, shop around and save.

This latest report clearly demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is on track to overdeliver on our two year cap on power price rises to average inflation. With prices continuing to fall, there is no better time to get the best deal on offer. One of the reasons this government has directed the QCA to monitor quarterly power prices was that it allows us to regularly gauge the retail market in South-East Queensland to ensure our energy policies are putting a lid on power prices. All 20 retailers in South-East Queensland are providing a market offer that is consistent—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs and member for Burleigh, you are both warned under the standing orders. I have given clear instructions. I am listening to the minister's statement.

Dr LYNHAM: All 20 retailers in South-East Queensland are providing a market offer that is consistent with the regulated offer in regional Queensland. This means regional consumers also enjoy lower power prices because the Palaszczuk government will invest more than $460 million this year to keep regional and South-East Queensland prices on par.

The Palaszczuk government's $2 billion Affordable Energy Plan is in full swing and continues to deliver on lower power prices. In the complete absence of initiative from the Commonwealth for five years, this Labor government is making energy more affordable for all Queensland families. We have a $50 annual rebate for two years, more than $13 million worth of rebates for energy efficient appliances and interest-free loans for eligible customers to install solar panels.

Palaszczuk government policies have ensured a climate that has enabled consistent downward pressure on electricity prices for all Queensland families, no matter where they live. Queenslanders own their energy assets—assets that those opposite would have sold—and this continues to pay dividends to Queensland families. Clear, consistent policy and public ownership—it is paying off for all Queenslanders.

Queensland Housing Strategy, Renting Reform

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.05 am): I am pleased to update the House on the progressive implementation of important reforms established under the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Housing Strategy. It is important we ensure Queenslanders never feel they have no other option than to live in homes that are in poor condition. Just because they rent, no Queenslander should feel they have to accept substandard living conditions.

That is why minimum housing standards are among the many issues being discussed during the Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation, now underway in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will protect Queenslanders who are reluctant to seek repairs to their rental property for fear of losing their tenure. The Palaszczuk government will protect Queensland's 500,000 rental households from living in substandard and unsafe housing conditions.

I thank the member for Keppel for personally introducing me to two very brave Queenslanders. I recently discussed the issue of minimum rental property standards when I met with Ken and Lyn Diefenbach at Parliament House. They are the Central Queensland grandparents of seven-week-old Isabella who died tragically in May 2010. Baby Bella died after falling from her father Adam's arms when his foot fell through a rotted wooden plank on the deck of the family's rented home in Yeppoon. Adam, and Bella's mum, Jenny, had made repeated complaints to their real estate agent about the state of the deck prior to this terrible tragedy.

No family should lose a child to something so easily preventable. The coronial inquest into Bella's death highlighted the need for important changes to protect the safety of all tenants across Queensland. Importantly, the coroner recommended setting minimum standards to protect Queenslanders, and that is what this government will do. It is important this government hears directly from families like the Diefenbachs.

The Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation is open and underway until 30 November. We will look to Queenslanders to help us prescribe the minimum housing standards for rental accommodation across the state—standards that will ensure baby Bella and the advocacy of her family have a lasting legacy.

I would also like to announce that from today this government will be affording greater protection to vulnerable people living in villages in so-called manufactured homes. These reforms are part of the Palaszczuk government's $1.8 billion Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027. These reforms will usher in a new era of fairness today for the over 25,000 Queenslanders who choose to make their home in residential parks under a site agreement.

This government has delivered on a commitment to afford all Queenslanders the same human rights. I acknowledge Labor MPs from across the state, particularly the member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman, and the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting, who have been lobbying me to change sector practices where vulnerable people have been preyed on.

Some of this disturbing behaviour those two MPs and others have advocated to eliminate and which we have from today outlawed include the practice of imposing fees on visitors to these parks such as on a GP or even the grandchildren of residents. These changes will enhance the rights of residents and promote respectful relationships in those residential parks, including, importantly, allowing residents to form committees to shift the power imbalance they feel in their communities.

There will also be enforceable behavioural standards which focus on how park owners, their staff and residents interact. Critically, rent increases will be transparent and their frequency capped to one per year. These changes will provide peace of mind for residents of manufactured homes in residential parks, many of whom are pensioners aged over 50. These are Queenslanders who have given so much to Queensland over their working lives, so it is only fair and it is only proper that they are able to retire with housing stability and with security.

Mon Repos Turtle Centre, Redevelopment

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): The bells will ring in Bundaberg today to announce that the first turtle has come ashore at Mon Repos Beach. Mon Repos supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland and is home to the most significant loggerhead turtle nesting population in the South Pacific region.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you are warned under standing orders. There is no need for those interjections.

Ms ENOCH: With the beginning of turtle season upon us, it is wonderful to be able to update the House on progress to redevelop the Mon Repos Turtle Centre near Bundaberg. Earlier this month I was in Bundaberg and was able to see firsthand how the work is progressing. The new visitor centre at the Mon Repos Conservation Park will provide a state-of-the-art immersive experience for visitors with a full upgrade of park facilities. Construction is providing a boost for local jobs and businesses which is great news for Bundaberg.

The Palaszczuk government is investing more than $16 million in total in this wonderful redevelopment which is being conducted over two stages. The first stage includes the main building works and the second stage will include additional improvements to accessibility and visitor facilities. The economic benefits of this project will not just underpin the local tourism industry but flow right throughout the community.

Set to reopen in time for the 2019 turtle season, the new turtle centre will give visitors an exciting eco-based tourism experience all-year round even outside of turtle season. Visitors can encounter turtles nesting and hatching on Mon Repos shores between November and March each year, with the nightly turtle encounter tours starting on 9 November.

Mon Repos is one of many infrastructure projects being undertaken by the Palaszczuk government to enhance facilities for visitors wanting to experience what Queensland's environment has to offer. I cannot wait to see the final product.

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

Report

Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.11 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 15 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 June and 21 August 2018*.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 15, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 June 2018 and 21 August 2018 [1780].

This detailed report considers subordinate legislation in the areas of the Hospital Foundations Act, the Disability Services (Fees) Amendment Regulation, the Adoption (Fees) Amendment Regulation, the Child Protection Reform Amendment Act, the Public Health Regulation and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act. I thank the committee and secretariat. I commend the report to the House.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report

Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 13 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. The report covers portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 13 June 2018 and 18 September 2018 considered by the committee. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 13, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 June 2018 and 18 September 2018 [1781].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.13 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the health minister for his policy failures and wrong priorities, including:

(a) changing the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, without speaking to—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, I would like to hear the notice of motion. I ask that it be heard in silence.

Ms BATES: I repeat—

(a) changing the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, without speaking to the Cilento family beforehand, rather than improving health services for our sickest kids;

(b) failing to publicly explain the 'tissue bank' matter where cancerous tissue was given to four children, and the release of the mental health reports relating to the death of Manmeet Sharma;

(c) failing to accept Westminster ministerial responsibility and seeking to divert blame to his department for an 'error of judgement made at middle management level' when the Gold Coast HHS tried to outsource services provided to senior residents under the Commonwealth Home Support Program;

(d) labelling the rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record an 'incredible success' despite doctors losing confidence, regular system outages and a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Local Government, you are warned under standing orders. I asked for this to be heard in silence. We will be debating this motion later this evening. That is the time for debate.

Ms BATES: I continue—

(e) breaking a pre-election commitment by delaying a new mental health facility in Mackay by one year;

(f) only providing an additional six beds for the Ipswich Hospital which is still more than four years away and well behind forecasted requirements;

(g) overseeing ambulance ramping levels at 25 per cent that has continued to increase;

(h) blaming a typo in a government fact sheet for delays to stage 2 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital;

(i) breaking an election commitment by delaying the rollout of the new ice rehabilitation facility in Rockhampton;

(j) cutting funding to the IDEAS van; and—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, you are warned under standing orders. I have asked for this to be heard in silence, members.

Ms BATES: I continue—

(k) ongoing threats to regional maternity services.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Police Resources

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.15 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. When the Police Commissioner was asked about police resources two weeks ago on 18 October, he said, 'I would love more money.' Will the Premier commit to allocating more resources for Gold Coast police from the $60 million of leftover Commonwealth Games funds?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As the Leader of the Opposition would know from when she was assistant treasurer and sat around the CBRC table, departments have the opportunity to come forward and present their requests to government. That is the process. I thought that the Leader of the Opposition would be well aware of that. We have consistently made sure that the police budget goes from strength to strength.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Just wait—I will come to you in a moment. We have made sure that the police get the pay that they deserve. We have made sure that the police get the resources that they need. They have had the rollout of the body-worn cameras. They are getting iPads to make sure that they can do their job more efficiently. They are getting new police vehicles as well. We know that the Police Service and the Police Commissioner allocate resources as they see fit around the state. The allocation of resources is an operational responsibility, as I said in this House last time.

Coming up shortly is the APEC meeting being held in Port Moresby. I am delighted to inform the House that the Queensland Police Service will be assisting in relation to this. We have been briefed that we will be receiving international dignitaries who may be flying in and staying overnight in Cairns on their way to APEC. The Police Commissioner will allocate the resources that are needed for Cairns for that significant event, working in conjunction with the Commonwealth, as we saw with the Commonwealth Games, where the Police Commissioner allocated the resources for the world-class event that we held on the Gold Coast. That is the job of the Police Commissioner. Under the former LNP government—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, member for Theodore and member for Glass House, the three of you have been continually interjecting during the Premier's answer. She is being responsive in answering the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: When the Police Commissioner put to me that they wanted a unit to deal with counterterrorism at Wacol, we are building that for them. When the Police Commissioner said to the government that he wanted support for the police memorial being built at the City Botanic Gardens and which has just been completed, my government responded.

I have always had the commitment to the police across the state. While I am on my feet, I want to thank the outstanding service of our men and women on the front line in making sure that our communities are safe. Finally, let me leave the House with these few words: we have progressively increased the Police budget by 13 per cent since we came to office. In stark contrast, they cut middle management police officers from the Police budget.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: To be clear, the members for Theodore, Coomera and Glass House are warned under the standing orders. If I was not clear, I am being clear now.

Gold Coast, Drugs

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My next question without notice is also to the Premier. I refer the Premier to a heartbreaking recent report that the number of Queenslanders dying from drug overdoses on the Gold Coast has risen by 75 per cent over the last decade. Every death leaves behind yet another Gold Coast family torn apart by drugs. Will the Premier explain why the Labor government continues to deny resources needed to establish a dedicated drug squad on the Gold Coast?

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, silence during questions applies to all members of this House. Any future noise during questions will be dealt with.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are imputations in that question.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was in this House that we passed the serious organised crime legislation, tackling all forms of crime and giving police the powers they need to enforce these issues on the Gold Coast. Can I say from the outset that any issues dealing with drugs and the deaths of people is of course heartbreaking. What I have seen from my travels right across this state—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take the Attorney-General's interjection: it is not unique to the Gold Coast. Recently, my government addressed this through our ice action plan. Ice is not just on the Gold Coast; it is everywhere. I can remember travelling out west and speaking with the mayors—perhaps if those opposite listened to communities they might hear this from their mayors as well—and this is a big issue. It is a big issue that we are tackling.

We have just launched our awareness campaign to raise awareness so that people know where to turn to for help. That is why my government led the nation when we held our first ice awareness summit in Rockhampton, and we are also building a rehabilitation centre. These issues are not unique to one part of our state. We need to tackle them as a community, and that means making sure we give families the support they need but also providing support to individuals who are affected by drugs including ice. We know that the Police Service has specialised drug squads that investigate these matters. There have been recent reports—I think one which the Police Commissioner mentioned—of a big bust that happened on the Gold Coast recently. Yes, the police have the resources to do this. As a community we all need to do more.

Finally, can I say that I do not think there is anyone in this House who has not been touched by knowing someone who has been impacted by ice. This is an incredibly huge issue. It is a community issue. It is not unique to Queensland. It is a national issue as well. We will do everything we can to combat it and to give the police the resources they need with their specialist drug enforcement agencies to do that. While I am on my feet let me mention that it was those opposite who cut the Drug Court out. That was their record: they cut the Drug Court out when they were in office. They also cut over 100 senior officers throughout the Police Service. On that side they cut; on this side we back our men and women who serve in the police force.

(Time expired)

Climate Change, National Drought Summit

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier outline the Queensland government's success in having climate change added to the agenda of the National Drought Summit? Is the Premier aware of any alternative views?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I asked for questions to be heard in silence. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for the question, because on this side of the House we do believe in climate change. We believe it is real, it is happening and it is having a devastating impact on our communities. I note that the Leader of the Opposition was laughing when this question was raised. I note for the public record that she was laughing when we were addressing the real issue of climate—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will direct your comments through the chair and they had better be relevant comments.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I mentioned in the House yesterday, I had the opportunity to represent our great state of Queensland at the drought summit hosted by the Prime Minister. Before going to that drought summit, Queensland wanted climate change placed firmly on that agenda. In fact, when we were given a draft communique the words 'climate change' were omitted from that draft communique.

Ms Trad: They don't want to talk about it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No-one wanted to talk about it. No-one wanted to raise it, especially the federal government under Prime Minister Scott Morrison. I was not afraid to stand up and talk about an issue that impacts everyone. We know that our summers are getting hotter. We know that we are getting more prolonged droughts across Queensland that are having a huge impact on our families. We know the impact that cyclones are having. I know the member for Mackay would know this firsthand with the devastating impacts of Cyclone Debbie. We are getting more cyclones, they are causing more economic damage to our state and we are having to spend more money rebuilding. It is about time that every single member in this House states whether or not they believe in climate change, whether they are climate change deniers or whether they support climate action. A few of my senior ministers had the honour recently of attending the Qantas—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know that business is going it alone when it comes to addressing issues of climate change. They are putting in place their own policies because Canberra and the LNP have their heads in the sand when it comes to this very important issue.

Finally, after I raised it at the drought summit other speakers got up, backed me in and talked about climate change. Many National Party organisations also spoke to me about the importance of addressing climate change. While the Liberals may be in denial, perhaps the Nationals are starting to see the sense of addressing an issue that is very important to not just our state but also our nation.

Police Resources

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. On Thursday, 18 October the police minister promised Queenslanders he would ask Treasury for additional funding for more police to be allocated across Queensland. Has the police minister asked the Treasurer for additional resources since he promised to do so, and what was the Treasurer's answer?

Ms TRAD: I would like to thank the member for the question, which was somewhat a little bit more respectful than his tone and temperament yesterday. I can advise the House that on every occasion that the police minister attends CBRC he asks for additional resources. Not only does he get the additional resources that he requires to do the job that the Police Commissioner has outlined needs to be done, but we have recently made an additional allocation in order to ensure that our laws around serious sex offenders in this state are enforceable by the men and women in blue who carry out an excellent job on behalf of Queenslanders—$27 million each and every day. I join with the Premier in acknowledging the enormous contribution they make in our communities to keep our communities safe.

Let me say the gall of those opposite to come into this place and argue the point about resourcing the Police Service. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, we have increased the allocation to the Queensland Police Service by 13 per cent in almost four years. Under the LNP, it was less than three per cent, which actually represents a cut because it did not keep up with inflation.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: It is unfortunate that they do not want to actually hear the answer or understand the facts. Under the Liberal National Party when they were in control of resourcing the Queensland Police Service, we saw an actual cut in resources to the Queensland Police Service.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you are not directing your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders. I want to hear the Deputy Premier's answer.

Ms TRAD: We are delivering 400 additional front-line police officers in this term. We are building a counterterrorism academy. We are delivering specialist units around serious sex offenders in our community. We would love to put our track record on resourcing our Queensland Police Service up against those opposite each and every single day of the year. The Queensland Police Service know who has their back in this state. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government, not the Liberal National Party in Queensland.

Townsville, Infrastructure

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier provide an update on the government's infrastructure investment into Townsville?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that question. I know, along with the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra, who is currently on medical leave, how important infrastructure is for growing the Townsville community and the Townsville city. Every time I go to Townsville, the Townsville stadium gets bigger and bigger as it comes out of the ground.

An opposition member: Thank you, Malcolm Turnbull.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you to this Labor government for delivering—

Ms Trad: What did Malcolm Turnbull get as thanks? He got the chop.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Every time I go to Townsville, I love seeing that stadium rise out of the ground. There are jobs that are there and people who are getting employed. I look forward to seeing the mighty Cowboys racing onto that field in time for 2020.

We know how important water security is for Townsville, and that is why my government has invested $225 million in water security for Townsville. The member for Townsville was there when the pipes started arriving for the construction of that pipeline. I was a bit shocked today to see that we do not know where the federal government stands. We know it did not give us any money towards the $225 million for water security. They talk about water security across the state, but we are yet to see any dollars from Scott Morrison when it comes to water security for Townsville.

We have the expansion happening for the port, which is another very important gateway for Townsville. That is $75 million and that means more jobs for people living in the region. A new school has opened as well. We have the track record when it comes to delivering for Townsville. I want to pay tribute to the strong leadership of our local members who fight every single day to make sure we deliver for the people of the Townsville—

Mr Harper: And Riverway Drive.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection, because I do not think a week in parliament goes by that we do not hear about Riverway Drive. I think the member for Thuringowa is personally constructing it because every time we are in Townsville—

Ms Trad: He is certainly inspecting it every day.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He is certainly inspecting it. This is what you get when you have strong community champions, such as the members we have for Townsville, with the hard work they do in raising issues. At the end of the day, it is about delivering jobs and working together. On that note, I also pay tribute to the LGAQ. I know a number of ministers and members attended that function last night when all of the mayors came together for the LGAQ annual conference. We work best as a state when we all work together. I thank the LGAQ for their extraordinary work.

(Time expired)

Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. On 18 October, in the space of one day, the police minister told Queenslanders three different figures about how many police are on the Gold Coast. Reports now say that the minister has been publicly corrected by the Police Commissioner. Will the Premier explain how Queenslanders can have confidence in the police minister to keep them safe when he cannot even get basic facts right?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I ask that you rephrase the last part of your question. I believe there is an inference directed at a member.

Ms BATES: Will the Premier explain how Queenslanders can have confidence in the police minister to keep them safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question but I will not be lectured by someone who plagiarises speeches. I am sorry. Do you want to talk about confidence? I think they should have given that question to someone else to ask.

The police minister addressed this issue in a ministerial statement yesterday, and he made it very clear. I want to actually thank the Minister for Police for the close working relationship he does have with the Police Commissioner and the Queensland Police Service. As I said, at the moment we are in a lot of discussions because of APEC that is about to happen up in the Far North with a number of world leaders flying into Cairns. This is going to be huge exposure for Queensland. I know how important that event is and that the Queensland Police Service wants to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Yes, I have absolute confidence in the police minister. He works with the Police Commissioner and at the end of the day—

Mr Mander: The commissioner loves him.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, he does. I will take that interjection. The Police Commissioner does love the police minister, because this police minister delivers for the men and women who serve our Police Service—unlike on that side of the House. I want to go back to this key fundamental issue.

Ms Bates: Back to the future.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about the past because the member for Mudgeeraba was a minister, be it for a short period of time, in the Newman government when 106 senior police officers were axed from the Police Service. I repeat: 106. A commission of audit was done by the member for

Clayfield and Peter Costello—that was a good independent appointment there. Let me make it very clear: 106 senior police officers were sacked. I know what impact that had on the families because I met some of those serving men and women who had worked their entire lives for the Police Service and under the Newman government they were sacked. They lost their jobs. In conclusion, we will always support our men and women who perform an outstanding job. I will always back my police minister who delivers for the Police Service across this state.

Northern Australia, Economy

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the government's commitment to boosting economic activity in Northern Australia and any alternative approaches?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Thuringowa. Before I get to the substance of my response, I wish everyone a happy Halloween. I do want to pay particular tribute to the Cafeteria staff, who have gone to extraordinary lengths to decorate the cafeteria. I do want to reflect on the fact that the member for Thuringowa has sometimes worn into this chamber suits that would very much fit into the Halloween theme. If he came to the door trick or treating, people would be horrified. They would be very scared by some of the attire that the member for Thuringowa wears. Seriously, I do want to acknowledge the terrific work that the Cafeteria staff have put into the cafe. It does provide moments of lightness in what is sometimes a very gruelling parliamentary week.

I do want to acknowledge what an economic powerhouse North Queensland is. It is very important to the whole Northern Australia agenda because the majority of the population of Northern Australia actually lives in North Queensland. From the tourism powerhouse of Cairns to the minerals rich province of Mount Isa and the north-west, from the transport logistics, defence and now renewable energy industry emerging out of Townsville, from agriculture, mining and manufacturing in Central Queensland and Rockhampton, we know of the enormous potential of Northern Queensland in the Northern Australia agenda. We are supporting it with billions of dollars worth of infrastructure investment to create jobs and economic growth.

The Minister for State Development is advancing and driving the strategic blueprint for North Queensland's north-west minerals province and the Minister for Tourism is driving our $10 million outback tourism agenda. We are working very hard to make sure North Queensland is this stellar, outstanding success story in the Northern Australia economic story.

Unfortunately, it is being dragged down by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. I am attending a meeting in Mount Isa next week. I nominated Mount Isa as the location for this next meeting. How many dollars have we seen allocated to a Queensland project—money in the bank account of a Queensland project? Not one single dollar! Almost four years after the NAIF was announced there has been not one single dollar. We know that there are more than 100 projects that are currently stalled in the NAIF. Senator Canavan should hang his head in shame. This has been such an abject failure while we know that Northern Australia and particularly quite a number of projects are ready for investment. Those opposite are economically hopeless.

(Time expired)

Police Resources

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police. Over the past year on the Sunshine Coast we have seen the number of assaults go up by 19.2 per cent, car thefts are up by over 30 per cent and now my local community has even seen a bikie shooting. Why is the Palaszczuk Labor government denying the Queensland Police Service the resources it needs to keep Sunshine Coast residents safe?

Mr SPEAKER: I called the minister.

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, I seek your ruling as to whether the question is in order.

Mr SPEAKER: I have called you, Minister.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left!

Mr RYAN: I am happy to answer the question, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I do not need your assistance in providing a ruling and information to the minister. Minister, the question is in order.

Mr RYAN: There are more police in Queensland than ever before and that is because of our government's investment in the Queensland Police Service. On the Sunshine Coast we have seen the number of police—the approved number of positions—increase since we came to power. There are currently 539 approved permanent positions on the Sunshine Coast, which is an increase of 37 from 2014 to 2018. We continue to support our police on the Sunshine Coast by doing the work needed to expand facilities on the Sunshine Coast. We are committed to a new facility for police at Nambour. We are also exploring—

Opposition members: Ha, ha!

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, they always laugh when I talk about the good work of the Police Service—every single time. They think it is a joke.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, resume your seat. Members to my left, the minister is being responsive in answering the question. If you do not like the answer to that question, you will have other opportunities to raise those matters.

Mr RYAN: We are continuing to invest in resources for our police on the Sunshine Coast. Just recently we saw new equipment rolled out to our police in the form of new tasers and accessories. We have seen 76 additional QLiTEs be delivered, and a new Water Police vessel is currently under construction. It is a 17-metre state-of-the-art vessel which will soon be delivered for the Water Police at Mooloolaba.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. Member for Nicklin, you are warned under standing orders. You have been repeatedly interjecting at volume. Some of these interjections are entirely inappropriate, members, and the House is becoming disorderly. I will act.

Mr RYAN: We continue to invest in our police not only on the Sunshine Coast but right across the state. Significantly, our budget is delivering more resources and more police for our state. We see in our budget this year a capital and operating budget of over $2.4 billion, of more police, more police stations, more technology and more specialist police. It is the start of our rollout of new police. We also see an investment in new facilities, more QLiTEs, more Water Police vessels, counterterrorism specialists and domestic and family violence police coordinators right across our state.

Those opposite, though, love to rewrite history. When we compare our record to their record, we see a record of investment on our side and an investment of cutting on their side. Our budget for the police has increased over 13 per cent since we came to government. Under them, it was only about three per cent. Honourable members should have a look at the cuts they inflicted on the Police Service as well.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill. Member for Ninderry.

Mr RYAN: During their term in government, 106 senior police lost their positions. What is worse—and they thought we might have forgotten; they hid it away in the budget in 2012-13—332 police staff were sacked—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Mr RYAN:—as a result of their budget.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Mr RYAN: Disgraceful! They cut; we invest.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. Minister, I was looking directly at you. I warn you under standing orders. I had called time on the question and you continued well after that. There was no missing that I was giving you a direct look. You are warned under standing orders.

Before hearing the next question, I remind honourable members that standing order 115 provides the general rule that applies to questions without or on notice. These rules include that questions shall not contain inferences or imputations. In the parliamentary sense, Speakers will generally not intervene when the imputation is directed to philosophy, viewpoint or policy but are likely to intervene when the imputation is a phrase imputing, attributing, ascribing or charging someone with a personal motive, crime, misconduct, negligence or other fault. I hope that provides some further clarity to members about which questions I will be ruling in order or otherwise.

Planning

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on the importance of planning in delivering certainty to business and the broader community? Is he aware of any alternative LNP planning policies?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question and acknowledge her understanding and support for good planning outcomes for her community and for Queensland. Of course, planning is a very important part of my portfolio responsibilities because planners are the architects of Queensland's social amenity. Considered, appropriate, transparent planning provisions are critical to delivering confidence to communities, certainty to business and stability in the investment environment. These are the dividends of good government, evident in our regional plans like the South East Queensland Regional Plan—so important for the honourable member's electorate—in our infrastructure pipeline and in projects like The Spit master planning process.

However, there is one place where planning is not evident and that is amongst the members opposite. The LNP are about as stable as a Donald Trump Twitter stream. Members should look at their preselection planning process, which has become a toxic blend of farce and revenge. If they fail to support 'Doomsday' Dutton, their preselection is threatened. If they are not a bloke—ask Verity Barton and Jane Prentice—their preselection is threatened.

If you vote with your conscience in a conscience vote your preselection is threatened; however, there is one person in the LNP with a plan and that is Gary Spence, the state president. We know that his plan is to bring the CEO premier, Campbell Newman, back to life. There he is, down in the lab trying to put all the parts together after the disaster of the 2015 election. A leg from Strong Choices, an arm from the Commission of Audit, heart not required—and there is the member for Broadwater handing him the instruments and urging him on, 'You must help the master'—removing public assets, more cuts to services, stitching up the workers and getting ready to flick the switch to bring the 'can-do' zombie back to life.

In conclusion, I commend and recognise the member for Clayfield, the member for Currumbin and the member for Chatsworth for courageously exercising their conscience vote in the LNP to support a bill in this House that does not criminalise women for making choices about their own health care. This is yet another test of leadership for the Leader of the Opposition. Will she stand up to the faceless leaders of the LNP? Will she stand up to them when the state council meets and protect those members of parliament who exercised their conscience vote? Will she do that? Maybe she will need to ask Gary Spence before she makes her decision. This is a leadership choice. We saw a failure of leadership from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this House yesterday. We need to see whether the Leader of the Opposition supports the deputy or supports—

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for order. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing orders. You should refer to the member for Logan by that title and not by his name.

Police Resources

Mr WATTS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. I table section 4.6 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 as recommended by the Fitzgerald report.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 31 October 2018, titled 'Police Service Administration Act 1990' [1782].

Why does the minister continue to claim that police numbers are an operational matter when section 4.6 clearly states that the minister has the power to direct the commissioner where to allocate officers throughout the state?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, that is the last time we will hear those kinds of interjections. The question was respectfully heard in silence. I expect you will allow the minister the opportunity to answer the question.

Mr RYAN: Who would have thought we would be lectured by those opposite on integrity and accountability when it comes to the Fitzgerald inquiry? It is an absolute joke to hear that from them.

We trust the Police Commissioner and the Police Service to make decisions about the equitable distribution of police resources across the state. When you start mixing politics with policing you end up with the situation they created during the Bjelke-Petersen years. We respect the Police Commissioner and we respect the Police Service. They are the experts when it comes to community safety and the allocation of resources across the state, and I back them in their decision-making. I am never going to second-guess the Police Commissioner when he comes to me and says, 'I am making a decision about the allocation of resources across the state because I am a police officer with the experience to make those decisions.' I am not going to second-guess the Police Commissioner about that. We trust him to make those decisions and we resource him to make those decisions, and we are resourcing him better than ever before. We have an operating capital budget of over $2.4 billion, but those opposite love to rewrite history.

On the issue of cuts, in addition to what they did to senior police when they were in government and in addition to what they did in the 2012-13 budget, which led to 332 police staff being sacked from the Police Service, they also closed police facilities across the state. I love being asked the question from the member for Toowoomba North, because in his electorate the Newtown Police Beat was closed. Did you hear a whimper out of the member for Toowoomba North? None whatsoever; he did not stand up for his community. He did not fight for police resources for his community. Our government is restoring that facility and we are making it bigger and better. I was very interested to see the member for Toowoomba North claim credit for it, giving it a big tick and saying, 'Newtown Police Beat, here we go'—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Let us bring the temperature down.

Mr Sorensen interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: I must say that he does make an admission in his flyer where he claims credit. He does say that the Newtown community has been working hard, and they have been. Without his support the people who have been working hard in his community are people like Kerry Shine and those people of local Neighbourhood Watch groups, who are organising petitions to have the Newtown Police Beat re-opened. Those opposite have a shocking record when it comes to cuts to police resources in our state. They were the ones who did not invest properly in our—

(Time expired)

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under standing orders. You will direct your comments through the chair.

Electricity Prices

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House how Queensland is tackling energy costs, and is the minister aware of any plausible alternate policy?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, I believe you were laughing during that question; is that correct?

Mr Crisafulli: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: You can leave the chamber for an hour. I have asked for silence, members, to hear these questions. I said that I will not tolerate a disorderly House, and I mean it.

Whereupon the honourable member for Broadwater withdrew from the chamber at 10.56 am.

Dr LYNHAM: Power prices continue to fall under this Palaszczuk Labor government. The latest report from the independent Queensland Competition Authority supports our policies. Our policies are working. The ABS September quarterly figures, which are just out, show a 5.1 per cent reduction in electricity charges in South-East Queensland. I quote from the ABS, which states, 'The fall in electricity prices is due to the Affordable Energy Plan.'

Our Affordable Energy Plan is working for all Queenslanders, not only in the south-east but also in regional Queensland, because when South-East Queensland prices fall the QCA takes that into account and sets an annual regulated price for all of Queensland. We are investing half a billion dollars to ensure that people in Gladstone pay the equivalent price for power as those in South-East Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's Affordable Energy Plan is working.

Why would we jeopardise our plan, which is working, for policy on the run from Canberra? Under pressure from Queensland, the federal government conceded at COAG last week that their default pricing proposal needed more work. They had not considered the impact of their default tariff proposal on Australia's vastly different markets. Specifically, it has been referred to the AEMC to look into competition issues and potential customer impacts. These are all issues that we have been raising with the Commonwealth since this was floated. Sadly, they also dismissed our strong push for climate change to be factored back into national energy policy, because we all know that climate change policy is intrinsically linked to price.

We all know that the first snow is falling in Canada, so I join with the member for Burleigh in welcoming Halloween tonight. If you want to scare your neighbours tonight just hand them a copy of the LNP energy policy. When you are out trick or treating beware liberal energy ministers. There are no treats, just tricks: climate change denial, default pricing, forced investments. Like one of those big orange Halloween pumpkins, their policies are hollow and in a week's time they will all fall apart. Labor will continue to stand up for the environment, low electricity prices and public ownership of our assets.

Townsville, Police Resources

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. In February this year there were 539.04 officers protecting Townsville. Two weeks ago the Minister for Police said that actual police strength is now 531.75. Why has the Premier broken her election promise for an additional 53 police officers to be based in Townsville when in reality the front-line number has gone backwards under Labor?

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is no broken election commitment, because this will happen over the term of the government. We have to make sure we have the cadets going through—it takes six months to train—and then they are allocated.

While I am on my feet, I might remind those opposite of something called the Fitzgerald inquiry. There has been a suggestion from those opposite that the police minister should be directing the Police Commissioner. You would think the LNP would have learned over decades and would have received the message. The minister should have no power to direct the commissioner to act or not act in any matter coming within the commissioner's discretion under laws relating to police power. Very clearly, the police minister should not direct the Police Commissioner—a very good lesson that came out of the Fitzgerald inquiry.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier's answer. It is very difficult for me to rule on anything if I cannot hear and it is difficult for Hansard.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know that those opposite do not learn the lessons of the past. We know how those opposite when in government attacked Tony Fitzgerald relentlessly. We know how those opposite when in office continually criticised and condemned the anti-corruption watchdog in this state. We know the track record of those opposite. I say very clearly: our commitment to giving the police the resources they need—

Mr Batt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you have been a consistent interjector this morning. You are warned under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I look forward to going to Bundaberg in the very near future to show once again to the Bundaberg community how we—not the LNP—are delivering to the people of Bundaberg.

In conclusion, we will continue to invest to give the police the resources they need to do their jobs. Police will continue to be rolled out as they go through our police academies to serve the people of this state.

International Education

Ms LINARD: My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's strategy to ensure international students receive a quality education in Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that she is a very proud supporter of our growing international education sector here in Queensland. In fact, in the last 12 months we saw international education grow by 14 per cent in Queensland, to a record $4.37 billion. This is what happens when you have a plan. One of the first things we did on coming to government was introduce an international education plan.

I note that it is Halloween. The big topic of conversation in my household this morning was whether we should dress up as ghosts or vampires.

Mr Dick: Or Peter Dutton.

Ms JONES: I could not let my kid dress up as that! That would be cruel. Not even I would do that! What we do not want to see on Halloween is ghost schools. Unfortunately, the whole of Australia's international education sector is under threat from a lack of regulation. We are seeing the emergence of ghost schools and the emergence of the practice of recycling students. It is a bit of a trick or treat: they create a new spot and then they take a 40 per cent commission as a treat to themselves. This is a tricky practice that is costing us credibility in the international market.

I say to all those opposite that I would love to see some bipartisan support to put pressure on the federal government to reinstate funding to the regulatory body and put pressure on Michaelia Cash to step up, because our international reputation is under threat. Members do not have to take my word for it—I know that those opposite do not really like to. Phil Honeywood of the International Education Association of Australia, who is on our board here in Queensland, has been raising this issue.

Given that it is Halloween and we are having such a good time, I note that there is someone in the gallery dressed as the former member for Yeerongpilly, Matt Foley. It is a very convincing costume!

Mr Dick: The ghost of parliaments past.

Ms JONES: The ghost of parliaments past. We on this side of the House prefer treats; those opposite prefer tricks. What trickier move than to be told that you can have a conscience vote and act according to your conscience but then find out that you are for the chopping block when it comes to preselection? You have 'Jack the Ripper' there, waiting around the corner just to tear you down. We all know what the Leader of the Opposition's costume will be. Of course, she is coming as a jellyfish, because they do not have a spine. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, there have been previous rulings that have found that language to be unparliamentary.

Ms JONES: Jellyfish?

Mr SPEAKER: No, referring to members without a spine. I ask you to withdraw those comments.

Ms JONES: I withdraw. We all know that the Leader of the Opposition is coming as a jellyfish. It is about time she stood up to Gary Spence and the men who are running the party behind her. They are happy to have her up front but they will not let her make any decisions. This week we saw her very loyal deputy dressed up as a gladiator. He should have dressed up as Achilles, because he is her Achilles heel. Your racism, your sexism and your outlandish behaviour are causing her damage.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat for a moment. Minister for Tourism, I ask you to ensure you are directing your comments through the chair. Member for Everton, before you rise to a point of order, you should think yourself very lucky that you have not been removed from the chamber. There was a significant amount of interjection directed at a member, not through the chair. Do you still have a point of order?

Mr MANDER: I do, Mr Speaker. I find the comments of the minister personally offensive and I ask that she withdraw.

Government members interjected.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Let me rule on the first point of order. Minister, the member has found those comments personally offensive. Will you withdraw?

Ms JONES: Just for clarity, Mr Speaker, was it the comment where I called him a racist?

Mr SPEAKER: No, Minister, there is no opportunity to debate the issue. The member has found those comments personally offensive.

Ms JONES: I am unclear which part I have to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Will you withdraw? My convention is as has been the convention in this place.

Ms JONES: I withdraw.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, this is not a time for debate. If you have matters you wish to raise, you rise to your feet; you do not snipe from both sides. Member for Burleigh, do you have a point of order?

Mr HART: The minister, when she sat down, mumbled something under her breath—in fact, spoke something. I would suggest—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members!

Mr HART: I—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HART: I would suggest—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat and cease speaking, member. Member, what are you rising on? Is it a matter of privilege suddenly arising? That is not a point of order.

Government members: Ha, ha!

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, I do not need any instruction. The parliament's behaviour this morning has been unacceptable. The House has been disorderly. It is reflective on all of you.

Mining Industry

Mr BERKMAN: My question is for the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: The world's top scientists at the IPCC have confirmed that we must stop digging up thermal coal by 2050, so today I will introduce a bill to stop all coalmining in the Galilee Basin including Adani, which would run to 2080. Will the minister support my bill or will he side with climate change deniers?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, I believe you said words to the effect of, 'Here we go.' Is that correct?

Mr MILLAR: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: You are warned under standing orders. I asked for silence during questions.

Dr LYNHAM: I seem to have addressed this question last parliamentary sitting, but I will continue. The IPCC has recommended that renewable energy targets be met. Our renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030 meets its guidelines and we are commended on that because we are addressing climate change here in Queensland—unlike what I heard when I was at the energy COAG last Friday where we tried to have climate change raised as an issue and to intrinsically link it with the vestige of the federal government energy policy, but we failed to get it over the line. There is no doubt that climate change is a very important issue for members on this side of the House compared to members on that side of the House.

As resources minister I am proud of our mining industry here in Queensland. We have vast mineral deposits in Queensland and we employ 60,000 people in our workforce in Queensland. We mine—75 per cent of our coal is metallurgical coal—200 million tonnes per annum from Queensland to a world market of 8,000 million tonnes per annum. We are a very niche market of high-quality coal compared to the rest of the world. We can have a balance—and we do have a balance—with energy policy and with climate change, and we respect climate change in our state.

We respect our policy on climate change in our state—our 50 per cent renewable energy policy, exporting high-quality coal to the world—but we also realise that there has to be a just transition from the energy mix we have now to a more renewable focused energy mix as we move to 2030 and beyond.

That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is achieving—a steady transition, a sure set of hands as we move forward addressing climate change. We want the population of Queensland to come with us in this journey towards a renewable future and we can do that with steady hands—sure hands—to make sure that Queenslanders have reliable power to power their industry, their manufacturing, their homes. We need reliable power all the way through—

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister would be well aware that our domestic renewables policy—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, please cease speaking. What are you rising to a point of order on? Please address the standing order.

Mr BERKMAN: The relevance of renewable production in Queensland to—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, please resume your seat. I have been listening to the minister's response. I believe he is being responsive to your question. I would like to hear the remainder of his answer.

Dr LYNHAM: We have a steady, sure set of hands as we move forward with a policy of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, a just transition for our workforce during that time and we are taking all Queensland families with us on that journey—cheap, reliable, renewable power into the future. Reliable, renewable power is what Queensland families want. That is what we are delivering as costs continue to come down in terms of electricity prices for all Queensland families.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms RICHARDS: 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 parliament on the achievements made in tackling domestic and family violence in our communities?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question and for her very strong advocacy for domestic violence services in her own electorate. Last year in Queensland 87,000 domestic violence incidents involved a police response. That is 240 a day, and this month we have heard the news of 11 deaths of women across Australia. We are all shocked and appalled. I hope that every member in this House is able to join us at one o'clock at the Red Rose Rally outside Parliament House, where we will honour those women and commit to fighting gendered violence.

I am really proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the work that we have done to tackle domestic and family violence in Queensland. We have invested over $328 million over six years to implement the *Not now, not ever* task force recommendations and I am pleased to say that, of the 121 recommendations that were for government, we have completed 95 and are well on the way to the rest of them, and that includes our nation-leading initiative to introduce 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave for state employees.

Fighting domestic violence is everybody's responsibility, but none more so than every member in this House. It is our job in this parliament to do our best to fight that scourge, and that is why the latest stunt from the member for Mudgeeraba is absolutely unconscionable. Members will recall that last month the opposition tried to target the government's provision of domestic and family violence leave for state employees. It tried to blow out of all proportion the very targeted leave that is provided to perpetrators. Given the huge increase we have seen in the number of perpetrators voluntarily seeking treatment, this is even more important. It is an initiative that was lauded by domestic violence experts and even at the recent COAG summit on reducing violence against women and their children.

Not happy with losing the vote on their motion and not really getting enough attention from the media on that issue, the member for Mudgeeraba set up a petition to try and get a bit more support. That is fair enough. That is a fair cop. That is politics, but it is what happened after that that is totally unforgivable. On that page a woman, who may have been a victim, asked whether that leave was available for victims—

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments from the minister personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member has found comments personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. The question was asked: is this leave available for victims? She said no to every single victim who may have been looking at that page wanting to know, if they were a public servant, whether support was available to them and whether it was okay for them to speak out. It is everything that our fight against domestic violence is about, and she said no. It is time that the member for Nanango took some leadership. This needs to be bipartisan. This is the fight of our lives and we need bipartisan support.

(Time expired)

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Question Time, Behaviour of Members; Visitor to Public Gallery

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. Before anyone moves out of the chamber, I wish to put the House on notice that today's question time was an important question time because I will, if members require it as to the disorderly nature of behaviour, have more sanitised question times and I will make sure that I am administering the standing orders to the letter. I do not think any members would like to see that. I do not think it is healthy for our parliamentary democracy, but I will not tolerate a disorderly House. I am putting all members on notice.

I acknowledge that former member Matt Foley is in the gallery today.

HUMAN RIGHTS BILL

Message from Governor

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.17 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends the Human Rights Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

HUMAN RIGHTS 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 respect, protect and promote human rights, and to amend this Act, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Corrective Services Regulation 2017, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Family and Child Commission Act 2014, the Financial Accountability Act 2009, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Rules 2011, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Integrity Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Prostitution Regulation 2014, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010, the Public Service Act 2008, the Public Service Regulation 2018, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Rules 2009, the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2007, the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 31 October 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 31 October 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Human Rights Bill 2018 [1766].

Introduction

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.17 am): I present a bill for an act to respect, protect and promote human rights, and to amend this act, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Corrective Services Regulation 2017, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Family and Child Commission Act 2014, the Financial Accountability Act 2009, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Rules 2011, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Integrity Act 2009, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Prostitution Regulation 2014, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010, the Public Service Act 2008, the Public Service Regulation 2018, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Rules 2009, the

Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2007, the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 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: Human Rights Bill 2018 [1767].

Tabled paper: Human Rights Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1768].

I am delighted to take this next step towards the protection of the human rights of Queenslanders with the introduction of the Human Rights Bill 2018. This bill recognises the inherent dignity and worth of human beings. It recognises that the equal and inalienable human rights of all persons are essential in a democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law.

This Human Rights Bill is about changing the culture of the public sector by putting people first in all that we do. This is about a modern Queensland, a fair Queensland and a responsive Queensland. This bill was recommended by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee government members in the report titled *Inquiry into a possible Human Rights Act for Queensland* tabled on 30 June 2016 and supported by the majority of submitters to the inquiry. It is also consistent with this government's 2017 commitment to the introduction of a human rights act for Queensland based on the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

The development of human rights law in Queensland has a long history and goes back further than many may realise. Queensland was, notably, the first Australian state to move towards legislative protection for human rights in a bill introduced by Premier Frank Nicklin in 1959. Although that bill lapsed with the 1960 election, its introduction was consistent with an historical push for human rights protection by both conservative and non-conservative governments worldwide at that time.

More recently, the need for the legal protection of rights, including the rights of individuals to challenge government decisions and actions, was central to the Fitzgerald inquiry report in 1989. The Fitzgerald report led to the establishment of an Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, known as EARC, which also recommended that Queensland adopt a bill of rights. Although a bill of rights was not introduced as a result of the EARC report, this period was the start of many administrative and legislative reforms aimed at protecting our democratic system of government and the rights of individuals vis-à-vis government, including an independent crime and corruption watchdog and an independent Electoral Commission. This bill will continue that history of reforms.

In November 1991, the then Labor government introduced the Anti-Discrimination Bill 1991 to protect people in Queensland from unfair discrimination, sexual harassment and other objectionable conduct. For nearly three decades, the Anti-Discrimination Commission has performed the important function of promoting the understanding, acceptance and public discussion of human rights in this state. Under the bill, the ADCQ will be rebranded the Queensland Human Rights Commission to build upon this important role.

In keeping with our longstanding commitment to government accountability and ensuring that government functions are exercised in a principled way, this bill will form part of an existing framework of oversight mechanisms and administrative law obligations, such as the Right to Information Act 2009, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Judicial Review Act 1991, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 and the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. It will also mean that Queensland joins other common law and Commonwealth countries, such as Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory in the legislative protection of human rights.

The bill protects 23 human rights. These are primarily civil and political rights drawn from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights but also include two rights drawn from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and one from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The bill also explicitly recognises the special importance of human rights to the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Queensland as Australia's first people and their distinctive and diverse spiritual, material and economic relationship with the lands, territories, waters and coastal seas. It also recognises the particular significance of the right to self-determination to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The primary aim of the bill is to ensure that respect for human rights is embedded in the culture of the Queensland public sector and that public functions are exercised in a principled way that is compatible with human rights. The term 'compatible with human rights' is used throughout the bill. It is a unifying concept that is central to many provisions. The bill provides that an act, decision or statutory

provision is compatible with human rights if the act, decision or provision does not limit a human right, or limits a human right only to the extent that is reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in accordance with clause 13. Therefore, the bill acknowledges that human rights are not absolute and may need to be balanced against the rights of others and public policy issues of significant importance.

Clause 13, the general limitations clause, sets out the factors that may be relevant in deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable. While these factors are only a guide, they are intended to align generally with the principle of proportionality, a test applied by courts in many other jurisdictions to determine whether a limit on a right is justifiable. The bill aims to promote a discussion, or dialogue, about human rights between the three arms of government: the judiciary, the legislature and the executive.

Importantly, in this model parliament remains sovereign and may, if it wishes, intentionally pass legislation that is not compatible with the human rights in the bill. In this sense, the bill draws on the tradition of legislative protection of human rights associated with the United Kingdom rather than the United States Bill of Rights. This bill, once enacted, will be an ordinary act of parliament.

Part 3 of the bill sets out the application of human rights in Queensland to the parliament, the courts and the executive. Parliament will scrutinise all legislative proposals—bills and subordinate legislation—for compatibility with human rights. The bill requires all bills introduced into parliament to be accompanied by a statement of compatibility and statements of compatibility to state whether, in the opinion of the member who introduces the bill, the bill is compatible with human rights.

The bill also provides for parliament, in exceptional circumstances, to make an override declaration in relation to an act or a provision in an act. If an override declaration is made, to the extent of that declaration, the Human Rights Act does not apply to the act or provision. So far as is possible to do so, the courts and tribunals must interpret legislation in a way that is compatible with human rights.

The bill requires all statutory provisions, to the extent possible consistent with their purpose, to be interpreted in a way that is compatible with human rights and, if a statutory provision cannot be interpreted in a way that is compatible with human rights, the provision must to the extent possible consistent with its purpose be interpreted in a way that is most compatible with human rights. The bill also provides that the Supreme Court may, in a proceeding, make a declaration of incompatibility to the effect that the court is of the opinion that a statutory provision cannot be interpreted in a way compatible with human rights.

Public entities must act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights. There are essentially two types of public entities: core public entities and functional public entities, although these are not terms that are used in the bill. Core public entities are entities that fall within the definition of 'public entity' at all times regardless of the functions they are performing. These include, for example, a government department or a Public Service employee. Functional public entities are entities that fall within the definition of 'public entity' only when they are performing public functions. The inclusion of functional public entities reflects the modern operation of government, where non-government entities, including non-government organisations, private companies and government owned corporations, are engaged in various ways in delivering services to the public on behalf of the government or another public entity. Examples of a functional public entity include a private company managing a prison, or a non-government organisation providing a public housing service. Registered providers of supports or a registered NDIS provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 are also public entities when they are performing functions of a public nature in Queensland. The bill provides, with some exceptions, that it is unlawful for a public entity to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights, or, in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.

But, as in Victoria, there will be no stand-alone legal remedy for a contravention of this bill. Rather, the bill adopts an enforcement mechanism known as a piggyback cause of action. A contravention of the Human Rights Bill will not create a right to any new remedies. It will create a new ground of unlawfulness—that is, a breach of the Human Rights Bill will be unlawful. Where an applicant has an existing right to claim for a remedy on another independent ground of unlawfulness, then that person can piggyback the human rights claim onto that existing claim. The remedy is the one the person would have been entitled to anyway on the basis of the existing claim.

It should be noted this remedy is available even if the applicant is unsuccessful on the independent ground but is successful in respect of the claim of unlawfulness under the Human Rights Bill. Importantly, however, there is no right to monetary damages on the basis of a breach of the Human Rights Bill alone. What this means in practice is that, if a person believes that they have grounds for a

claim of unlawfulness under the Human Rights Bill, they may only bring such a claim together with a cause of action on a different ground of unlawfulness if one exists in relation to the same act or decision, such as the right to seek judicial review. A person will be entitled to any remedy arising from the independent cause of action, except if it is damages, even if the person is successful on the human rights claim alone and not the other cause of action.

Litigation is not the focus of the dialogue model of human rights acts like this bill. The regulatory model for this bill favours discussion, awareness raising and education about human rights. Importantly, it is also about the everyday interactions of individuals with government. As I mentioned earlier, the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland will be rebranded as the Queensland Human Rights Commission and will be responsible for promoting an understanding, an acceptance and a public discussion of human rights and performing a dispute resolution process for human rights complaints. The current Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Scott McDougall, who commenced as the new commissioner on 8 October 2018, will become the Human Rights Commissioner.

A dispute resolution function for the commission will complement the dialogue model of the bill. It will provide an accessible, independent and appropriate avenue for members of the community to raise human rights concerns with public entities with a view to reaching a practical resolution. When a person believes they are the subject of a public entity's failure to act compatibly with human rights, they may make a complaint to the relevant public entity. If the complaint cannot be resolved with the public entity, a person may then make a human rights complaint to the commission. The commission may try to informally resolve the complaint by discussing the matter with the complainant and the public entity or, if appropriate, attempt to resolve the complaint through conciliation. This can include compulsory conciliation.

As this bill represents a significant reform for Queensland, there is a requirement that the act be periodically independently reviewed to ensure its effective operation. The first review will consider the operation of the act up to 1 July 2023. A subsequent review will examine its operation from 2023 to 1 July 2027, or an earlier date at the discretion of the Attorney-General.

The bill also amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Corrective Services Act 2006 so that other factors relevant to determining how to act or make a decision under these acts will apply in addition to the human rights considerations under the bill. The effect of these amendments is that an act or decision made under those acts, taking into consideration these additional factors, will not be unlawful under the bill only because these additional factors were considered. In relation to the Youth Justice Act, this approach is limited to decisions about whether to segregate accused from convicted children in youth detention centres as required by the right to humane treatment in detention. In relation to the Corrective Services Act, this will be limited to decisions relating to the segregation of convicted and non-convicted prisoners and the management of prisoners where it is not practicable for a prisoner to be provided with his or her own room. Whether these amendments are operating effectively will be a topic of the first review of the Human Rights Act.

The bill will commence on proclamation. To ensure a smooth transition, it is the government's intention that the bill commence in two stages. The first stage will be the rebranding and role of the Queensland Human Rights Commission in mid-2019 to allow them to commence their educative function and promotion of the act. The second stage will be the commencement of the balance of the bill, including the obligations on government departments, agencies and public entities, on 1 January 2020. It is incumbent upon each agency and entity to ensure, over the next year, that they are prepared for commencement.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Like the UDHR, Queensland's human rights act will be a standard of achievement to which we all—government and citizens—should aspire. It is about embedding human rights understanding in thinking about policy and in promoting them across our community. It is a statement of aspirations and principles, of the rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. We must recognise them, we must respect them and we must do all we can to ensure them. There is a collective responsibility that is inherent in the proposition that all people are of equal value and all entitled to be treated equally. We must think about our actions and our relationships in the context of these fundamental human rights and build a proactive, respectful and compassionate culture.

I would like to recognise the important contribution of many of those in this parliament, previous parliaments and in the community who have advocated for this important reform for so long. That includes so many across the Labor Party over so many years, including many sitting in this chamber

today. I note the presence of some very active advocates in our local community in the gallery for the bill's introduction. I acknowledge their tireless dedication to this cause. I make special mention of the former attorney-general Matt Foley. It is a pleasure that he is joining us here today for this momentous occasion. A human rights act is something we should be proud of. We should champion it. The Palaszczuk government certainly will. I can only hope that all governments in the future continue to champion this historic and important initiative. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (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 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.

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.36 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 and the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [1769].

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1770].

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 will make two priority reforms to the health practitioner regulation national law following an agreement by all Australian health ministers. The bill will amend mandatory reporting requirements for treating health practitioners following an extensive consultation process. These changes will encourage registered health practitioners to have confidence to seek treatment for their own health conditions. The bill will also strengthen patient and consumer protections under the national law by increasing the maximum penalties for persons who falsely hold themselves out as registered in a health profession or who use restricted professional titles.

The national law commenced operation in 2010 following the agreement of the Council of Australian Governments to establish a national registration and accreditation scheme for the health professions. The national law establishes 15 national boards that register and regulate health practitioners from 16 regulated health professions, including doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists and psychologists. Any changes to the national law must be agreed by health ministers of all states, territories and the Commonwealth at the COAG Health Council before they are introduced into the Queensland parliament as the host jurisdiction for the national law.

On 12 October 2018, the COAG Health Council approved amendments to the national law to implement these two priority reforms. These issues have been considered extensively by health ministers from the Commonwealth, states and territories over the past 18 months. This bill represents the culmination of extensive cooperation and consultation by ministers and officials in all jurisdictions on these matters.

Turning to the amendments to reform mandatory reporting by treating practitioners under the national law, mandatory reporting has been an important aspect of the national law since its inception in 2010. The mandatory reporting regime protects the public by ensuring AHPRA and the national boards are notified about registered health practitioners who may be placing the public at risk of harm.

In Queensland, mandatory reports are made to the Queensland Health Ombudsman and dealt with under Queensland's co-regulatory arrangements for handling complaints about health practitioners. The mandatory reporting provisions in the national law require employers and registered health practitioners to report certain conduct of other registered health practitioners. The conduct that must be reported includes intoxication at work, sexual misconduct in connection with the practice of a health profession, placing the public at risk of substantial harm due to an impairment or health condition and placing the public at risk of harm through a significant departure from accepted professional standards.

Registered health practitioners are also required to make mandatory reports about a student who is registered under the national law if the student has a health concern or impairment that may place the public at substantial risk of harm when the student is undertaking clinical training.

Some stakeholders have expressed concerns that these requirements may discourage practitioners who are unwell from seeking treatment because they are concerned that their treating practitioner will be required to make a mandatory report, particularly where a patient-practitioner is seeking help for a mental health issue or drug and alcohol problem. To address these concerns, the bill makes several significant changes to the way the mandatory reporting requirements apply to treating practitioners under the national law.

The bill establishes a higher threshold for treating practitioners to make a mandatory report about a practitioner-patient's impairment, intoxication or practice outside of standards. The threshold only requires reporting if there is a substantial risk of harm to the public.

The bill includes guidance about the factors a treating practitioner may consider in deciding whether a practitioner-patient's impairment would meet the threshold of substantial risk of harm. The legislation makes clear that a treating practitioner may consider matters such as the nature, extent and severity of the impairment; whether the practitioner-patient is taking steps, or is willing to take steps, to manage their impairment; and whether the impairment can be managed through appropriate treatment. This sends a clear message to practitioners and students that, if they are engaged in treatment and are willing to take steps to address their impairment, a treating practitioner is not required to make a mandatory report.

The legislation requires a treating practitioner to use their professional judgement and expertise in considering whether an impairment is being managed appropriately to mitigate risks to the public. Mandatory reporting is only required in cases that meet the higher threshold of reporting—if public safety would be in jeopardy.

The legislation also provides a framework for treating practitioners to make a holistic assessment of risk of a practitioner-patient's conduct. This enables a treating practitioner to look at conduct related to impairment, intoxication and practice outside of standards against the same threshold for reporting and consider whether mandatory reporting is required. Again, the treating practitioner must use their experience and professional judgement.

While it is important to give registered health practitioners greater confidence to seek treatment for their health issues, this must be done in a way that does not compromise the safety of patients or the public. For this reason, the bill retains mandatory reporting requirements for treating practitioners in circumstances where the public may be placed at substantial risk of harm.

The bill also strengthens requirements for reporting of sexual misconduct, including a new requirement to report risks of future sexual misconduct. This will ensure that, if a treating practitioner becomes aware a practitioner-patient is, for example, grooming a child or a patient, they would be required to report the matter to the regulator.

Queensland has already modified the national law as it applies in Queensland now to include a partial exemption from mandatory reporting by treating practitioners. The current Queensland provision is similar to the approach in the bill, as it also uses a reporting threshold of substantial risk of harm. However, to overcome some confusion about the application of the current Queensland provision and to ensure national consistency, Queensland has agreed to adopt the national law approach to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners. This means that all elements of the mandatory reporting

reforms in the bill will apply in Queensland, including the guidance factors included in the national law provisions. To achieve this outcome, the bill removes Queensland's current modification about this issue.

The amendments will be supported by guidance and education materials for health practitioners. Subject to the bill being passed, Commonwealth, state and territory health ministers have asked the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to develop an education campaign so that registered health practitioners are aware of the new requirements and the opportunities for practitioners to seek treatment for their health issues. The national boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency will also revise their current guidelines related to mandatory reporting to provide guidance to practitioners. These materials will be developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Turning to the amendments to increase penalties under the national law, these reforms will strengthen patient and consumer protections under the national law by increasing the maximum penalties for persons who falsely hold themselves out as registered in a health profession, or who use restricted professional titles. The bill also introduces an imprisonment term of up to three years, which could be sought in prosecutions for the most serious offences.

These reforms respond to high-profile cases in recent years in which individuals have held themselves out as registered health practitioners when they are not. This conduct already constitutes an offence under the national law. However, it has become apparent that the current penalties are inadequate compared to the potential for significant harm involved in offences of this type, especially harm to members of the public who believe a person is registered. This conduct involves a significant breach of trust, especially given the high esteem in which the community holds registered health practitioners and the very private and personal nature of seeking health care. In several prosecutions for these offences, magistrates have expressed the view that they would have imposed an imprisonment term if one were available.

The bill will double the maximum monetary penalties for holding out and related offences to $60,000 for an individual and, where relevant, $120,000 for a body corporate. The bill also introduces an imprisonment term of up to three years for these offences.

The bill also contains minor amendments as a consequence of the reforms. In particular, the bill modifies the application of the national law in Queensland to ensure the reforms operate appropriately under Queensland's co-regulatory model for dealing with health complaints.

The changes to the national law in the bill are supported by all Australian health ministers. They reflect the policy positions approved by governments in each state and territory, except Western Australia, which has notified health ministers it will retain its current arrangements in relation to mandatory reporting. If this bill is passed by the Queensland parliament, the changes to the national law will apply automatically in other jurisdictions, except for South Australia, which must make regulations to adopt the changes, and Western Australia, which enacts its own separate legislation. I am proud of Queensland's important role as the host jurisdiction for the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and for the responsibility of progressing these important changes on behalf of health ministers across the country.

This bill demonstrates an ongoing commitment to protecting the health and safety of the public and a focus on professional and competent practice by health professionals. It will enable health practitioners to have confidence to seek help when they need treatment for their own health conditions. This is vital not only for their own wellbeing but also to ensure the public receives safe health care.

The bill is the result of a collaborative effort by all states and territories and the Commonwealth. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow members of the COAG Health Council for the spirit of collaboration in which they worked to develop these important reforms. I also thank the stakeholders who participated in the two rounds of consultation on the mandatory reporting reforms in the bill. There will be ongoing opportunities for stakeholders to be involved in the development of guidelines and education programs. I strongly encourage stakeholders to get involved in those processes.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank our dedicated health professionals who go to work every day in our hospitals, clinics and local practices. They provide extraordinary service to the people of Queensland in our remote communities, small towns and thriving communities, providing quality care and life-changing treatment. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.46 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 Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

MOTION

Order of Business

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.47 am): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINES LEGISLATION (RESOURCES SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 20 March (see p.476).

Second Reading

Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (11.48 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 will deliver significant improvements to Queensland's mine safety and health regulatory framework for the benefit of workers in our coalmines, mineral mines and quarries. I note that the committee tabled its report on 8 May 2018 and the government tabled its response to the committee's report on 8 August 2018.

The bill was first presented in 2017, but lapsed when parliament was dissolved before the last election. On 20 March 2018, I reintroduced the bill with minor drafting amendments based on consultation with key stakeholders during the intervening period. Once again, I thank all stakeholders who have helped to shape the bill, both before and after it was first introduced. Tripartite consultation between the department, industry and unions has been extremely valuable in helping to develop and refine the proposals in the bill and achieve a common purpose of strengthening safety and health standards within a risk based regulatory framework.

The main objective of this bill is to ensure that mining safety and health legislation remains effective and contemporary to protect our mine and quarry workers from harm. All workers have the right to expect their work will not cause them illness or injury. We should all have the expectation of returning to our home and to our families at the end of each working day safe and unharmed from work.

As many members of this House will know, there is a tragic history behind Queensland's mining legislation. Queensland suffered a series of underground coalmining disasters that has had a profound and lasting impact on the families, communities, industry and government. Queensland's current mining safety and health legislation was developed through close collaboration by government, industry and unions after the 1994 Moura mining disaster that killed 11 workers.

The recommendations from the inquiry into this disaster substantially influenced the legislation that forms the basis of Queensland's current mining safety and health framework. Subsequent changes in the mining industry, emerging issues and lessons learned have led to further improvements in safety and health regulation over time. We now have world-class mining safety and health legislation, but we must continually strive to improve Queensland's safety and health record. This bill is a crucial part of this task.

The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee gave diligent consideration to the bill. The committee's report recommended the bill be passed. The report also contained two further recommendations, which I will address now.

In response to the committee's recommendation that the bill be amended to include a definition of 'contractor', tripartite consultation is ongoing about how best to clarify the nature of the issue and the preferred option to address it. With the changing make-up of the workforce, including labour hire arrangements, this is an extremely complex issue affecting a wide range of industries and an evolving area of the law. We need to ensure that any definition included in the act is properly considered so as not to have unintended consequences, particularly in terms of the safety and health obligations owed to contractors and other workers.

The committee also recommended that the bill be amended to require site senior executives to be notified, on a confidential basis, of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to the health and safety of employees are at an acceptable level. This raises worker privacy and confidentiality issues and requires careful consideration in close consultation with stakeholders. It is also necessary to ensure consistency and avoid overlap with existing notification arrangements such as those under workers compensation laws. I thank the committee for its work and considered feedback.

The bill delivers reforms in three key areas. Before I outline these reforms, I would like to clarify two bodies of work that are outside the scope of this bill, but remain priorities of this government in the pursuit of better safety and health outcomes for this state. These relate to last year's parliamentary select committee's report on coal workers' pneumoconiosis and consideration of industrial manslaughter offences. Any legislative amendments dealing with these issues will be progressed separately once policy proposals are finalised in consultation with industry, unions and other stakeholders.

The first area of reform in this bill is to strengthen the requirements relating to safety and health management systems at mines. The effective management of contractors has been an ongoing concern following incidents and near misses resulting from contractors not following the same safety procedures as employees. Over the last decade contractors have been over-represented in the number of fatal incidents at mines.

Amendments will improve the management of contractors and service providers working at mines by ensuring they are part of and following the same safety and health management system as employees of the mine operator. Amendments will also result in all small opal or gem mines with five or more workers being required to have a safety and health management system in place to manage risks and hazards from their operations. The bill will also enshrine health surveillance as a specific objective of mining safety and health legislation, recognising the important health surveillance work being undertaken through the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme, and emphasising the vital role systematic monitoring plays in the prevention and early detection of adverse health effects on miners.

The second area of reform is compliance and enforcement. The bill reflects this government's strong position that failure by any person to comply with safety and health obligations will not be tolerated. The additional compliance and enforcement measures proposed will enhance the Queensland Mines Inspectorate's ability to promote and enforce compliance within the industry and take appropriate and effective action when noncompliance is detected.

These measures include increased maximum financial penalties for breaches of safety and health obligations to align with maximum penalties under Queensland's general work health and safety laws, with the highest category corporate offenders facing penalties of up to $3.9 million. Civil penalties of up to $130,000 will also be introduced for serious safety and health breaches, such as failing to monitor for exposure to respirable dust at the mine or failing to have a management plan in place for a principal hazard. These penalties can be used to fine mines if they have clearly failed to meet the requirements of the legislation.

The powers of mines inspectors will be enhanced to ensure they can enter and inspect off-mine site workplaces, such as workshops, where mining equipment maintenance is being performed. This is consistent with inspector powers under general work health and safety laws. Amendments will also allow for certificates of competency required to be held by those in statutory positions at mines to be suspended or cancelled for breaches of safety and health obligations, providing an additional compliance and enforcement tool.

The third area of reform is enhanced competency, transparency and accountability within the safety and health framework. Embedding the competency requirements of ventilation officers is a priority issue in the coalmining and quarrying sectors. To ensure individuals in these safety critical positions working in complex and hazardous mining operations have the necessary qualifications and experience, ventilation officers at underground coalmines will be required to hold a certificate of competency through examination by the statutory Board of Examiners. Ventilation officers at mineral mines with more than 20 underground workers will have to meet the competency requirements specified by the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Committee.

Importantly, the bill will enable a continuing professional development scheme to be established for certificate of competency holders to ensure those in safety critical roles at mines remain up to date with their professional skills and experience at all times. This scheme will be established through regulations following passage of the bill.

The accountability of mine operators will increase with the introduction of proactive executive officer obligations similar to those under work health and safety laws. This places a very clear onus on mining corporation officers to exercise due diligence and proactively monitor, audit and review safety and health safety and health performance of mines. It also sends a very clear message that safety and health must be considered alongside production and fiscal matters from the company board down. Designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers of plant or substances to mines will also be more accountable with a new requirement to proactively notify the Mines Inspectorate about any identified hazards or defects, in addition to the mine operator. Amendments to improve transparency include the introduction of a public register of individuals with competency certificates, Mines Inspectorate powers to release information about serious incidents to facilitate risk assessment and management across industry and expanded notification requirements for reportable diseases such as coal workers' pneumoconiosis.

Stakeholder consultation on reforms to the mine safety framework also highlighted the need for measures to manage the risk of explosion at coalmines. Explosion barriers are not covered in the bill as this issue can be dealt with through the regulations. Amendments are being progressed separately to confirm the requirement for explosion barriers in underground coalmines as a critical safety measure to reduce the risk of coal dust explosion.

The committee has also sought clarification in relation to reportable diseases, confidential information being provided to the Workers' Compensation Regulator or WorkCover and civil penalties. The committee noted concerns about reportable diseases not being captured accurately and whether non-disclosure agreements impact on the obligation to report a disease. The bill will enable obligations to be placed on a broader range of appropriate persons—for example, a medical practitioner—to report the diseases prescribed in the regulations. These are statutory obligations that will override any nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements to which the person is a party.

The proposal for the chief inspector or the chief executive to disclose information to the Workers' Compensation Regulator or WorkCover will enable the release of personal information relating to workers with work related illnesses or injuries that would entitle them to make an application for workers compensation. The sharing of this information is only between Queensland government agencies and will benefit workers by streamlining processes and allowing for ongoing health surveillance.

As noted earlier in this speech, civil penalties are substantial fines designed to enable timely regulatory response for clear-cut breaches of strict safety and health obligations. They may be used to respond to instances where a mine has blatantly failed to do something they are plainly required to do under the law—for example, if a mine site failed to conduct and report the results of dust monitoring at a mine site in accordance with their obligations. In other words, civil penalties are for black-and-white contraventions of the law. They enable the imposition of a prescribed penalty where there has been a clear failure.

Judicious use of civil penalties can discourage systemic breaches and incentivise good safety and health practice before serious or tragic consequences occur. The committee's concern relates to the potential for a person to be issued a civil penalty and also be prosecuted for the same offence.

Where a civil penalty has been imposed for breach of a specific requirement, it is unlikely that a corporation would later be prosecuted for the same noncompliance. Rather, prosecution would be preferred where there is a particularly serious allegation of noncompliance—for example, one that has resulted in a serious injury or fatality. However, there may be cases where, following the imposition of a civil penalty soon after a breach is detected, additional evidence comes to light that reveals that the offensive conduct is of a more serious nature or has had more serious consequences than initially apparent. Therefore, it is important that the possibility of prosecution is not locked out due to earlier civil penalties being imposed. A corporation cannot be issued a civil penalty if it has been convicted or found guilty of the same offence.

This bill is the result of an extensive review of Queensland's mine safety framework and demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the safety and health of our mining workers. We will continue to learn from our regulatory activities, improve safeguards and systems within the regulatory framework and effectively enforce the laws against those who fail to comply with their obligations. This not only helps to protect those who work day after day managing the unique hazards and risks of mining and the social fabric of families and communities around our mining workers but also helps to bolster the reputation of the mining industry, which forms a substantial part of Queensland's economic prosperity. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (12.01 pm): I rise to speak to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018, a bill that was introduced to parliament in March this year. I say at the outset that the LNP will not be opposing this bill. However, there are a number of concerns that I will highlight during my contribution here today including the adoption of recommendations from the committee that considered this bill.

The Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 is an omnibus bill that includes amendments to the following legislation: the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations that are distinct from general workplace obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Mining is an inherently dangerous business, if you would like to call it that, particularly as history shows that since 1882, when fatality figures were first recorded for Queensland coalmines, there have been 340 fatalities in that industry. It behoves all of us to ensure that safety regulations, procedures, processes and policy are of the highest standard and rigidly enforced when it comes to the resources sector and, in particular, mining.

The bill proposes to address 15 matters identified for improvement in the resources safety and health regulatory framework to increase worker safety and health. They include ensuring that the people appointed to ventilation officer positions are sufficiently skilled and improving inspector powers to allow for more appropriate workplace entry by adopting a similar approach to that used under the Work Health and Safety Act for entry to places. This will provide certainty regarding powers to enter and conduct inspections, investigations and audit compliance at all workplaces that have the potential to affect safety and health at mines. I note that the scope of entry for mines inspectors will continue to be limited by the objects of the acts and the functions of the Mines Inspectorate—that is, relating to safety and health matters concerning mines and as a result of mining operations.

Another matter includes ensuring that manufacturers, suppliers, designers and importers notify both the Mines Inspectorate and mine operators of any identified hazards or defects with supplied equipment and substances that they become aware of. This recommendation came from a coroner's inquest. It is important that we are cognisant of the recommendations that came out of that inquest and move to adopt those particular recommendations.

Contractors and service providers will be required to provide a copy of their safety and health plan to the SSE for consideration and integration, as appropriate, into the mine's single SHMS. With the appointment of an independent Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health in 2016, there is no longer an equal number of departmental representatives on the advisory committees. With regard to the Board of Examiners, two of the inspector appointments to the Board of Examiners would also be by position rather than by name of the individuals appointed to those positions.

It is proposed that SHMS requirements be introduced for opal or gemstone mines with five to 10 workers to enable operators to achieve an acceptable level of risk. I know that my colleagues from the electorates of Warrego and Gregory will speak further to that particular issue given the number of those types of mines in their respective electorates.

It is proposed that amendments be made to the CMSHA and MQSHA to allow the Board of Examiners to keep a register of certificates of competency, SSE notices and notices of registration given by the board under the Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act 1992. This will enable persons such as mine operators or SSEs to determine if a person holds a valid certificate or notice. Other matters identified were that health assessment and health surveillance for prospective, current and retired industry workers should both be included in how the objects of the MQSHA are to be achieved, as well as the notification of diseases.

The Mining Safety and Health Legislation (Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2016 commenced on 1 January 2017 in response to the reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in the Queensland coal industry. The amendment regulation prescribes certain occupational diseases under the CMSHR and the MQSHR, which requires an SSE to notify the Mines Inspectorate when they become aware of an occurrence of a prescribed disease.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis, or black lung disease, was rediscovered in Queensland in 2015. Coal workers' pneumoconiosis is a type of pneumoconiosis solely caused by prolonged exposure to coalmine dust. More than 20 miners have been confirmed to have the disease since the rediscovery, and 54 have been diagnosed with some form of miners' dust disease. For 30 years the state's mining industry was thought to have been rid of this particular disease. Miners suffering black lung disease will now have access to significant workers compensation, as they should, although it has been a long time coming.

The *Black lung white lies* parliamentary committee report into black lung disease found catastrophic failings in public administration in Queensland. The committee found that there has been a catastrophic failure at almost every level of the regulatory system intended to protect the health and safety of coal workers in Queensland.

While the LNP welcome this sensible legislation, the government's track record in responding to black lung has been lethargic and unacceptable. The Labor Party refused to listen to their very own Labor member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller. Furthermore, last year the CFMEU called for Minister Lynham to resign over his 'insensitive and inadequate response' to the Queensland inquiry into black lung disease, including questioning the scientific evidence for lower dust levels.

The *Black lung white lies* report delivered in May 2017 recommended the government establish the authority in Mackay to oversee mine safety and hygiene, conduct medical research and training, and provide medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. Miners are still waiting for the Premier to come good on her commitment to establish the mine safety and health authority in Mackay more than a year after it was promised. It is a betrayal of workers to promise action on an issue as critical as mining safety and then let a year pass with no action. Miners' health and safety must come before the bureaucracy, and delays in delivering this initiative are simply unacceptable.

The bill is designed to outline a regulatory framework to ensure that every worker goes home safely by delivering additional safety and health measures. The timely release of safety information by regulators—for example, safety alerts about incidents—enables industry to implement key learnings in a timely manner. The recent fire at North Goonyella mine is a good example where the timely release of information has made a real difference. The mine owner, Peabody Energy, upon becoming aware that there was a fire at the mine, immediately closed the mine, evacuated all personnel and implemented emergency procedures to control the fire. The release of information has kept all stakeholders apprised of the situation at the mine including not only measures taken to control the fire but steps taken to have mining operations recommence at a future date.

I note that maximum penalties under the CMSHA and MQSHA have not been increased since 2007 and are significantly lower than the penalties prescribed in the Work Health and Safety Act. Greater consistency can be achieved by adopting the maximum penalties under the Work Health and Safety Act and by adopting subcategories for officers in addition to other individuals where relevant.

There is a need to ensure that an officer exercises an appropriate level of due diligence commensurate with the position and influence of the officer. In applying mining safety and health obligations on officers under the CMSHA and MQSHA, it needs to be made clear that these obligations are specifically placed on the officer and do not apply to a person appointed as, or whose position reports directly or indirectly to, the SSE for a mine.

The Board of Examiners issues certificates of competency for life, which may compromise the currency of the necessary competency. To maintain the certificate, ongoing professional development is necessary to ensure the holder continues to maintain an appropriate level of competency. The amendments as proposed will clarify that the functions of the Board of Examiners are not limited to

deciding only the competencies necessary to hold a certificate of competency but also extend to deciding matters pertaining to the continuing professional development of certificate of competency holders.

Persons in safety critical roles at mine sites are required under the CMSHA and MQSHA to hold a certificate of competency issued by the Board of Examiners or obtain units of competency for the role of SSE. I note that the chief executive will now have the ability to suspend or cancel a certificate of competency or notice where the holder has contravened a safety and health obligation under the CMSHA and MQSHA or has committed an offence against mining safety legislation in Queensland or another state or territory, as should be the case. Importantly, a person will be afforded natural justice and a right to respond before a decision to suspend or cancel is made. Civil penalties are necessary to provide for action to be taken to address noncompliance. They may applied where a breach requires direct redress and is sufficiently significant to warrant a substantial financial penalty. This could include a failure to fulfil an obligation or requirement that has the potential to significantly impact the safety and health of persons at the mine.

I note the committee has recommended that the bill be passed with the following recommendation: that the bill be amended to include a definition of 'contractor'. I note that the minister spoke to this recommendation. He indicated with regard to this particular recommendation that there is further work to be done regarding that term and the difficulties associated with defining exactly what a contractor is. However, given that this bill was introduced in March this year and the importance of the term and what it means at mine sites in terms of contractors working on mine sites—as we all know, they are an integral part of mining operations—I would have thought at this stage we would have a definition of 'contractor' in this bill. I certainly hope that the minister is going to give us some time frames and a commitment as to when that particular definition will be clarified and incorporated into this bill.

I also note that the committee recommends that the minister consider amending the bill to require that site senior executives be notified on a confidential basis of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to the health and safety of the employees are at an acceptable level. Whilst I can appreciate there are privacy provisions, would it not make sense that site senior executives be notified when their employees contract diseases such as black lung? Would it not be practical and common sense to ensure that senior staff are aware of that so they can deal with the issue and mitigate that happening again? Those on this side of the House are very concerned that that recommendation is being incorporated into this bill.

I note that the Queensland Law Society in its submission suggested that the bill be amended to include a declaratory statement to the effect that a criminal prosecution cannot be pursued after a civil penalty may have been imposed for the same noncompliance. I ask the minister to address that particular concern during consideration in detail.

We have a resurgent mining sector at the moment. Most of the coalmines in Queensland are in my electorate of Burdekin. This sector has absolutely turned around in the last 12 months. We can see it firsthand when travelling through the coalfields. We can see it from the activity and the development of new mines, and the expansion and ramping up of operations in current mines in that area. It is very important that we get this safety issue sorted out and that going forward they are in place regarding the operation of these mines to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all our miners.

The LNP is committed to holding this government to account when it comes to our miners' health and wellbeing. We support laws that protect our miners' legal right to a safe workplace. It is certainly our hope that this bill is a step in the right direction in ensuring our miners have a safe workplace.

Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (12.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. As the House would recall, priority initiatives in the bill were first introduced into the previous parliament in September 2017 and reported on by the former infrastructure, planning and natural resources committee. The committee at that time made three recommendations including that the bill be passed. The bill lapsed when the parliament was dissolved on 29 October 2017 prior to its second reading.

The current version of the bill replicates the content of the lapsed bill with the addition of a number of minor amendments. In the minister's introductory speech, he advised that collectively the initiatives will provide greater transparency and accountability, improve compliance and enforcement of safety and health standards, or improve mine safety and health standards or systems. The explanatory notes advised that consideration of amendments to the mine safety and health framework commenced in 2013, with the reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis also highlighting the need for continuous improvement of regulatory frameworks.

Everyone deserves the right to expect that their health and safety will be protected while in the workplace. Nowhere is diligence in this regard more important than in workplaces categorised by hazards such as those inherent in the mining industry. This bill continues the vital work of continued vigilance, addressing 15 priority matters, including in relation to ventilation officer competencies; inspector powers including inspector workplace entry; manufacturer, supplier, designer and importer notification requirements; contractor and service provider management; advisory committees and Board of Examiners' membership; safety and health management system requirements; health surveillance notification of diseases; suspension or cancellation of certificates of competency and site senior executive notices; and civil penalties, amongst others.

Following its introduction in March this year, the bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, of which I am chair. The committee reported in May, making three recommendations including that the bill be passed. The committee's inquiry process included consideration of the evidence provided to the former committee—and I thank the committee for its contribution—in public hearings in Brisbane, Mount Isa and Moranbah and site visits to Mount Isa Mines and the Moranbah North mine. I take this opportunity to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill and attended as witnesses at the public hearings including the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy; the CFMEU; Mine Ventilation Australia; the Australian Workers' Union; the Queensland Resources Council; and the Mine Managers Association of Australia.

I would also like to thank the teams at Glencore's Mount Isa Mines and Anglo American's Moranbah North mine who helped provide the committee with vital insights into the practical implementation of mining safety and health legislation in operational contexts and environments, during the committee's site visits to their mining operations. While this was not my first visit to an open-cut mine, it was my first opportunity to literally visit the coalface. Seeing the challenging environment in which men and women in the mining industry work each day and the expertise these stakeholders provided to the inquiry was of invaluable assistance in understanding the potential benefits and implications of the bill.

While I do not intend to go into detail in regard to all 15 of the priority matters addressed in the bill, I would like to make a brief mention of a few. The bill proposes to strengthen the qualification requirements for the role of ventilation officer at underground coalmines so that only people with appropriate experience, expertise and understanding of their statutory obligations are employed in this vital role. The amendment will require a practical examination to gain certification as a ventilation officer to ensure proven competency in the role. Ventilation officers are responsible for the implementation of the mine's ventilation system and the establishment of effective standards of ventilation for the mine, a safety critical role. When something goes wrong in this regard, it can be catastrophic. Stakeholders spoke strongly in support of the amendments, and the committee was satisfied that the proposed new sections in relation to ventilation officer competencies, and the arrangements to be put in place during absences of ventilation officers, are appropriate for coalmines and noncoalmines, given the relative risks of the two industries.

The bill also provides a power to enter workplaces, including off-mine site workplaces, by adopting a similar approach to that used under the Work Health and Safety Act for entry to places. It is proposed that the inspectors will be able to enter any place that is, or the inspector reasonably suspects is, a workplace without permission or requiring a warrant. Existing workplace entry powers under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act and Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act are reasonably broad, and the committee heard that legislative gaps exist in respect to entering some off-mine site workplaces where activities affecting the health and safety of mineworkers may still be carried out. There was broad support for the proposed amendment in the bill to change this.

The bill also importantly deals with the health surveillance of current and former miners and the notification of reportable diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, coal workers' pneumoconiosis, legionellosis and silicosis. The bill seeks to expand who is responsible for the notification of reportable diseases to ensure that cases, once identified, are captured and addressed. The Australian Workers' Union raised concerns at the Mount Isa hearing that, where a non-disclosure agreement is in place, such reportable diseases may not be captured accurately. The committee sought the minister's clarification in this regard, in addition to the proposal put forward by some stakeholders that site senior executives be notified, on a confidential basis, of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to the health and safety of the employee are at an acceptable level. The minister addressed this issue when he just spoke and he said that consultation is ongoing.

Conversely, protecting the privacy of affected workers and protecting workers from any possible punitive measures, such as losing their job, responsibilities or hours, was raised as a key concern. I note the government response addressed this issue in part and I again thank the minister for his ongoing consultation and for addressing this topic.

I do not seek to expand on the remaining priority matters contained in the bill in any more detail. Our committee and the former committee's reports canvassed those in some detail. I would like to once again state the importance of this bill and the ongoing work of tripartite consultation with key stakeholders in ensuring continued vigilance in regard to worker health and safety in the mining sector. The passion of stakeholders for their industry and to continuing to consult on additional improvements into the future was very evident during our inquiry process, and I commend that ongoing dialogue and work.

I would like to again personally thank the team at both of the mines we visited—Mount Isa and Moranbah. They work in incredibly difficult circumstances. We know that from the photos we see, but to actually go underground and spend hours and hours down there as they shear the coalface was an incredible experience. Obviously, it is a very galvanising one, as the workforce there is very close. I thank them for their time and assistance with our inquiry. I commend the bill to the House.

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (12.22 pm): The Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced into the Queensland parliament on 20 March 2018 by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and subsequently referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, of which I am the deputy chair. This omnibus bill is essentially a reintroduction of the same bill from 2017 which lapsed when the 55th Parliament was dissolved for the November state election, with some new amendments.

The 2017 bill was originally referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, which reported on it on 23 October of that year. I thank them for their work and consultation on the bill. Questions were raised as to why our committee was chosen and not the expected natural resources, mines and energy committee, which would have been the obvious choice. It appears, in Labor's usual haphazard, disorganised matter, that the head of government business allowed too many bills to come before the House for the one committee and they had to farm this one out.

In addition, the reporting date of 8 May meant that the time for investigation and consideration was tight and was to occur during a particularly busy time in April, with Easter, the Commonwealth Games, school holidays and Anzac Day. We are not even debating the bill until the last day of October, due to this Labor government's incapacity to manage the business of parliament. There was all that flurry of activity in order to meet the reporting deadline. Why the urgency to travel to mines and call for submissions? Perhaps the tight time line was behind the fact that only nine submissions were received for this bill. I am not for a moment suggesting that mine safety is not important. It is important, and the LNP fully recognises this. However, the delay in bringing this bill forward for debate would indicate it is not very high on Labor's agenda. Only allowing three hours for the debate time says it all.

Whilst I am a complete novice when it comes to knowledge about the mining industry, unlike many of my learned colleagues in this House on both sides, I am well aware of the very nature of the job, especially the fact that the miners who work underground have elements of risk that can result in fatal consequences, as we have witnessed at Beaconsfield and other sites over the years. The parliamentary committee report titled *Black lung white lies* into black lung disease found catastrophic failings in public administration in Queensland and, alarmingly, we are seeing new cases diagnosed. Since the rediscovery of this deadly disease in 2015, more than 20 miners have been confirmed to have it and no doubt there will be more. Understandably, this rediscovery sent shockwaves through the mining industry, as the disease was thought to be gone.

The consultation regulatory impact statement, or RIS, titled Queensland's Mine Safety Framework 2013 outlined policy options for addressing the identified issues in the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. Stakeholder meetings were conducted in late 2016 into 2017, and tripartite working groups were formed in February 2017.

As recorded in the explanatory notes, the final proposals were broadly supported by industry and unions, although the CFMEU complained it was not included in any consultation since the 2017 bill lapsed. In fact, this union called for the resignation of Minister Lynham over his 'insensitive and inadequate response to the Queensland Inquiry into black lung disease, including questioning the scientific evidence for lower dust levels'.

As the chair of the committee just said, the bill proposes to address some 15 matters identified for improvement in the resources safety and health regulatory framework to increase worker safety and health. The explanatory notes advise that the bill's purpose is to provide for greater transparency and accountability, improvements to safety and health management systems, and stronger enforcement compliance powers by implementing amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 in relation to: ventilation officer competencies; inspector powers, including inspector workplace entry; contractor and service provider management; advisory committees and Board of Examiners membership; notification of diseases; release of information; penalties; officer obligations; suspension or cancellation of certificates of competency and site senior executive notices; and civil penalties.

As the House has heard, our committee travelled to Mount Isa and Moranbah. Some members went underground, which I did not participate in but I was told it was an enlightening experience. For my colleague the honourable member for Pumicestone there was a personal aspect as her husband works in the mines and she was grateful for the opportunity to see the conditions he works in. Now she has a true understanding of his workplace, and all of the committee members have a greater awareness of this industry that is so vital to Queensland's jobs and our economy.

The 2018 committee recommended that this bill be passed and put forward the following two recommendations, which were outlined by the minister and also the shadow minister. Recommendation No. 2 was that the bill be amended to include a definition of 'contractor'. The government responded by saying that it proposes to address this complex issue through further consultation with industry and stakeholders. I concur with the shadow minister, the honourable member for Burdekin, that 'contractor' be defined sooner rather than later.

Recommendation No. 3 of the committee was that the minister consider amending the bill to require that site senior executives be notified, on a confidential basis, of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to the health and safety of the employee are at an acceptable level. The government's response advised of further consultation to determine if tripartite support can be developed, stating worker privacy issues will need to be considered. Again, the shadow minister encouraged the minister to support this recommendation.

Just how long does this government need to make a decision? If they had consulted properly in the first place they would not be dithering and mine safety would not play second fiddle to the apathy, arrogance and laziness that have become the hallmark of the Palaszczuk government.

The committee sought further advice from the minister about the accurate capturing of reportable diseases and whether non-disclosure agreements impact on the obligation to report them. I thank the minister for his response. On page 35 of the report the committee noted concerns regarding the possibility of a person or corporation being issued a civil penalty and still being prosecuted for the same offence. The minister says that, although it is unlikely, he would not rule it out.

The committee also raised the issue of confidential information being provided to the Workers' Compensation Regulator or WorkCover, and the minister made mention of this. I note there are some 14 other items not contained in this bill that were in the RIS and that a number of more complex requests had arisen from the more targeted consultation, which is why during the Brisbane hearing I asked departmental officers to outline them. I was also keen to find out more about the requirement for ventilation officers to have a certificate of competency as mine ventilation was a significant safety aspect of this bill.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Stuckey, adjourned.

MINERAL RESOURCES (GALILEE BASIN) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to stop coal mining in the Galilee Basin. 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: Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018 [1771].

Tabled paper: Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1772].

I have taken every opportunity available to me in this place to speak to the looming climate catastrophe. It was only last sitting week that I addressed the IPCC's latest report, which lays bare that we must stop burning coal for power by 2050. I put it to the minister in question time last sitting week. I asked the minister again in question time this morning whether he and the government will accept the science and stop thermal coalmining for export. The silence in response has been deafening. The government's response is to keep quiet about the Galilee Basin and Adani and simply point to the progress that is being made on renewables. Let me be clear again: a renewables policy alongside ongoing expansion of thermal coalmining into the Galilee basin is futile. This bill proposes action, in line with the best available science, where the government has continually failed Queenslanders and the climate.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on 1.5 degrees of global warming is a shocking wake-up call. It is the reason I am introducing this bill today. The Summary for Policymakers attached to the report notes that by 2050—

... the use of coal shows a steep reduction in all pathways and would be reduced to close to 0 per cent (0-2 per cent) of electricity ...

That finding is made with high confidence, which is an important point. It is perhaps more important to emphasise that this finding relates to all pathways modelled in the report. That means that without pie-in-the-sky solutions like carbon capture and storage, there is no other option. If we do not keep global warming below 1.5 degrees, the scientific consensus is now stronger than ever that we will face more intense droughts, bushfires, starvation across much of the world, mass migration, more severe wars and conflict, and the collapse of entire ecosystems, including the total disappearance of the Great Barrier Reef. That means Adani and the Galilee Basin mines can never, ever be built. It means phasing out all thermal coal exports and shutting down coal-fired power stations.

Instead of ending all thermal coal by 2050, Adani and the other Galilee Basin mines are planned to run until 2080 or beyond. They will put our homes, farms, forests and reefs in the danger zone. We do not have the time or money to waste on dead-end projects like opening up new coalmines. Jim Skea, co-chair of the IPCC Working Group III stated—

Limiting warming to 1.5°C is possible within the laws of chemistry and physics but doing so would require unprecedented changes.

As a society, all our efforts should be focused on a war-footing mobilisation to create a fairer, cleaner world and fight climate change in the process. It is time to hit the climate emergency button. We need a planned, jobs-rich transition away from existing coalmines. Opening up massive new coalmines is now out of the question. The picture is much clearer: this coal needs to stay in the ground.

In his non-response to my question this morning, the mines minister spoke about a just transition into a new renewable economy. No truly just transition can be planned alongside ongoing development of white elephant projects like those proposed in the Galilee. No serious investors with a long-term vision are pursuing these mines. They are all cowboys: Clive Palmer, Adani and their ilk. Serious operators like BHP and Rio Tinto—even Gina Rinehart—have all abandoned their interests in the Galilee, yet the government maintains the charade. We keep hearing from the Premier and Labor members that Adani needs to stack up financially and environmentally. If only I had a dollar for every time I have heard that. It has always been a weak position and it is deliberately framed to give them a foot in each camp: to appease their donor mates in the resource lobby and at the same time quieten those in their own ranks who are quite rightly opposed to the expansion of thermal coalmining into the Galilee Basin.

Nobody can now maintain, in light of the IPCC report, that new coalmines, proposed to operate until late in this century, stack up environmentally or economically. Ongoing thermal coalmine expansion is fundamentally inconsistent with international climate change targets. It is a death sentence for the living Great Barrier Reef. It means this state, which is already so exposed to natural disasters, will see more frequent or intense droughts, floods, storms and cyclones.

Queensland's laws do not allow consideration of the climate change impacts of these projects that produce thermal coal for export. I have worked on cases in the Queensland Court of Appeal, the highest court in the state. That court has said that our law is incapable of accounting for these global impacts. Quite simply, the fact that Galilee coal does not stack up environmentally has slipped through the cracks in our hopelessly weak environmental protection laws. It is time to just drop it. It is time for the government to be honest with Queenslanders, with those communities being led on by the prospect of Adani getting off the ground, let alone providing long-term economic stability for the regions.

My bill would amend the Mineral Resources Act to stop all coalmining in the Galilee Basin. It would:

- prohibit the grant of a coalmining lease for land in the Galilee Basin;
- terminate any existing coalmining leases for land in the Galilee Basin—Adani's mining lease, for example;
- amend any existing coalmining leases that overlap land in the Galilee Basin to exclude that land;
- confirm that no compensation is payable to the mining leaseholders affected by the bill; and
- require the mines minister to table a report in the Legislative Assembly summarising the actions taken under the provisions of the bill.

The Treasurer confirmed in estimates this year that royalties from the Galilee Basin coalmines have not been factored into the budget forecasts. That means this bill will not change Queensland's revenue in the budget one iota.

Mr Power: Outside four years.

Mr BERKMAN: I will take that interjection from the member for Logan: outside four years. Are we going to start it beyond four years? What about the next 40 years, mate?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Through the chair.

Mr BERKMAN: My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker. When unconstrained by time limits it is difficult to keep oneself in check when hearing this kind of nonsense and the unwillingness on the part of members on either side of this House to engage with climate change, to see it for what it is and take it seriously. It is almost disappointing that I do not have some of the more vocal dinosaurs on the opposition side of the House giving me some flack. I would quite have enjoyed it. I digress.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: As we transition away from thermal coalmining and power stations we need to raise mining royalties on existing coalmines to help fund a just transition for workers and communities.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: I cannot even hear the interjections. Come on! In some ways this is a drastic piece of legislation. It takes away the rights of massive mining companies and rips up Adani's existing mining lease. Our position is that the bill does not meet the generally accepted definition of 'acquisition of property' since nothing is being acquired. Still, it is a bold step. This step is completely justified in the face of the overwhelming risk to human safety and the risk of catastrophic global warming without immediate action.

Companies involved in these projects have been on notice for many years about the risks and the long-term need to phase out thermal coalmining. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change dates back to 1992. Almost 25 years of science and work by people across the world led to the Paris Agreement in 2015. The future of our civilisation is at stake. If you are trying to build a coalmine in 2018, you have been warned. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.39 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 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

CIVIL LIABILITY (INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.39 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Civil Liability Act 2003, the Limitation of Actions Act 1974 and the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018 [1773].

Tabled paper: Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1774].

The purpose of this bill is to implement recommendations 89 to 94 of the 2015 *Redress and civil litigation report* of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As the members of this House are aware, the royal commission was unprecedented in our nation's history in its scale and scope. It was conducted over five years and ended on 15 December 2017. During its time the royal commission: received complaints regarding over 4,000 institutions or entities; conducted approximately 60 public hearings and published further research papers; held 8,013 private sessions with victims and survivors; received 25,964 letters and emails; and received 42,041 direct telephone calls. The royal commission made 2,575 referrals to authorities, including police.

The royal commission laid bare the horror that so many children had suffered for so long, and it described for all of us how that horror was magnified by decades of silence and denial by those in authority and barriers to obtaining justice. Among these are the barriers to civil litigation. This bill gives a voice to those children—now adults—by correcting that power imbalance between survivor and institution and, through the creation of tangible consequences for institutions, will contribute to preventing the same horror from occurring in the future.

The recommendations of the 2015 *Redress and civil litigation report* were the result of extensive consultation with victims, child protection organisations, government and non-government institutions and insurance companies. The report recommended the creation of the National Redress Scheme, and I commend the government for joining Queensland to this scheme. The report also recommended reforms to remove barriers to civil litigation; for example, the removal of time limits and legislating the duty of institutions. In 2016 time limits were removed, however, until now the duty of institutions has not been legislated in Queensland.

I remind the House that recommendation 46 of the commission states that the National Redress Scheme should not commence until after the parliament legislates reforms relating to time limits and the duty of institutions. This was reinforced by Mr Warren Strange, CEO of knowmore, the respected provider of pro bono legal services to survivors of abuse, in his evidence to a parliamentary committee on 20 July 2018, where he stated—

Unless you can make—

institutions—

legally responsible for those actions and you can then access that property to satisfy any judgement, again, it might be a Pyrrhic victory to prosecute a civil claim.

...

The Royal Commission's recommendations are designed to address—

this. He continued—

We looked at this going back in 2016 with the issues paper that the department released. We are still waiting to see those reforms happen by way of a bill before parliament and it is important that it does.

This sentiment was echoed by Michelle James, then president of the Australian Lawyers Alliance, who stated to the same parliamentary committee on 20 July 2018, '... it is optimum that the two matters,' the redress scheme and recommendations 89 to 94, 'are legislated together.'

With the commencement of Queensland's participation in the redress scheme imminent and with two years having lapsed since the government issues paper, I introduce this bill to ensure that this parliament and the state of Queensland comply with recommendation 46 of the royal commission and the principles of fairness and justice that it represents.

Part 2 of this bill creates a non-delegable duty of care for institutions in respect of child abuse perpetrated by an official of the institution. This is also known as vicarious liability. This bill seeks to create statutory vicarious liability for child abuse, ending decades of legal uncertainty on the matter. The bill creates a defence for institutions, and the onus of proof for that defence rests with the institution.

Part 2 also imposes a duty on institutions to nominate a proper defendant if the institution is not able at law to be sued or if the institution is not in a financial position to meet their liability. Part 2 also makes associated trusts of institutions liable for the liability of the institution. Appropriate safeguards are provided for trustees who act in accordance with this provision. This implements royal commission recommendation 94.

Definitions in this bill such as 'institution', 'official' and 'related entity' are intentionally worded to ensure that the types of child abuse that occurred in the past—and that may be expected to occur in institutions in the future—are captured by this bill. These definitions intentionally have regard to the likely changing face of institutional structures, including the likely delegation or outsourcing of important child services where abuse could be expected to occur. To achieve this, 'institution' is defined by function rather than structure; that is, it is defined by reference to the delivery of child services to ensure that any organisational structure may be appropriately covered.

The definition of 'official' is consistent with royal commission recommendation 92. 'Child abuse' is intentionally defined in part 2 of this bill to extend beyond sexual abuse and to include serious physical and connected abuse where connected to the sexual or physical abuse. Part 3 applies the same definition to the Limitation of Actions Act 1974, and part 4 applies this definition to the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002. This definition of 'abuse' is consistent with the definition in other jurisdictions. This definition of 'child abuse' has had the wide support of child protection organisations and legal NGOs since 2016, and it was a matter included in the government's issues paper at that time. Karyn Walsh from Micah Projects previously stated in relation to the definition of 'child abuse' that—

> Whilst the Royal Commission was limited to make recommendations in line with its terms of reference the role of legislation in Queensland is to provide fair and equal access to justice for any person who has experienced childhood physical, sexual or psychological abuse

Karyn Walsh went on to say—

> Micah Projects supports a no limitation period for actions for child abuse *in all its forms* sexual, physical and psychological injury ...

She continues—

> Excluding psychological abuse creates a hierarchy of childhood abuse, which does further harm …

Bravehearts has similarly stated its support for a broader definition of 'child abuse'. It said—

> ... as it is broad enough to ensure that the related harms perpetrated in connection to the sexual assault or serious physical abuse is adequately considered.

On the question of the best definition of 'child abuse', knowmore has similarly stated—

> We are of the view that Parliament should pass legislation that removes limitation periods not just for claims arising from child sexual abuse, but also for claims of serious physical abuse and, once either of those thresholds is met, any connected abuse.

I could quote further, as these sentiments of support for the broad definition of 'child abuse' were mirrored by such eminent organisations as the Queensland Family and Child Commission, Indigenous Lawyers Association, Centre Against Sexual Violence, Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, Protect All Children Today, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated and the Queensland Child Sexual Abuse Legislative Reform Council. This is the advice of the experts, those who are on the ground every day seeing the reality of life for victims and survivors of abuse and who know what laws are needed. This parliament would do well to heed the wisdom of their experience.

This bill will not open a floodgate of litigation. Compensation through litigation in Queensland is very measured and moderate. Survivors must prove on the balance of probabilities that the abuse occurred, and the injury must be quantified by medical experts. In this state, as in other Australian jurisdictions, there are very tightly controlled caps on the quantum of compensation for general damages, which is often known as pain and suffering. Claims for economic loss must be very tightly proven and are subject to appropriate standards of evidential scrutiny. In other words, providing victims and survivors with the right access to appropriate litigation is a sensible measure for this parliament to champion and will simply have the effect of providing survivors of abuse with the right to have their claim properly tested, either in court or in pre-court negotiated proceedings. This bill does not reduce the standards of evidence that a court would expect.

Stopping child abuse should be the natural inclination of all adults. It should not take a royal commission to call time out on child abuse, yet it did. The royal commission found that many institutions and senior leaders of institutions have, for decades, operated without any sense of genuine consequence for their actions. This was possible because they knew that the law protected them and obstructed justice for survivors of child abuse.

This bill corrects that imbalance and puts survivors of abuse in institutions on a more level footing. The intended consequence of this bill is that institutions will invest in child protection and the prevention of child abuse and will actively engage in early reporting of offenders to reduce the incidence of abuse, even if only to reduce their own liability. Because of this, legislating the legal liability of institutions for child abuse is an important pillar of child protection.

The royal commission found that offenders would intentionally target their victims, preying on those most isolated and vulnerable—children taken from single mothers under misguided state policy, Indigenous children removed from kin and culture, country children sent to a city boarding school, children from broken homes. These were the very children whom the adults in the institutions had a duty to love, nurture and protect yet those adults preyed on, exploited and abused. These children had committed no crime, yet crimes were committed against them. When children reported, sometimes they were not believed but often the institutional leaders knew all too well that the abuse was occurring. They simply put the interests of the offender, the institution and themselves ahead of the rights of the child, to protect their brand. Those offenders and senior leaders who protected them do not deserve the respect of our community or the protection of this parliament.

For too long institutions have wielded improper influence over policymakers at the expense of equal access to justice, at the expense of good policy, at the expense of the rights of children being abused and at the expense of the rights of the adults those children have become. The measures put forward by this bill put an end to the improper influence and protection of culpable institutions. These measures are not an attack on institutions. In fact, these laws will help futureproof our institutions and help them become more child safe, healthier and more robust.

The most recent national census shows that the major religious institutions are experiencing unprecedented exodus from their ranks, with trust at an all-time low. Trust must be earned. The measures proposed in this bill will help institutions earn back the trust of the community by creating consequences unless child-safe policies and child protection measures are implemented and maintained within institutions. Institutions can help themselves to earn back community trust by embracing the measures proposed in this bill. There should be no fear of crippling litigation into the future. If institutions are concerned about their finances, there is a very simple way to reduce their future risk to zero: do not allow the abuse of children, do not cover it up and do not protect the offenders.

On 15 June this year Queensland's Premier spoke of the courage of survivors of abuse in giving their evidence to the royal commission. She said—

I … acknowledge the immense bravery of all who have shared their horrific stories. Their courage in coming forward and working with the royal commission is to be applauded.

I put forward this bill to honour that courage of survivors of child abuse and to ensure their courage and hard work results in lasting change so that no future generation of Queensland children has to suffer the same horror.

I also acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition's deep commitment to the implementation of the royal commission's recommendations and to a strong child protection framework in Queensland. Accordingly, on behalf of victims and survivors of abuse I ask the government, the opposition and all crossbenchers to not politicise this issue but instead join together in bipartisan support of this bill in the interests of making Queensland the safest possible place for our children to live, grow and learn. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.53 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

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

MINES LEGISLATION (RESOURCES SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3198, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (12.53 pm), continuing: Previously I was talking about the requirements for ventilation officers. I was concerned at the high failure rate of 47 per cent for oral exams and 51 per cent for written exams and the notion that it is assumed that applicants will resit the exam. Apparently, people can resit three times and have to show cause why they should be allowed to sit again after that. The department commented that it was a concern to the industry and that the Board of Examiners had started a consultation process with the industry to try to improve the training of these people before they sit the exam. I cannot see the minister in the House, but I would ask him to inform the House in his reply how this consultation specifically is proceeding.

This failure rate also raises the issue of chief inspectors and others having the corresponding certificate of competency and, of course, the qualifications of members of the Board of Examiners themselves. After all, provisions in this bill are aimed at creating greater transparency and accountability through an improvement in compliance and also enforcement of safety and health standards and systems. There are a number of proposals outstanding that the tripartite working group has discussed and put forward. Given the length of time since the first bill was introduced, surely in the interests of mine safety some of these proposals could have been included.

Finally, I thank fellow committee members, secretariat staff, Hansard reporters, the department, submitters and our hosts at Glencore's Mount Isa Mines and Anglo American's Moranbah North mine.

Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. The reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis highlights the need for continuous improvement of regulatory frameworks so that every worker goes home safely. The bill will deliver initiatives to ensure additional safety and health measures are in place to protect Queensland's miners and includes minor amendments to support the government's response to the Monash University review of the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme.

Pneumoconiosis is also known as miner's asthma, silicosis or black lung. It is a preventable disease caused by prolonged breathing of coalmine dust. The dust builds up in the lungs and leads to inflammation when the body is unable to remove it. Thickening, scarring and in some cases death of the lung tissue make breathing incredibly difficult. Onset of the disease is gradual. Symptoms usually appear after 10 to 20 years of exposure to coaldust. Symptoms include shortness of breath, obstruction of airways and severe coughing. It was first discovered in 16th century coalminers. Black lung gets its name from the black appearance of the organ due to dust residue.

The Queensland parliamentary inquiry into black lung found that generations of politicians, public servants, doctors, unionists and mine operators failed to realise that the disease remained an issue. It found a failure in the system designed to protect coal workers. The inquiry also looked at the impacts of coaldust on port workers, rail workers and power station workers. The inquiry found that doctors undertaking the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme checked but did not necessarily understand what they were looking for. The inquiry heard that some X-rays that showed signs of black lung were not properly read and that some miners who showed signs of the disease could return to underground work for years.

The findings of the inquiry were of particular concern to me, as I come from a mining family. This tradition continues with my nephew, Nathan Thompson, working at the New Hope Group's Jeebropilly coalmine in the Moreton Basin near Amberley. The New Hope Group is a majority Australian owned company and its head office is located in Ipswich.

The safety and health of workers in Queensland's mining sector is regulated under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations which are distinct from general workplace obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The bill addresses 15 matters identified for immediate improvement in the resources safety and health regulatory framework that will improve worker safety and health.

The bill was considered by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. Its report was tabled in May 2018. The committee made three recommendations: first, that the bill be passed; second, that the bill be amended to include a definition of 'contractor'; and, third, that the minister consider amending the bill to require that site senior executives be notified, on a confidential basis, of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risk to the health and safety of the employee is at an acceptable level.

The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy said in his introductory speech on 20 March 2018—

The priority initiatives in the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill were first presented to the House on 7 September 2017 but lapsed when parliament was dissolved prior to the last election.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*, Apology

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.00 pm): During question time on 18 October 2018 the member for Mermaid Beach asked a question without notice to the Premier in which he quoted Mr Brendan Parnell, the CEO of Racing Queensland. Shortly thereafter I rose on a matter of privilege based upon a misapprehension that the member for Mermaid Beach was quoting from an article published on 29 June 2018, raising the question that the member may have misled the House. Later that day the member for Mermaid Beach rose on a matter of privilege providing detail that the quote was from an article published on 8 October 2018. I took no further action since he had clarified his source. While my actions were not deliberate but based upon that misapprehension, I do apologise to the House and the member for any inadvertent offence.

MINES LEGISLATION (RESOURCES SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.01 pm), continuing: As the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy said in his explanatory speech on 20 March 2018—

The priority initiatives in the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill were first presented to the House on 7 September 2017 but lapsed when parliament was dissolved prior to the last election. The intervening period has provided further opportunity for consultation with key stakeholders to add to the extensive and ongoing consultation to date for many of the initiatives.

The Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 reintroduces key amendments and includes minor amendments to the provisions introduced in 2017 in light of the parliamentary committee and recent consultation. Queensland's mining safety and health legislation continues to be regarded as among the best in the world, but we must be vigilant and we should aim to continually improve Queensland's mining safety and health record.

To continue to improve Queensland's mining safety and health standards and outcomes for our mining workers, we must remedy any weaknesses in our mining safety and health laws. The Palaszczuk government is addressing key mining safety and health issues through the reintroduction of these priority reforms. The Palaszczuk government is committed to the safety and health of all workers across all industries. All workers have the right to expect that their safety and health will be protected whilst at work. We will continue to strengthen safety and health protections for workers so that workers do not fear that workplace risks or hazards will injure them, make them ill or worse.

My nephew, Nathan Thompson, and the other workers at the Jeebropilly Mine should expect no less.

In closing, I want to thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, the committee secretariat, Hansard and the submitters. I commend the bill to the House.

Mrs WILSON (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. I firstly want to acknowledge the committee secretariat, Hansard reporters and fellow committee members who worked on this bill. Our work on this bill involved travelling to Mount Isa where we undertook a mine site visit of the Glencore mine, and I want to

recognise and thank Glencore for the assistance it provided to our committee in terms of gaining further insight of its complex industry. It was great to be given the opportunity to speak directly with staff at the mine about their thoughts on safety given the inherent hazards associated within the mining industry they work in. Unfortunately, the public hearing in Mount Isa was attended by only one person and I believe this was due to the timing of this meeting. We know that on average miners work 10- or 12-hour shifts and therefore find it hard to attend meetings in the midafternoon, so it was a shame but all the same the visit gave us a greater understanding for our consideration of the bill.

Our committee also had the opportunity to tour the Anglo American mine at Moranbah. This experience was invaluable to our proceedings as the opportunity to see firsthand the workings of an underground coalmine provided clarity of the inner workings of a mine ventilation system. As we embarked on our journey to the coalface to witness the longwall shearer in all its glory cutting coal and transporting coal on conveyors, you could feel the fresh air being drawn into the tunnels from the surface. As the wife of a former underground coalmine fitter, I was able to see for myself for the first time the extreme conditions that my husband and his mining mates work in and it was indeed a pleasure to have this opportunity.

In 2015 black lung was rediscovered in the Queensland mining industry. Since then, more than 20 miners have been confirmed with the disease and another 54 have been diagnosed with some form of miner dust disease. In May 2017 the *Black lung white lies* report was delivered, recommending the Labor government establish an authority in Mackay to oversee mine safety and hygiene, conduct medical research and training, and provide medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. Unfortunately, Labor has spent a lot of time giving lip-service to its supposed core principles of supporting workers' rights. When it comes time to act upon the words, Labor does not walk the talk. As a result of this Labor government's inactions, miners are still waiting for the Premier to come good on her commitment and establish a mine safety and health authority in Mackay more than a year after it was promised. This is a direct and blatant betrayal of the thousands of mineworkers—to promise action on an issue as critical as mining safety and then let a year pass with no action is nothing but a disgrace—and I am sure the member for Bundamba would agree because she knows, as we do on this side of the House, that miners' health and safety must come before bureaucracy and the delays that Labor is so well renowned for.

The committee recommended amendments to the bill to include a definition of 'contractor' which will promote and improve safety and health at mine sites. Once the definition is defined, contractors and service providers will have to provide their safety and health management information to be considered as part of a single, integrated SHMS for all mineworkers. In doing so, this will ensure components of a mine's SHMS requirements identify risk and comply with its obligations to integrate its procedures with that of the mine. The bill also proposes other measures such as ensuring that people appointed to ventilation officer positions must be adequately skilled; improving inspection powers to allow the appropriate workplace entry powers by adopting a similar approach to that used under the WHS Act for entry to workplaces; and ensuring manufacturers, suppliers, designers and importers notify both the Mines Inspectorate and mine operators of any identified hazards or defects with supplied equipment and substances that they become aware of.

The LNP supports laws that protect miners' legal rights to have a safe workplace and we are hopeful that this bill is a step in the right direction in ensuring our hardworking miners have just that and they can do their job secure in the knowledge that they will return home safe to their families and loved ones at the end of each day. I commend the bill to the House.

Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (2.09 pm): Queensland's mining safety and health legislation continues to be regarded as among the best in the world, but we should aim to continually improve Queensland's mining safety and health record. In my region, which is a service centre to the coalmining industry, mining safety is taken very seriously and not just by those in the industry. The retired miners association plays an active role. Mackay will be the centre of excellence for mining. That was a pre-election commitment and the planning for it is well and truly on its way.

The retired miners and the Mine Dust Victims Group are to be commended for their active involvement in ensuring that the insidious disease black lung is wiped out. We want to ensure that there is no place for the disease to be found in retired or in current workers and that preventative measures, such as the adequate monitoring of air safety, ongoing of health checks and research into better health treatments, are all in place. Mr Stephen Mellor is proof of the difference that early detection can make to ongoing health outcomes. More work needs to be done to ensure that workers have access to social and family networks while going through treatment and detection.

I am pleased that the bill addresses 15 matters identified for immediate improvement in the resources safety and health regulatory framework that will increase the safety and health of workers. The bill provides for greater transparency and accountability, improvements to safety and health management systems, and stronger enforcement and compliance powers by implementing amendments to the CMSHA and the MQSHA in relation to ventilation officer competencies; inspector powers, including inspector workplace entry; manufacturer, supplier, designer and importer notification requirements; contractor and service provider management; advisory committees and Board of Examiners membership; safety and health management system requirements; a register to be kept by the Board of Examiners; health surveillance; the notification of diseases; the release of information; penalties; officer obligations; continuing professional development; the suspension or cancellation of certificates of competencies and site senior executive notices; and civil penalties.

The Palaszczuk government is addressing key mining safety and health issues through the reintroduction of these priority reforms. The Palaszczuk government is committed to the safety and health of all workers across all industries. As a government, we will continue to strengthen safety and health protections for all workers so that workers do not fear that the workplace risks or hazards will injure them or make them ill, or, at worst, cause a fatality. Mining is a hazardous industry with a unique set of hazards and risks to our workers' safety and health. The bill strengthens and expands the range of compliance and enforcement options for serious safety and health breaches of the legislation by introducing the options of civil penalties, or the cancellation or suspension of a holder's statutory certificates of competency or other competencies.

For people in regional Queensland, too often they wake up to the news of an accident at one of the mines over the hill. I will give a very small sample of the hazards of mining. Ian Hansen, aged 55, was a UGL contract worker at Newlands mine when he was killed after a piece of steel struck him in August 2016. Oscar Franz Krobath was working as a haul truck operator at the Burton Coal Mine, 290 kilometres west of Rockhampton, when he was injured in a truck loading accident in late 2011. An article in the Mackay *Daily Mercury* states—

> It is with deep sadness that BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance ... confirms that a colleague, a contractor from Independent Mining Services (IMS), has ... passed away as a result of injuries sustained in an incident that occurred during maintenance work at the Goonyella Riverside Mine in Queensland on 5 August 2017.

We do not want to see any more workers get hurt. In August this year, Stephen Smyth, the CFMEU district president, said that about half of the 80-plus cases of mine dust lung diseases in Queensland had been detected in the Mackay region. The workers in our coalfields are our families, friends and neighbours. All workers have a right to expect that their safety and health will be protected at work. This bill will do that. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (2.14 pm): In speaking to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018, I would like to say that it was a great privilege to be part of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, which looked into the re-emergence of coal workers' pneumoconiosis among coalmine workers in Queensland. Coal workers' pneumoconiosis is a type of respiratory disease that is caused solely by prolonged exposure to coalmine dust.

In 1984, the Coal Board published a report highlighting 75 suspected cases of CWP. For the following 33 years, no black lung disease was diagnosed. That never struck a chord with anyone. Consecutive state governments never thought that it was strange that every other jurisdiction that had coalmines still had black lung disease, yet for some reason Queensland was exempt from black lung disease.

State governments tasked with protecting the health of Queensland miners neglected and ignored the very people whom they should have been caring for and supporting. There had been no regard for their medical records. As the committee saw, those records were stored in shipping containers and broom closets. Could members imagine the outcry of Queensland bureaucrats if their medical records were stored in shipping containers?

The reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis was a shock to those responsible for monitoring the health of Queensland coal workers, but this was because they would not listen to the many workers who had been working in the industry and reporting the symptoms. For three decades, those workers were told that their concerns were baseless as the disease had been eradicated.

The reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis has been shattering for the families of affected workers and embarrassing for the state government and its departments. The harrowing testimonies of victims of black lung and their families will stay with me and many other members of the committee. The arrogance of the mining executives and the complete incompetence of some of those departmental officials was astounding.

I support aspects of the bill, which I will get to shortly, but I want to pre-empt my comments with the statement that the legislation does not go far enough. The committee recommended that a mine safety and health authority be established and be based in Mackay. Until that occurs, I do not think that we can fairly say that we have heard, acknowledged or addressed the monumental disaster of mine regulatory processes, the failure of those responsible for the health and care of mineworkers or dealt with the neglect and pain suffered by those with this terrible disease.

The harrowing accounts of workers who were misdiagnosed, maltreated and simply ignored was heartbreaking. It is the responsibility of every one of us here to do everything we can to ensure that this never happens again. Queensland coal workers deserve better than what they have received. Queenslanders deserve to be safe at work. It is time we stood up for them. I acknowledge the CFMEU for its passion and dedication and for never giving up on this issue.

The Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 seeks to provide certainty regarding the competency of ventilation officers to ensure that people with sufficient experience, expertise and understanding of the statutory obligations are working at the operational level as ventilation officers. I commend this move to address the cause of black lung to ensure that those responsible for ventilation, which will reduce the exposure of workers to coal dust, are adequately trained to perform that important task.

Although I welcomed the appointment of the independent Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health in 2016, the changes proposed in this bill to increase the number of departmental representatives gives the minister the discretionary power to appoint a person who does not have experience in mining operations, which is a step in the wrong direction. Those responsible for overseeing the health of the workers should have experience in the industry, not in bureaucracy. As I said, I fully support a committee to be based in Mackay. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.19 pm): I rise to lend my support to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill. In doing so I acknowledge Leanne Linard, the chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. Our committee had a busy year and it was wonderful that her committee could step into the breach and conduct this research for us. On behalf of our entire committee I place on record our appreciation for that.

Previous speakers have touched on ventilation officer competencies. As we know, ventilation officers are in a critical safety position in our underground coalmines. The work that they do is very important and it can mean the difference, as we know now, between life and death. They have crucial responsibilities which include overseeing changes in the underground coalmine's ventilation system, monitoring air quality, methane, noxious gases and flammable gases more generally. A ventilation officer is an existing statutory position at the underground coalmine under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999. This bill increases the oversight of the competencies of the coal ventilation officer by requiring the coal ventilation officer to also have a certificate of competency from the Board of Examiners. This will provide an independent checking process that the ventilation officer for a coalmine has the necessary competencies specified by the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee.

Currently only a coalmine's senior site executive determines whether a ventilation officer has acquired the necessary competencies. Requiring this initial oversight by the Board of Examiners will help to ensure that ventilation officers do have the experience and the competence before they are working at the operational level in what we know are complex and hazardous coalmining operations. It is a more proactive approach at the training stage to assist industry to ensure that a ventilation officer is competent before a ventilation officer is working in a safety critical position in an underground mine.

Requiring a ventilation officer to gain a certificate of competency from the Board of Examiners provides additional assessment by a panel that is primarily from the industry with the relevant mining experience and with the necessary qualifications. The ventilation officers currently in ventilation officer positions at coalmines will have a transitional period of three years to demonstrate to the Board of Examiners that they should be granted this additional qualification of the certificate of competency.

The bill also increases the competency requirements for ventilation officers in underground mineral mines. It introduces a requirement for underground mineral mines with more than 20 underground workers to have that ventilation officer with the competencies specified by the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee as required for the duties and responsibilities of a minerals ventilation officer. This bill is significantly improving competency requirements for the safety critical ventilation officer positions at both underground coal and mineral mines. These amendments will significantly help to ensure the high safety and health ventilation standards in Queensland's underground mines.

I will also touch briefly on the contractor management arrangements and how this bill will move to strengthen and improve those. This bill will make the act significantly clearer about the roles of senior site executives, contractors and other service providers in establishing a single safety and health management system for operations at the mine. The legislation always intended that there be a single safety and health management system developed and maintained for each mine. Coronial recommendations have emphasised the importance of all workers following the same safety critical procedure at the mines. The amendments clarify how senior site executives, contractors and service providers are required to collaborate to ensure that every worker at a coal or mineral mine or quarry, whether a direct employee, contractor or service provider, is part of and is following a mine's single safety and health management system.

The effective management of contractors has been an ongoing concern for a number of years following incidents and near misses due to contractors not following the same critical safety procedures as employees under the single safety and health management system. Over the past decade we know that contractors have been overrepresented in the number of incidents at mines. These amendments will clarify requirements and will help to improve the management of contractors and service providers and consequently the health and safety of all. The changes will also improve the management of contractors by requiring the management structure for the safe operations at a coal or mineral mine or quarry to indicate who is responsible for establishing and implementing a system for managing contractors and service providers at the coal or mineral mine or quarry.

Collectively, the contractor and service provider related amendments will help to ensure the safety and the health of all workers at a coal or mineral mine or quarry as the changes promote improved adherence to safety critical procedures that can potentially affect the safety and health of any worker, not only contractors or service providers. We here know that every worker has the right to go to work and come home safe and that is why I commend this bill to the House.

Mr COSTIGAN (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.25 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to foreshadow that I certainly will not be opposing the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill. We will be supporting the bill. However, I certainly have some concerns. I acknowledge the fact that the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 omnibus bill will include amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations which are distinct from, of course, general workplace obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

As has been noted by a number of members in this debate thus far, the government's track record in responding to black lung has been largely unacceptable. I respectfully listened to the contribution by my neighbouring colleague, the member for Mackay, mentioning Steve Mellor. It is worth noting that Steve Mellor was among those people who gave evidence to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, of which I was a proud member, in Mackay, a city I also represent, nearly two years ago. Guess what? Steve Mellor is still waiting to see the implementation of those recommendations of the CWP Select Committee that was headed up by the member for Bundamba. While she comes from the other side of the political divide, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the leadership of the member for Bundamba in relation to combating the scourge of black lung disease, officially known as coal workers' pneumoconiosis, and also the former member for Southern Downs. I see the member for Mackay giggling and smiling over there. This is a serious issue.

Mrs GILBERT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is being offensive. I ask him to withdraw his comments. I can communicate with my colleagues without him commenting.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Thank you, member for Mackay. We heard your point of order. Member for Whitsunday, withdraw please.

Mr COSTIGAN: I withdraw. Some people would say I am not good at many things, but I am very good at observing things, especially in this House. Steve Mellor is still waiting for the recommendations of that committee tabled in this parliament 18 months ago. I see the good doctor across the aisle and he is not smiling.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Correct titles, please.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member for Whitsunday, refer to members by their correct electorate title, thank you.

Mr COSTIGAN: Of course. Thank you for your guidance. The member for Stafford understands that this is a serious issue. Even though the member for Stafford is on the other side of the political divide I have no doubt he has a will to see the system made better. However, people such as Steve Mellor in Mackay and a constituent of mine Chris Byron, who bared his soul—

A government member: Name drop.

Mr COSTIGAN: Again, interjections from the member for Keppel.

Ms Boyd: No, she was not.

Mr COSTIGAN: And now from the member from Pine Rivers. Steve Mellor just wants the system fixed.

Ms BOYD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am not sure if it is just an attempt to filibuster, but the member for Whitsunday is deliberately misleading the House by taking—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that is not a point of order. Please resume your seat.

Mr COSTIGAN: Steve Mellor is like so many men and women throughout the history of this state, particularly since the advent of the Bowen Basin 50 years ago, who dug up the black gold to make this state great. The least we can do is look after the miners. Who is looking after the workers? Nearly two years ago in Mackay, Steve Mellor bared his soul, as did my constituent Chris Byron. We are still waiting.

The black lung committee, the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, was chaired by the member for Bundamba. The deputy chair was the former member for Southern Downs. I remember that journey, because I was there from go to woe. I will never forget the theme that went on during our deliberations as we examined the holes in the system—not the cracks, but the holes and the craters. No-one had ever seen such parliamentary bipartisanship at work to try to make the system better.

We are elected to represent our constituents in this place. People see us arguing and mudslinging. They see the argy-bargy and the cut and thrust of politics. However, this was something that should have been way above politics. The first cab off the rank in terms of the recommendations from the committee report, which the member for Hill touched on a moment ago, was to set up the mine safety and health authority in Mackay. I remember the member for Mackay, when the member for Bundamba was in town—

Dr LYNHAM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. In my second reading speech I pointed out that this is a matter for a further bill coming before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been listening to the member's contribution and I think it is relevant to the bill in the wider sense. However, I would ask the member to stay relevant to this particular bill.

Mr COSTIGAN: The name of the committee report was *Black lung white lies*. We are still waiting for the authority to be established in Mackay. I commend the committee members who made the effort to travel to places such as Anglo's Moranbah North coalmine, as touched on by the member for Pumicestone, and also to Mount Isa to look at the mines there, with the assistance of Glencore. It is disappointing to hear that the committee went to Mount Isa, where people will go to the opening of an envelope, but there was only a small turnout. I am not sure what went wrong in terms of consultation there. Nevertheless, while work has been undertaken, more work needs to be done.

The member for Ipswich West said 'remedy any weaknesses in the system'. I have no doubt that the member for Ipswich West was speaking with great sincerity and decency, remembering the city that he represents. There are many holes in the system. The bipartisanship of the CWP Select Committee was noted by many key stakeholders. We have heard about the stakeholders, starting with the mining union, the CFMEU. Stephen Smyth is not exactly the chairman of my fan club, but he and many others from the unions, miners themselves, contractors and people from the medical profession were basically blown away by the work being done to make the system better. There is no doubt that this bill will help, but we have a long way to go.

I remind all members of the House that the committee found there had been catastrophic failure at almost every level of the regulatory system. The scourge of black lung continues and people such as Chris Byron, whom I represent, wait. Along with his wife, Sue, he is sitting in his home in my electorate, waiting. He is a sick man and he is not alone. Whatever we do today or tomorrow probably will not help Chris Byron, but Steve Mellor is a relatively young man. People are wondering how many more people, men and women, will come forward with black lung since its re-identification or rediscovery in 2015.

There is no doubt that mine safety has come a long way in the past century, as we come up to the centenary of the terrible tragedy at Mount Mulligan in Far North Queensland, when 75 lives were lost. Next year it will be 25 years since the terrible tragedy at Moura, in the southern part of the Bowen

Basin. I was a TV reporter at the time, so I well remember the day that news broke. I know some of the families who lost loved ones on that fateful day in 1994, such as the Clancy family, the Dullahide family and others.

There is no doubt that in this place we have an obligation to make the system better. I was proud to be part of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, which tried to do exactly that. We have come a long way, but so much more work needs to be done to make the system better. Members must not forget that, wherever we go in Queensland, ours is a greater and a stronger state on the back of the resources sector working in the north-west minerals province and the Bowen Basin, among other places. The city and the electorate that I represent have been transformed since the days of one of my predecessors, the most famous member for Whitsunday, Ron Camm, who was a long-serving mines minister. If my memory serves me right, he was the longest serving minister for mines in this state. We are a better state for our coalmining industry. It is well documented and I am a great fan of the coal industry. It can work in harmony with other industries, as it has done for decades.

However, we owe it to miners—the men and women who dig up the black gold—to look after the workers. There are holes in the system and it needs to be fixed. This bill will go some way, but Labor has been dillydallying on this issue and the Palaszczuk Labor government needs to be called out on that. If we were taking mine safety seriously, this would have been before the House some time ago. Again, I remind honourable members that we are still waiting for the mine safety and health authority to be established in Mackay. It cannot come soon enough.

Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (2.36 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill that is before the House today. At the outset, I take issue with the inference or the statement that the government has been dillydallying or delaying with regard to the CWP findings. That is offensive, not only to both sides of the House but also to everyone who has contributed to this long-ranging reform. To say that we have dragged our heels on CWP is offensive. Frankly, it does not do justice to the work done by industry, the unions, the DNR and all the stakeholders who have been addressing these issues.

I point out to the member for Burdekin and the member for Whitsunday, despite all the hyperbole they have issued here today, that four reports have been handed down on these issues. All stakeholders have contributed towards their implementation. I point out that the Palaszczuk government has actioned 62 out of the 68 CWP Select Committee recommendations. I repeat: that is 62 out of 68. The remaining recommendations refer to administration arrangements and do not directly impact workers' health. We are committing to those.

Quite frankly, to say that we are dragging our heels on this is hyperbole. I question the kind of advice that the opposition is giving people about these issues, if that is what it is saying. If they do not want to make it about politics, they need to stop attacking members of parliament every time they open their mouths on this issue. They need to stop attacking the government. I suggest that if they want information, they should go to the minister, receive a briefing and listen to what the minister has said. I repeat: we have actioned 62 out of the 68 recommendations and the remaining recommendations do not relate to workers' health.

There are a couple of other issues that those in the opposition raised that I want to take issue with. They talked about the definition of 'contractor'. They said that we need to jump in, thrash about and lay down a definition of 'contractor'. The success of this legislation is dependent upon tripartite cooperation and consultation. That is a critical part of what we are trying to do.

The purpose of the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee is to conduct tripartite consultation. It has met twice since the committee handed down its report. The committee recommended that there be a definition of 'contractor'. We are going to give the advisory committee the time and space to actually examine the issue of the definition of 'contractor'. We want to make sure the committee comes up with the right recommendation. I think it is foolhardy to stand up in here and say that we need to thrash around and hand down a definition of 'contractor'. We need to let the experts do it.

One of the issues talked about related to the SSEs. The opposition has asked why the government is not prepared to have confidential worker health records handed over to employers. I think it is very basic. Anyone in this House would know that confidentiality needs to be maintained when it comes to medical records. Maybe these workers do not want their records handed over willy-nilly.

Medical records are personal to all of us, especially to workers in this area. The current arrangements do not preclude a worker affected by this disease disclosing their medical information to their employer if they so wish. Any legislation that would change that right to privacy around this very

personal matter should only be implemented once all stakeholders are on board. It is a very personal issue. We do not want to go down the path of telling people that they have to hand over their medical records.

The member for Burdekin raised specific concerns that dust levels have not been lowered by this government. He said that the minister had questioned the scientific evidence for doing that. The minister has consistently said that he will base reductions in dust levels on scientific evidence. He said he will be guided by Safe Work Australia's evidence based review. This is very important. His actions are going to be based on scientific evidence and guided by the experts in the field.

As an interim measure, amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation have been made to lower the respirable dust levels at coalmines from three milligrams per cubic metre to 2.5. That reduction will take place tomorrow. The government is committed to implementing all the outcomes of Safe Work Australia's review. We have listened to and acted on calls to come up with interim measures to make sure that coal workers are protected from harm. They are a few things I want to touch on in relation to what has been said in this debate already.

I now want to talk about the bill itself. This bill contains a comprehensive package of safety measures. We cannot underestimate the importance of these safety measures in mining. As we all know, it is an occupation that can be fatal. From talking to many miners, their safety and coming home at the end of the day is what preoccupies them. That is foremost in their minds. From talking to members of the miners union I know that safety is paramount. People think that it is all about long weekends and time off, but the thing that unites them all is safety—the ability to come home to their families at the end of the day.

I went out to the Oaky North picket line earlier this year to hear the story for myself and to find out what was going on. I pay tribute to my friends Geoff and Dennis who guided me and gave me a lot of information. I found the miners to be very respectful and disciplined. The amount of surveillance they have to endure is absolutely incredible. I have not seen that in a workplace before.

Their conversations always came back to safety. The activities of the mining union always come back to safety. They were affronted by anything that they thought would have left them exposed or left them in danger in the workplace. To them anything that lessens their bargaining power lessens their ability to implement safety. I pay tribute to all of the miners who have been dedicated to safety and the stakeholders involved in the many reviews. What they are doing is absolutely crucial to creating a Queensland that is safer for workers.

I applaud what is being done around ventilation, especially around making sure that the ventilation officers have the required competencies. Passing a practical exam is a great initiative. If they have to get training and a certificate of competency that will create a much safer atmosphere, quite literally, in those mines. I echo what Dr Brake said to the committee. When something goes wrong with ventilation it can be catastrophic. Not many occupations would have that issue.

I applaud the changes made with regard to entry powers and the implementation of a single safety system. All contractors and workers on site are under a single safety regime. That makes it much easier to understand. I notice that a lot of the contributors said that they applaud the initiative to increase the penalties under this act. The provisions include the obligation for reportable diseases being with the corporation officers.

I pay tribute to the member for Maryborough, who was relentless in reading through the committee's work.

Ms Jones: He is relentless at everything he does.

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. He is absolutely relentless. He sent the signal that people who bring up issues on work sites should not be intimidated and should not be made to be quiet. They need to be supported. It is not a good situation if workers are afraid to speak out about safety issues for fear of retribution. I applaud the work he did in that regard. I applaud the committee. This is a great bill. I recommend it to the House.

Mr WEIR (Condamine—LNP) (2.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. When this legislation was introduced into the House it was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. At that time we were snowed under with numerous pieces of legislation. The CLA decided to move consideration of this bill to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

Ms Linard: Happy to help, Pat.

Mr WEIR: I take that interjection. I have taken a keen interest in how this bill has progressed. The committee reported on 8 May. Like many other pieces of legislation, it has taken a long time to finally make its journey into the House.

This omnibus bill includes amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations which are distinct from general workplace obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The bill aims to deliver additional safety and health measures to ensure every worker goes home safely through creating a strong regulatory framework to adhere to. I am sure we all support that.

In 2015 coal workers' pneumoconiosis, or 'black lung', was rediscovered in Queensland. Unfortunately, more than 20 miners have been confirmed as having this disease since the rediscovery, with a further 54 people being diagnosed with some form of miners' dust disease. It was thought that the Queensland mining industry had been free of this disease for 30 years. Coal workers' pneumoconiosis is a type of pneumoconiosis solely caused by prolonged exposure to coalmine dust. Those miners who are suffering from black lung disease will have access to significant workers compensation, and rightly so.

The parliamentary committee's report on black lung titled *Black lung white lies* found catastrophic failings in public administration in Queensland. The regulatory system supposedly put in place to protect the health and safety of coal workers in Queensland was found by the committee to have been a catastrophic failure at all levels.

One of the recommendations of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee was that the bill be amended to include a definition of 'contractor'. The contractors who work in Queensland mines deserve the certainty of knowing whether they will be covered by these new laws or not. Whilst the government appears to be committed to working with industry and union stakeholders to address this shortcoming, it has not committed to formulating a definition of 'contractor'. I do not see that this is a major difficulty. I ask the government: where is this amendment to the bill which would easily solve this problem?

The committee further recommended to the minister that consideration should be given to amending the bill to require site senior executives to be notified confidentially of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to the health and safety of employees were at an acceptable level. However, the government unfortunately has not committed to delivering this recommendation. They have said they will 'look at it' which does not auger well for the amendment to ever see the light of day.

This recommendation is sensible. Providing senior managers of mine sites with full disclosure that there could be a problem would give them the opportunity to take the necessary steps in a timely manner to ensure that no other workers are affected. This government, however, has chosen not to take the advice of its own committee. Why? It would seem logical that mine operators should be given all of the information available to them to assist with reducing the chances of miners developing black lung.

The government's response to black lung disease is at best lethargic. Their track record on a disease that causes death is totally unacceptable. We the LNP welcome this legislation and would suggest that the government accept the recommendations of the committee. They are not listening to one of their own members—Jo-Ann Miller, the member for Bundamba. I am sure the member for Bundamba has had many people share their own personal stories about black lung with her throughout this whole process.

The government is not, amazingly enough, listening to the CFMEU. This must be a first for this government. Last year they called for Minister Lynham to resign over his 'insensitive and inadequate response to the Queensland inquiry into black lung disease, including questioning the scientific evidence for lower dust levels'. Let's think about this: one of the largest financial supporters of the Labor Party is willing to publicly attack the Labor Party.

Mr Costigan: You know you are having a shocker when that happens.

Mr WEIR: That is exactly right, member for Whitsunday. They must be having a shocker. There must be something seriously wrong with what the minister is doing for the CFMEU to take that sort of action. It was reported that the CFMEU considered pulling its manpower and cash support ahead of the Palaszczuk government's re-election in 2017 due to their frustration at the lack of action on the deadly black lung disease.

The government is always espousing its supposed core principle of supporting workers' rights. I do not think those miners who have black lung or who are currently working in an environment with the potential to develop black lung think much of Labor's inaction. Labor is no longer the friend of the worker as it so often claims to be. The LNP supports wholeheartedly the laws that protect miners' legal right to a safe workplace.

More than a year after the Premier promised to establish the mine safety and health authority in Mackay, miners are still waiting. The *Black lung white lies* report made the recommendation to establish this authority in May 2017. The authority was to oversee mine safety and hygiene, conduct medical research and training, and provide medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. When exactly is this authority going to be established?

Miners should feel betrayed. To make this promise on such a critical issue—the issue of mine safety—and then let more than a year pass with no action is a shameful act. The health and safety of miners surely comes well before the bureaucracy and long delays Labor is famous for. The LNP are hopeful this bill is a step in the right direction to ensure our miners have a safe workplace. We implore the government to act way more quickly to enforce these laws than it did in acknowledging that there was a problem in the first instance.

The bill addresses 15 matters for improvement to increase the health and safety of mineworkers. It will importantly ensure that the ventilation officers are sufficiently skilled, improve inspector powers to allow for more appropriate workplace entry powers similar to those in the Work Health and Safety Act and ensure the release of information by regulators regarding mine safety is conducted in a timely manner—just to name a few areas of vast improvement for the safety and health of coalminers.

On a personal note, my brother-in-law Darrell worked for many years in the coalmining industry in Central Queensland and now at the Commodore mine in Millmerran. My brother Rob currently works at a coal-fired power station and the workers of the New Hope Acland mine near Oakey have either been exposed or are still being exposed to coal dust. Anything we can do as members of the Queensland parliament to reduce or stop the risk of black lung disease has got to be a good thing. I call on the minister to act on all recommendations.

Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (2.56 pm): The member for Condamine alleges that the LNP is the best friend of mining workers and that Labor is no friend of mining workers. We have to remind those opposite that they are the ones who over many, many years have stripped miners of so many rights. Let's talk about Work Choices. Let's talk about how they removed the rights of unions to enter sites to ensure that those sites were safe. Let's talk about how the LNP refused to visit those miners at Oaky North and instead went and met with the mine bosses. There is a long list of examples of where the LNP has failed workers, including mining workers, in this state. The member for Condamine and those opposite ought to be reminded of all of those examples before they start praising themselves for being the best friends of mining workers in this state.

I am proud to rise and support this bill which will enhance safety and health for all mineworkers, including contractors and workers in small mines. The priority initiatives in the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill were first presented to this House on 7 September 2017. That bill was referred to the then infrastructure, planning and natural resources committee of which I was a member, but it lapsed when parliament was dissolved prior to the last election. I am really pleased to see this bill back on the *Notice Paper* and before the House today.

The intervening period has provided further opportunity for consultation with key stakeholders in order to add to the extensive and ongoing consultation to date for many of the initiatives. This bill will ensure that Queensland's mining safety laws continue to support all workers to get home safely to their families. That is first and foremost the priority of the bill that we are debating.

The reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis highlights the need for continuous improvement of regulatory frameworks so that every worker goes home safely. This bill will deliver initiatives to ensure additional safety and health measures are in place to protect Queensland's miners and includes minor amendments to support the government's response to the Monash University review of the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme. Queensland's mining safety and health legislation continues to be regarded as amongst the best in the world, but we must be vigilant and we should aim to continually improve Queensland's mining safety and health record.

These laws include reform initiatives that increase compliance powers for the mine safety and health inspectorate, demand greater transparency and accountability, and require better safety and health systems from operators. The bill will importantly provide increased maximum penalties for breaches of safety and health obligations and civil penalties for serious safety and health breaches. I

understand that those maximum penalties have not been increased since 2007, so it is timely that they are being addressed. The bill will provide increased powers to suspend or cancel statutory certificates of competency if holders fail to meet their obligations as well as improved integration of contractor safety and health management in the one single safety and health management system at a mine.

The department's Mines Inspectorate through its investigations has found that one of the causes of an increase in risk is due to contractors not having a full understanding of the safety and health management system on the mining site. Last year when I met with the workers at Oaky North who had been locked out for 230 days by Glencore, that was front and centre of their concerns. The permanent workers were concerned first and foremost about the safety of the contractors employed by Glencore to work on the mine due to a lack of understanding of the safety and health management systems on that site.

Coalmine ventilation officers will also have to hold a certificate of competency through examination by the Board of Examiners, and minerals ventilation officers will be a statutory position. Importantly, this bill will now also require that small opal or gem mines with five or more workers have a safety and health management system in place. Whilst those mines usually have a very small workforce, I have no doubt that workers on those mine sites will be incredibly pleased to have legislation that requires those sites to have a safety and health management system in place.

These improvements reinforce the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the safety and health of Queensland's mineworkers. Many of those workers live and raise their families in my electorate of Keppel and either drive or fly out to their respective mines in Central Queensland. I know there are many of them who are very pleased to see that the Palaszczuk government is continuing to monitor health and safety in this state and monitor health and safety of their work sites.

The department will continue to look at ways to improve the safety of our workers by ensuring legislation is effective and contemporary and by continuing to consult with stakeholders. I think workplace health and safety is an ongoing, evolving issue that needs to be addressed on mine sites. It is not something that we can legislate for now and expect that 20 years later this legislation will be fit. We will have to keep monitoring it.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to the safety and health of all workers across all industries, because all workers have the right to expect that their safety and health will be protected while at work. If you meet any family who has lost someone on a work site, their heart is broken. That is why we are continuing to strengthen safety and health protections for workers so that workers do not fear that workplace risks or hazards will injure them, make them ill or worse. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr BATT (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. This bill proposes changes to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation Act 2017. The bill was reviewed by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, and I thank the committee for doing that when our committee was a little bit too busy to get through it all. It did a fine job.

For 30 years Queensland's mining industry was thought to have been rid of black lung disease. However, in 2015 the disease was rediscovered in our state. Since then, over 20 miners have been confirmed to have the disease and another 54 have been diagnosed with some form of dust disease. Black lung is caused solely by prolonged exposure to coalmine dust, and this bill is designed to outline a regulatory framework to deliver additional safety and health measures to ensure that every worker, including contractors, goes home safely.

While I support the passing of this bill, I do have some concerns that I wish to outline. As I said, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee which reviewed the bill found that the regulatory system has been a failure at almost every level. Miners suffering from black lung disease will have access to significant workers compensation, but who exactly will be covered under this proposed legislation is unclear and contractors are left uncertain.

The committee recommended that the bill include a definition of 'contractor'. However, on listening to the minister this morning the government seems to have little interest in amending this flaw quickly and has not committed to a time frame to making the definition available. Once again, we have a 'mirror' government where the minister will 'look into it'. Contractors in Queensland mines deserve certainty. They deserve to know whether or not they will be covered under these new laws. This is their health under scrutiny, and I ask the minister to adopt this recommendation as soon as possible.

The committee also recommended that the minister consider adding another amendment to make it a requirement that senior site executives are confidentially notified if and when relevant cases of dust diseases occur. I can understand that some submitters had issues with the confidentiality of this information and possible retribution. However, this recommendation would allow the mine manager to follow up on their site health and safety standards to ensure that they are at the acceptable level. It also gives the manager full disclosure and provides them with the opportunity to take appropriate steps to ensure no-one else is affected.

One would assume it is obvious that mine operators be given all the information available to assist them with reducing the chances of miners becoming affected by this horrible disease. Disappointingly, though, this government does not seem phased, simply stating once more that it will look at it. I again ask the minister to make a timely decision on this recommendation and not leave those in the industry hanging on more reviews. I am glad to see this legislation being reviewed. Our coal workers deserve better, more practical laws to protect them and their health. However, this government has been slow to act and the response to the diagnosis of black lung disease has been unacceptable.

One point I want to put on the record concerns the *Black lung white lies* report delivered in May last year which recommended that the Labor government establish an authority in Mackay to oversee mine safety and hygiene, conduct medical research and training, and provide medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. However, a year later Mackay is still waiting for the promise to be delivered. The safety of Queenslanders should come first, but it simply doesn't under this state Labor government. The government needs to up its game and act faster to ensure the details of these laws are enforced and implemented correctly. The LNP supports laws that protect miners' legal rights to a safe workplace, and we are hopeful that this bill is a step in the right direction. The LNP will continue to hold this government to account to ensure the safety and health of all Queenslanders including those in the mining industry.

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.06 pm): I rise to support this legislation. My department—the department of occupational health and safety—and the mining safety area will be working very closely in relation to this legislation. We have already implemented some of the best workers compensation entitlements for sufferers of the terrible disease of coal workers' pneumoconiosis, better known as black lung, and we have also addressed many of the screening and safety aspects when it comes to these workers.

For those opposite to suggest that that is not in place is absolutely ludicrous. We removed the threshold to common law entitlements for workers. Had we not removed the threshold that was brought in by the previous LNP government, not one miner would have been entitled to common law damages under the workers compensation scheme. Under their scheme—because most of them have simple pneumoconiosis, which is a diagnosed part of black lung—not one of them met the threshold and not one of them would have received adequate benefits under workers compensation, yet they come into this House and spruik how much they support health and safety and entitlements for workers injured under this legislation. It is a joke to hear them.

Ms Pease: It is an insult.

Ms GRACE: It is an insult. You will find every miner rolling around in laughter hearing those opposite talk like this. We are the ones who bring in occupational health and safety that will help this industry. We are the side of politics that brings in workers compensation entitlements for those suffering from this terrible disease. Those opposite sit there shaking their heads about how terrible it is, but they then take away their entitlements. They come in here with forked tongue—

Mr Nicholls: Absolute rubbish!

Ms GRACE: 'Absolute rubbish' I am hearing from the member for Clayfield. I will take that interjection because he was the treasurer at the time who brought in the laws which brought in the threshold. Not one of them would have got common law damages. You do not like to hear it but they are the facts. Go and talk to those miners. They know exactly what you did over there, and it was this side of the House which fixed it up.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, direct your comments through the chair please.

Ms GRACE: I am happy to do that. I am happy to tell the member for Clayfield that it was our government that sorted that out in our first term. We reversed the draconian laws that they brought in with the common law threshold, and we were able to get that. Not one of those miners would have been paid any entitlement—not one of them—had it not been for the laws that this side brought in. Do not come in here crying crocodile tears, because you have absolutely no credibility in this area whatsoever.

Queensland's mining safety legislation is considered to be some of the best in the world, thanks to Labor, but we must ensure that it remains current. That is what this bill does. The legislation will deliver significant improvements to Queensland's mine safety and health regulatory framework for the benefit of workers in our coalmines, mineral mines and quarries. We are covering all of the industry.

Importantly, the bill will implement improvements to safety and health standards for mineworkers, including relating to coal workers' pneumoconiosis and other dust lung diseases, including silicosis. That is very important. I had to issue an alert in the manufactured stone benchtop cutting industry. That is a very aggressive form of silicosis, and this legislation will also cover those associated dust lung diseases should it prove to be necessary. There will be trained radiologists to detect these diseases. That was the issue in the past—the medical profession could not detect the diseases—and that let a lot of miners down.

My department is working towards developing the necessary regulations to improve health and safety in this area with codes of practice. We hope to have the stone benchtop manufacturing industry code of practice finalised as soon as possible. We have acted with great speed. I have also written to the federal minister, Kelly O'Dwyer, to alert the federal government to the seriousness of this issue and the need for a national response. I believe part of that national response has to be looking at what stone is coming into this country, how it is manufactured and how much silica it contains. It may end up being like the asbestos ban that we have. I might add that the federal government sat on a report on that for about 10 months—with Peter Dutton doing absolutely nothing about it—and building materials containing asbestos were coming into the country because of the federal government's slackness. We need to get serious about this issue and we may need to look at this further.

Workplace health and safety is important to every Queenslander. Work related deaths and injuries have devastating impacts that extend well beyond the workplace. We know the impact that it has on the families that are affected. We are deeply committed to ensuring that Queensland has a robust workplace health and safety legislative and regulatory framework with health and safety systems in place. Unlike the LNP, which attacked workers, the Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring workers are treated with dignity and fairness and are protected when they go to work. If they are injured, we are committed to ensuring they have the best entitlements in Australia under our very robust and relevant workers compensation system.

That is why legislative amendments to the workplace health and safety legislation were passed in the Queensland parliament in October 2017. Those amendments were not supported by those opposite. One of those amendments was the introduction of a new offence of industrial manslaughter. We were the first state in Australia to introduce that. If mine managers are not taking responsibility to ensure that their workers are not working with dust levels that cause black lung or coal workers' pneumoconiosis, we will come after them with industrial manslaughter if one of their workers dies as a result. We have also established an independent statutory office for workplace health and safety prosecutions. We are looking forward to working collaboratively with the department of mines in relation to that.

We have restored the status of codes of practice. The other side brought codes of practice down to guidelines—simple guidelines—and it was up to the employer whether they followed them or not. We have restored codes of practice as a required safety measure that must be followed unless other measures of equal or higher standards can be demonstrated. We also have provisions which support more effective health and safety representatives. It is so important that we have trained health and safety representatives in the workplace representing the workers. It is impossible to have an inspector in every workplace throughout Queensland every day of the week, so trained health and safety representatives are significant. I am proud that we are implementing a regime to ensure that they are trained and they represent the workers in their workplace.

With those few words, I am more than proud to support this legislation. Only Labor delivers for workers when it comes to occupational health and safety and workers compensation, regardless of what we hear from those opposite.

Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (3.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. I want to go straight to the point. There are a lot of recommendations in the bill that I agree with, and there is a very strong basis for them. I acknowledge the heavy consultation that has been completed to enable this legislation to get to the House. There is one issue, however, and I think it is a very valid point. I have been approached by a small miner and they are concerned about the threshold of ventilation officer requirements for small miners, particularly

in hard rock mining. The need for this in coalmining is very clear. There seems to be different parameters around hard rock mining compared to coalmining. There is a much different risk profile with all of those issues associated with respiratory problems and ventilation.

The burden of the ventilation officer would fit well into those larger organisations and larger mining companies that have that critical mass of staff so that they always have one registered ventilation officer. At any one time, they could have three or four on staff so that if one is on holiday or sick there is always another one available. It is different when a mine is reduced down to below that critical mass. There is a threshold of 10 working underground before the obligation kicks in. For under 20, there is some latitude for the site senior executive to provide a sign-off on the ventilation officer and they do not need to do the course. There are still pretty small mines that lack the capacity in many cases to meet those requirements.

I would like to put on record for the minister one of the suggestions that was made. With those smaller mines and the thresholds, the suggestion was that there be a quarterly, six-monthly or annual review of the ventilation network by a ventilation officer, mines inspector, hygienist or a high-level consultant. Division 2 of the regulation would state that the RA must include ventilation or a separate RA on ventilation only.

It is very welcome to see that the safety of these underground workers with respect to their respiratory risks is paramount. However, there is a point for some of those small miners where it becomes a large burden on their operations. It does not sound like much money, but they are saying that the course is around $18,000 and a mining engineering course costs less than $30,000. A pretty small mine with 10 executives on site would have to send three or four away to make sure they are on hand, and there is that revolving door in the office where they are trying to constantly train staff. It then becomes hard for them to try to reach those standards, and it might be achieved another way—putting more responsibility on to the site senior officer or the mine manager on site. Whilst I acknowledge that intent—and it is a very worthwhile intent—I think it needs to be looked at in terms of those smaller mines that will find it difficult to comply with that. They are just in that gap between the really small ones and the big ones. I do not think the bigger mines will have too many problems meeting those requirements.

I make a further comment that, although everyone in this House would be thinking very carefully about the safety of our workers underground and would be very concerned about them, we need to keep in mind that there is a threshold when we are passing this legislation. I was underground last week and up to my knees in water next to a jumbo operator named Grif. I have probably been underground about five or six times. It became apparent to me that, although a lot of these workers understand the risk and we have come a long way with our underground safety, they do not like to be burdened with too much either because they are trying to do their job. It can get to the point where their minds are loaded with other finicky details and they do not have as much time to think about the other risks.

We always have to be careful to not load them up with too much more legislation and impositions. That is not really related to the ventilation officer issue. I just raise that in the House as a concern that we need to reflect on when passing new legislation regarding safety standards. Of course, we all want them to be safe but we do need to be mindful. The counterpoint to that is that workers underground have a whole heap of considerations—rockfalls, lighting and other safety procedures. If we load them up with too much it can start to be counterproductive.

I put that on the record for the minister. I hope that that can be watched and considered in the future. I think that would make for more robust legislation and be more suited to the broad range of participants in the mining industry, particularly the hard rock mining industry.

Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (3.20 pm): As a member of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, I rise to talk to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. First of all, I would like to congratulate the chair of the committee who put a lot of work into this and also the secretariat, who organised the trips. I also congratulate the deputy chair and the fellow committee members from both sides of the House. I would like to say thank you to the minister and the departmental staff who briefed us very well. The minister was right across every question I put to him. I would like to put on the record my thanks to the minister for the help he personally gave me and also that of his office and the department. It was much appreciated.

I lived in Mount Isa for many, many years and I have a few friends who work in the mines, so I know the difference between hard rock and coalmining—soft rock. There is a difference. This legislation is long overdue. I have to agree with the member for Keppel. A lot of my friends are miners because I lived in Central Queensland and I lived in Mount Isa for a long time. My brother worked at Mount Isa Mines for many years. I have a lot of friends in the mining industry. I have to agree with the member for

Keppel; I am yet to have one of them come and say to me that the LNP really looked after them. I cannot wait to go home and see my mate Scuba, who used to work in the mines. Scuba had a very tough time with the company. It did a lot of bad things to my mate and he is still recovering now. I would like to say g'day to Scuba as I know he is watching at the moment. Scuba, we are all thinking of you, brother. We know that he will get through that black dog, that tough time, and he will come out the better side of it. When I look at what has happened to Scuba, who complained about safety issues at the mines, I get quite emotional because he is a very good friend and I have known him for a long time.

When we did the tour I did not go underground for one reason. It was not because I was worried or anything like that. I believe that the committee members should have been treated the same way that the mines treat their workers. We should not have been treated any differently; we should have gone under and come up and showered in the same showers—everything else that a miner does. The committee was treated a little bit differently. I thought that, if we cannot be treated the same as the miners and the workers who go underground every day at the mine site, it was not for me. Without that we cannot get a true feel of what goes on in a mine. I know that other committee members did go underground, but I believe they should have been treated the same as the workers, including using their showers that I have seen in the mines.

The tour around Mount Isa Mines was like deja vu; it was like going back home, looking at the old mine site, catching up with a few friends on the telephone and talking about safety at the mines. It is imperative that we ensure that a miner goes home safe every day and goes to work safe and works in safe conditions. We are hearing from the other side that they have suddenly become the miners' friends, that they are the best friends of the miners. I do not think that is correct. As the member for McConnel said, it is only a Labor government that has brought in the safety measures for mines. A Labor government has looked after the men and women who go underground every day.

One of the things I was happy about—and I spoke to the minister about this—was the increased penalties. I can quote from the transcript of the hearing held in Mount Isa—and the member for Whitsunday said people in Mount Isa turned out. That is not correct. One of the reasons I heard from miners in Moranbah and Mount Isa when I was talking to them is that they were absolutely fearful of coming to the committee because, if it got out that they were there, their jobs could be in jeopardy. We know what happens—and I know because it happened to one of my best mates, whom I just mentioned. When he spoke up about safety issues on a mine he was driven out of the industry by the mining company. That is why people did not turn up in Mount Isa. I have spoken to a few friends and they said, 'We're not touching that with a barge pole, brother, because, if we are seen complaining about the mines, they will drive us out of the jobs.'

One of the things that came up—and this came from the AWU organiser in Mount Isa. I was questioning him about stiffer penalties for the mine management. I would like to put on the record that throughout the committee hearing I was one who said I believed in custodial sentences and I did not think we went hard enough. If someone dies on a worksite due to the mining company not doing the right thing or cutting back or workers fearing they will lose their job if they speak up about safety, jail is not good enough for management. That is one thing with which I had issue with the committee because I believe the custodial sentences should be put in place. The AWU organiser was a good bloke. He talked about the mines and what happens to miners when they speak up on the mine site. I asked him about the stiffer penalties. He said—

I think you also have to remember that there is a lot more money at stake with mining, so maybe the penalties should be adjusted relevant to the royalties that they bring in. That would also provide a higher level of accountability and responsibility. It is absolutely a driver. You have to look at that and think there are arguments for and against, but you also have to think to yourself: if they put a serious penalty in place and you are an SSE or you are a mine operator, are you going to deliberately go out there and shirk your obligation because the penalty is so severe? You are going to make sure you do your due diligence and you are going to make sure you have everything done properly, in my belief. For some people it would not matter what penalty you put there, because they are still going to operate the way they do and hope that nothing goes wrong.

That is a direct quote from the AWU organiser at the hearing. It was the same when we moved to the coal industry and talked to the CFMEU delegate. He was telling us that even contractors are a bit scared to speak up about some of the horrific conditions they are working in on the mine sites. It is the same thing: they do not get the text message. If they do not get the text message, they do not have a shift; they do not get called into work. We have to stop that. This mines legislation will go a long way towards stopping that. We have to get back to a fair go for our miners. I will back the CFMEU submission. To brother Smyth out in the coalfields, I say thank you very much. I had long conversations with him regarding this legislation and also the miners.

We have to go back and give workers a fair go in this country. We have to change the rules. We have to make sure that the workers in the mines are safe, that the air they breathe is safe and that the people who look after the ventilation equipment are competent. To all the miners I would like to say thank you. They do a marvellous job in trying conditions. It is not an easy job. It is a hard job. I say to them thank you. As I wrap up, I say thank you once again to the minister. He listened to my concerns. I had conversations with him about this as a committee member. Once again, like all the ministers in the Palaszczuk government, he listened to the concerns of the backbench. I commend this bill to the House.

Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (3.28 pm): The shock that went through the communities and the families of mineworkers in Blackwater, Emerald, Springsure, Rolleston, Tieri, Dysart, Moranbah and Clermont was profound as we discovered through the media that coal workers' pneumoconiosis, or black lung, had re-emerged in Queensland. Since the rediscovery more than 20 miners have been confirmed to have the disease and 54 have been diagnosed with some form of mine dust disease. At the time my office assisted affected workers. I felt the department and the minister responded well in assisting those individuals and I do thank the minister for that. Even in those early days it was clear that something was deeply wrong.

It is no surprise to me that the subsequent *Black lung white lies* report found there had been a catastrophic failure at every level—at every level—not just in health surveillance but in the training and competency of the health workforce and even notification requirements; not just in the health and safety systems on site but in the requirements on which those systems were based and in the competencies of the officers who implemented systems on the mine site. As for compliance and enforcement—the government's direct responsibility—there seemed to be virtually none.

For years governments have coasted on the royalties earned by coal workers in mines in electorates like Gregory. In that time we have seen those Queensland workers given very little protection or support. One of the chief frustrations, which I share, is the slow response to the *Black lung white lies* report. Industry and mineworkers quite rightly feel that if you are going to present yourself as the party that cares for workers—that is the Labor Party—then you had better 'walk the walk', as the saying goes.

The *Black lung white lies* report, which was delivered in May 2017, recommended that the Labor government establish an authority in Mackay to oversee mine safety, hygiene, conduct medical research and training, and provide medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. More than a year after it was promised miners are still waiting for the Premier to come good on the commitment to establish a mine safety and health authority in Mackay. There has been funding for all sorts of other bells and whistles, like developing a phone app for fat dogs, but there has been no action for something that is needed to protect the right of every mineworker to a safe workplace. These issues are all critical to mining safety. These are the systemic issues that contributed to the catastrophe: lack of independent oversight of mine safety and hygiene, the lack of medical research and training, and the lack of access to medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. It is a betrayal of workers to promise action on these issues and then let a year pass with no action.

The LNP supports laws that will protect the legal right of mineworkers to a safe workplace. The LNP are hopeful that this bill is a step in the right direction to ensure that our miners have a safe workplace. I will support the bill, but not without airing a couple of concerns on behalf of my constituents in Gregory.

The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee recommended that the bill be amended to include the definition of 'contractor'. While the government has committed to working with industry and union stakeholders to address this shortcoming, it has not committed to making any such definition available. That is not surprising, given the size of the contractor workforce in our mines. Contractors in Queensland mines deserve the certainty of knowing whether they will be covered under these new laws or not. Where is the amendment to the bill which will solve this issue?

The committee also recommended that the minister consider amending the bill to require that senior executives on mine sites be notified on a confidential basis of relevant cases of reportable disease. This sensible transparency would allow them to ensure that risks to the health and safety of employees are at an acceptable level. Mine operators need this transparency so they can protect their workforce. Unfortunately, the government has not committed to delivering this amendment to the bill; however, it has made a vague commitment to look at it. Again we are being asked to take vague promises on trust and, I am sorry, but their track record in this regard is just not good enough. I must ask why mine operators cannot be given all the information available to assist them in reducing the chances of our miners developing black lung.

This legislation is the government's concrete response to the *Black lung white lies* report. The inclusion of the phrase 'white lies' in the title tells you that a big part of the problem was the lack of transparency between the government and key industry stakeholders including mine operators, the CFMEU and the Queensland public.

As a Bowen Basin MP, I do not feel that this legislation will leave me better informed in a timely manner about mine health and safety issues. I suspect that will be true for all other stakeholders as well. Black lung, white lies—indeed. Having said that, I do welcome the legislation and I commit to working hard to protect the rights of my constituents who work in the mines. To that end I will continue to advocate to the minister on their behalf to see that those issues which are still to be addressed are properly and publicly addressed. It is literally a matter of life and death, so we owe it to those workers and we owe them our best effort. As the MP for the seat of Gregory in the Bowen Basin, I have grown up with the mining industry all my life, I have friends and family who work in the mines and I think it is important that we get this right. Industry, stakeholders, unions and the government must get this right.

I would like to commend the chair of the committee, the member for Bundamba; the deputy chair and former member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg; the member for Whitsunday, Jason Costigan; and of course you too, Mr Deputy Speaker, the member for Greenslopes, as members of that committee. I was very fortunate to be a stand-in on that committee when the deputy chair, Lawrence Springborg, had other commitments, so I got to hear firsthand some of the tragic stories. I was able to see how scared they were not only about coming forward but about their diagnoses. 'What's going to happen to me?' What was also heartbreaking were the partners, the wives, the mothers and the children. We have to get this right.

I commend the *Black lung white lies* report. I think it has shone a fantastic light on a very serious issue. This is an issue that we need to address in Queensland because my electorate—as well as the member for Burdekin's electorate and the member for Callide's electorate—are in the centre of the Bowen Basin. The mine industry is a fantastic economic generator for Queensland, but we need to make sure that our workers are safe. I call on the minister and the government to make sure that we get this right.

Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise in support of the mines legislation. Before I begin my very well-structured speech, I just want to say that I have absolutely no intention in any way, shape or form of politicising this issue. I have been sitting here listening to certain members—particularly on my right—and I found the opportunity to politicise this quite disturbing. I do not have knowledge and experience on this issue like a number of other members who have served in this chamber longer than I, but I do know there is an expectation that every Queenslander going to work needs to be protected by their government, and this government is doing that.

The actions and recommendations of this committee reflect one of the core actions of government. As I said, it is about making people safe in their workplace. The safety and health of workers in Queensland's mining sector is regulated under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations which are very different to general workplace obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

The bill addresses 15 matters that are needed for immediate improvement in the resources safety and health regulatory framework to increase workers' safety and, more importantly, health. The bill provides for greater transparency and accountability, improvements to safety and health management systems, and stronger enforcement and compliance powers by implementing amendments to the current acts in relation to ventilation officer competencies; inspector powers, including inspector workplace entry; manufacturer, supplier, designer and importer notification requirements; contractor and service provider management; advisory committees and Board of Examiners membership; safety and health management systems; register to be kept by Board of Examiners; health surveillance; notification of diseases; release of information; penalties; officer obligations; continuing professional development; suspension or cancellation of certificates of competency and site senior executive notices; and several penalties. To bring relief to my colleagues in the chamber, my intention is not to run through these and talk specifically to each one; however, I would like to touch on a couple of them.

Joining some of my fellow committee members and going down to visit the coalface at Anglo American's Moranbah North mine helped me get a realistic and direct understanding of the importance of ventilation in such an amazing workplace. It was a first for me and an absolute eye-opener. Working in those restrictive and confined spaces demands nothing but vigilance when it comes to health and, more importantly, safety—not to mention the much needed essential commodity: clean air. This bill

proposes to strengthen the qualification requirements for the role of ventilation officer at underground coalmines so that people with appropriate experience, expertise and understanding of their statutory obligations are employed in the role.

Clause 17 of the bill proposes to replace section 61 of the current legislation to require the underground coalmine manager to appoint a ventilation officer for an underground mine. It also requires that only a person holding a certificate of competency for ventilation officers granted by the Board of Examiners can be appointed to the role of ventilation officer. In addition, the ventilation officer is responsible for the implementation of the mine's ventilation system and the establishment of effective standards of ventilation for the mine. The underground mine manager must not appoint an individual as the ventilation officer for more than one underground mine unless the chief inspector is satisfied that the person can effectively carry out the duties at the mines. It is very important that these individuals are not overloaded in what are absolutely key and fundamental areas.

Proposed changes in relation to the management of contractors and service providers are sound and reflect the urge to achieve greater safety outcomes. This amendment targets improvement in contractor and service provider safety and health at mine sites by requiring contractors and service providers to provide their safety and health management information to be considered as part of a single, integrated safety and health management system for all mineworkers.

Contractors and service providers have an obligation to comply with the mine's safety and health management system. The existing requirements are considered insufficient and have not consistently driven effective collaboration between site senior executives and contractors to determine any necessary changes to contractor procedures to ensure compliance with the mine's single SHMS. This is particularly important where a specialist contractor is engaged and the specialist contractor's safety plan, systems or procedures are inconsistent with the safety and health management system of the mine or when a contractor needs to understand and follow safety critical procedures of that mine.

On occasion there have been instances where a contractor or a service provider has been engaged to undertake a specialist task that is not normally undertaken on site and the mine's safety and health management system may not already cater for that task. In this event the contractor or service provider will present their operating safety system documentation and standard operating procedures to the safety officer, who will review it to ensure that there is no conflict with the existing single safety and health management system in force at the mine site. If there is a conflict, the contractor's safety and health management plans and procedures must be altered to meet the site safety requirements and the contractor's employees trained and assessed in the alternative methods. If the contractor believes that they have more effective safety and health management plans or procedures for this particular task, it can be discussed with the site safety executive. If the SSE agrees that the contractor does have a more effective system, in accordance with the regulations he should have a cross-section of the workforce review and develop the system so that the mine's safety and health management system incorporates these elements.

I thank the individuals and organisations that made written submissions and attended our public hearings. I make special mention of the detailed contribution by the CFMEU. I very much appreciated in particular the team at Glencore's Mount Isa Mines and Anglo American's Moranbah North mine who went to great lengths to provide the committee with essential information through practical processes into mining safety and health in operational contexts and a very harsh environment. I also thank my parliamentary colleagues for their contributions to the debate on this bill. In particular I make mention of our tolerant and highly professional chair, the member for Nudgee. A genuine thanks is extended to the committee secretariat team and to those Hansard members who had the great privilege and honour of joining us on our travels throughout this great state. I also acknowledge the minister and his team for their strong support. At every stage when we were seeking advice and recommendations we were provided with firsthand support. I acknowledge that here.

This government recognises the importance of mining to our state, but we also acknowledge a far greater responsibility—that is, our ongoing commitment to the workers of Queensland to ensure their health and their safety. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr BOYCE (Callide—LNP) (3.44 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. I acknowledge the work of the committee. I will not oppose the bill. The bill includes amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations which are distinct from the general workplace obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis, black lung disease, was rediscovered in Queensland in 2015. More than 20 cases have been confirmed recently. Another 54 miners have been diagnosed with some form of mine dust disease. This debilitating disease is directly caused by prolonged exposure to coalmine dust. For 30 years the mining industry was thought to be rid of this disease. It is most important that we return the industry to that status.

The parliamentary committee report into black lung disease, *Black lung white lies*, found catastrophic failings in public administration in Queensland. The committee found that there has been failure at almost every level of the regulatory system. The parliamentary committee recommended that the minister consider amending the bill to require that site senior executives be notified on a confidential basis of relevant cases of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to the health and safety of the employee are at an acceptable level. It is noted that the government has not committed to delivering this recommendation; rather, they will look at it. Furthermore, the definition of 'contractor' has not been addressed adequately, leaving some coalmine workers uncertain as to whether they will be covered under these new laws. As a former coalmine contractor, I find this situation unacceptable.

The Callide electorate is home to several large coalmines and many mine proposals. The coal industry generates in the vicinity of $60 billion to the economy of Australia. It supports our power stations, producing the most efficient and reliable power that we have. Approximately 188,000 jobs in Australia are directly related to the coal industry. It is upon us as legislators to ensure that the health of coal workers in Queensland is given the priority it deserves. Whilst this bill falls short in some areas, it is a step towards ridding the industry of black lung disease.

I note that this morning the honourable member for Maiwar has moved to shut down the coal industry in North and Central Queensland and is asking for the support of this House. I do not support this absurd notion. Coal is king, and it will remain so into the foreseeable future. As I said in my maiden speech—

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

Mr BOYCE: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, it is the royalties from coal and the money generated from coal-fired power stations that allow this government to pay its bills. Therefore, it is the health and wellbeing of our coal industry workers that is paramount. I support the bill.

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. The LNP will not be opposing this bill; however, we do have some reservations. The bill includes amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999. These acts establish mining sector specific safety and health obligations which are distinct from those in the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Some of the effects of this bill will be to: ensure that people appointed to ventilation officer positions will be sufficiently skilled; improve inspector powers to allow for more appropriate workplace entry powers by adopting a similar approach to that in the WHS Act for entry to workplaces; ensure that manufacturers, suppliers, designers and importers notify both the Mines Inspectorate and mine operators of any identified hazards or defects with supplied equipment and substances that they become aware of; and ensure that the release of information by regulators regarding mine safety is conducted in a timely manner to enable the industry to respond.

Obviously we have heard a bit about coal workers' pneumoconiosis and how it re-emerged on the Queensland scene in 2015, with 20 miners diagnosed and 54 more diagnosed with allied respiratory complaints. I deeply regret this. It is a terrible shame that this has occurred in a state where we felt that we had that problem licked, and I can only imagine what the people in the communities of places like my honourable friend the member for Gregory talked about in the Bowen Basin would be going through on this discovery.

Miners suffering black lung disease will have access to significant workers compensation, and the *Black lung white lies* parliamentary committee report into black lung disease has found catastrophic failings in the regulatory framework and the administration of detection in the state, which is terrible. In my time in the Air Force we used the terminology 'Swiss cheese effect' where you have an alignment of misfortunes or an alignment of oversights which unfortunately cause much greater effects down the track.

The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee recommended that the bill be amended to include a definition of 'contractor', and I acknowledge my honourable colleague the member for Callide, who spoke earlier, who was himself a coalmining contractor and I thank him for his

contribution. While the government has committed to working with industry and union stakeholders to address this shortcoming, it has not committed to making any such definition available. Contractors in Queensland mines deserve certainty to know whether or not they will be covered under these new laws, and I ask: where is the amendment to the bill which solves this issue?

The committee also recommended that the minister consider amending the bill to require that site senior executives be notified on a confidential basis of relevant causes of reportable diseases to allow them to ensure that the risks to health and safety of the employee are at an acceptable level. Unfortunately, the government has not committed to delivering this recommendation in the bill. It has, however, made a commitment to look at it. I ask: why has the government not responded to these recommendations from the committee? They seem quite sensible to me and I think that mine operators should be given all of the information available to assist them in reducing the chances of their employees being injured or suffering ill health.

While the LNP welcomes this sensible legislation, the government's track record in responding to black lung has been lethargic. I acknowledge that the member for Cairns, who spoke earlier, said that it was important not to make this a political debate—and I will do my best there—but I do wish to raise some shortcomings on the part of the government because I feel that that is our duty. The government should have listened more closely to the member for Bundamba, who has obvious connections and experience in this area. Last year the CFMEU itself criticised the government over its handling of this issue, and I think that speaks volumes. If one of the government's largest financial supporters decides that the government ought to be criticised publicly, then it would seem that something is not going right and the government needs to do more. I am advised that the CFMEU was even contemplating withdrawing manpower and cash support for the 2017 election campaign for the Labor Party as a response to its frustration at the slow response to black lung disease.

The *Black lung white lies* report, which was delivered in May 2017, recommended that the government establish an authority in Mackay to oversee mine safety and hygiene, conduct medical research and training, and provide medical specialists to diagnose and treat mine dust diseases. I commend the report and the work that the committee did. I particularly commend my predecessor, the former member for Southern Downs, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, who really did great work in this area alongside the member for Bundamba. I know that they had an excellent working relationship in that role as chair and deputy chair. I was dealing with Lawrence Springborg a great deal during that time and I know how seriously he and the member for Bundamba and the committee were taking their task.

Miners are still waiting for the government to come good on its commitment to establish a mine safety and health authority in Mackay more than a year after it was promised. It is very unfortunate for workers that a promise on such an action can go for a year and still not have been fulfilled. Miners' health and safety must come before bureaucracy and the delays that we have been seeing from the government. We do support laws which protect miners' rights to have a safe workplace—of course we do—and we are hopeful that this bill is a step in the right direction in ensuring that our miners have a safe workplace. I echo the sentiments of other speakers in the House today about the vital importance of the coal industry and therefore the work done by our coalminers to support the economy in this state. It is quite literally the goose that laid the golden egg.

We need to look after the industry and, importantly, those who work in it. The real work will, however, be done in the detail and enforcement of these laws and we implore the government to act more quickly than it originally did in acknowledging the problem to begin with. We are committed to holding this government to account when it comes to our miners' safety and wellbeing. Other than that, I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill. As we heard earlier, the LNP will not be opposing the legislation. However, we do have some concerns which we wish to raise. This bill originally came before the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee in the 55th Parliament and was also considered and reported on in the 2017 version of the bill, and there have been some small changes. The parliament was prorogued. The bill was then reintroduced and scrutinised by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. I want to thank both committees for their consideration of this legislation. The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee did not have the opportunity to do site visits, and I note the current committee did do site visits to Mount Isa Mines on 18 April 2018 and the Moranbah North mine on 19 April 2018. I think that was a good thing to do because the previous committee did not have the opportunity to do site visits.

I want to bring to the attention of the House—because this is a bit of an omnibus bill—what the bill does in relation to opal miners who are directly affected by this legislation. There are opal mines in my electorate at Quilpie and also Yowah and I know many of those miners and their families personally. They are quite small scale mines. Some are underground—they do not go for a huge length underground—and some are not. They are referred to as digs that are above ground. A lot of these people are semiretired and some of them are young people who have another full-time job somewhere else and they search for opals in their spare time and they have a couple of opal leases that they work. Some are also farmers who just happen to have an opal mine or a dig on their property. There is nothing at all that is large scale about these opal mines. Many of these miners also live interstate and only visit the opal fields during the winter months to operate their lease.

Previously there was a question as to why the exemption for opal and gem mines with fewer than 11 workers was to be removed. The department advised in response to a question on notice that many small mine operators already have used the template to implement safety and health management systems, so the question is: if they are already using that template then why make the legislative changes and remove the exemption? They are doing it voluntarily. Why then do we have to increase the regulation on these very small family operated mines and increase the compliance and the paperwork? There seems to be some significant overreach here.

When we look at this in relation to the number of fatalities in opal and gem mines in the last 10 years, there have only been two. We are going to a lot of regulation to remove that exemption and we are putting a lot more paperwork and compliance in place when there has not been a huge number of fatalities. It begs the question: what is the advice that the government is relying upon to justify this additional regulation on these very small mining operators?

I note that these issues were raised very strongly by submitters to the committee when the bill was first considered. I remember that those submitters appeared via teleconference and I can tell members that they were particularly upset. The safety, health and management requirements in this bill are proposed to be introduced for opal and gemstone miners with five to 10 workers. There will still be the exemption for those miners who have fewer than five to 10 workers. The government believes that these requirements reduce fatalities. At this stage, in this area there are not many. The government also believes that these requirements will improve the health and safety of these mines.

Sometimes the operation of these mines is a hobby for people. The current exemption remains for opal and gemstone miners with four or fewer workers. The problem is that the bill does not provide a clear definition of 'worker' in those mines. Family members might be working those opal mines. If the son or daughter of someone who has such a lease goes out and does a bit of prospecting for opals, are they considered to be a worker?

We are told that the Mines Inspectorate will continue to provide education and guidance about the risk management for the opal and gemstone miners with four or fewer workers. That is going to be interesting, because it is a four-hour round trip for the Mines Inspectorate to go from Quilpie, where they are based, to Yowah. The Mines Inspectorate is going to find it fairly tedious to continue to provide that education and guidance. Another significant challenge for the Mines Inspectorate is that a lot of these miners do not live in Queensland. They live in the southern states. They are going to be very hard to locate and, because they are not residents of Queensland, they are going to be even more difficult to communicate with.

I note that the bill has recognised that small scale opal and gemstone miners—those who have four or fewer workers—may not have the administrative capability to set up the systems. I can tell the government that they certainly do not because, for some of them, opal and gemstone mining is a hobby. I know some people who might have several leases. They are working a day job, or they are working on their property. We were advised that, to assist these people, the Mines Inspectorate will provide resources. I am not sure how they are going to get those resources to some of those opal and gemstone miners when they live in Melbourne, Adelaide and or other such places down south. We are told that the template to assist them will be simple. Is it going to be one page, or two pages, or 10 pages long? To my mind, 'simple' would be one page but, knowing the government, I think it will probably make sure the template extends a bit longer than that.

The industry associations will be used to implement these new health and safety requirements for those opal and gemstone miners who have five to 10 workers. I have a few of those opal and gemstone miner associations and organisations in my electorate. I am going to be listening very carefully to them about how this legislation progresses. I do not believe that we need to increase that paperwork and administrative burden on those very small opal and gemstone miners.

I now turn to the issue of double jeopardy, which was raised by the Queensland Resources Council. When the bill was considered by the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, in its submissions the Queensland Resources Council raised concerns about the how the bill was constructed in that it allows for a corporation to be prosecuted for an offence and found not guilty and then have a civil penalty imposed for the same alleged contravention. The committee looked at that issue. The departmental officers provided some advice in relation to it. They gave some assurances but, when I went back to the submission of the Queensland Resources Council, I noted that the Queensland Resources Council was aware of the assurances from the department. One was a public interest test. We know how well some of those public interest tests have gone for local government and how the government had to introduce Ipswich City Council-specific legislation.

The Queensland Resources Council suggested that it would be far better to have a legislative fix to put the matter of double jeopardy well beyond any doubt. If this proposal is to continue—and I have been through the submission of the Queensland Resources Council—we need to remove that prospect of double jeopardy. I would appreciate it if the minister would address those concerns of the Queensland Resources Council in his reply, because this is the second time the Queensland Resources Council has raised concerns about the potential for double jeopardy where a civil penalty has been imposed for a prosecution that has been unsuccessful. It is a particularly important issue for the resources industry in Queensland.

Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.05 pm): I rise to speak to the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018. As a pivotal member of the crossbench on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, I was excited to put this bill through its paces. I approached this bill like I do most things: with common sense and using the knowledge I have about the subject to make a clear and informed decision. This was my first committee business that required travel and the experience was great. I thank the chair, the member for Nudgee, for always keeping the committee on an even keel; the deputy chair, the member for Currumbin, for her guidance and experience; and the members for Cairns, Pumicestone and Maryborough for their valued input.

As a filter fabricator by trade who spent 10 years in mining and construction, I was keen to see how my experience could help decipher this legislation and be an aid in asking the right questions to the witnesses who came before the committee at the public hearings. The committee travelled as far as Mount Isa and Moranbah. When it came to the education of the committee on this bill, no stone was left unturned. The amendments contained in the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill are necessary as they provide better safety and conditions for mineworkers.

I enjoyed being back in Mount Isa. It was brilliant to see a city that was built on the wealth of minerals. Many agree that mining is the industry that has built this nation. I thank Glencore for inviting the committee in and showing us around its hard rock mining operation. I felt like I should have brought my tools along with me and swung some spanners to see if I still had it. I believe it was very important for the other committee members to be given a chance to understand Glencore's mining operations and practices.

The committee's next stop was Moranbah, where we were invited to Anglo American's coalmining operations. Unlike some of the committee members, I did not get a chance to go underground. I opted not to, as spending four years of my working life working underground was enough for me.

An honourable member: Fair enough.

Mr DAMETTO: Hear, hear! That day, while I was on the surface of that mine, I had the opportunity to have a look at the work that Anglo American is putting into other safety systems. They use an iPad style of equipment to take photos of safety issues so that they can report them straight back to the mine manager and the SSE as well as looking at ways to reduce the amount of time people have to spend underground.

This was my first visit to an underground coalmine and I was impressed. My previous experience in mining has been in hard rock mining in the north-west minerals province and in Western Australia on iron ore mine sites. I always thought that coalmining was a dirty and unsightly operation. When I was looking to get into the mining industry, the fear of black lung was quite prominent. A lot of our forefathers as well as people today have fallen victim to black lung. The advancement of new mining technologies and longwall mining technology at the Anglo American mine meant that the plant was quite clean. The methodology used to mine the longwall was quite mechanised and less intrusive than it would have been with a pick and shovel. Compared to other mine sites that I have worked on, I found the plant quite clean. The plant was no dirtier than, say, a mine site that I had worked on in the past that mined zinc, lead, copper, or gold. The flora and fauna around the mine site was in abundance.

Anglo American should be commended for the work that it is doing and definitely need to sell its story a lot better. I believe the coalmining industry has been dealt an unfair hand when talked down about by green groups. Coalminers in Australia should be not vilified as environmental vandals especially when they are working to strict safety and environmental conditions. Clean Australian coking coal is fetching a premium price on the world market at the moment. It is predominantly used for making steel. I have not heard one person in this House say that they do not want another steel building, steel railway line or a steel car.

This bill sets out to increase safety on mine sites and align a mine site inspector's ability to enter the workplace with workplace health and safety inspectors on other construction sites. It also increases penalties to mine site managers and SSEs in a bid to create a safer workplace for all. This bill will address the need to appoint accredited ventilation officers with the correct competencies to manage ventilation on a mine site. Correctly installed and managed ventilation systems on a mine site are a lifeline for underground workers. If the clean air is cut off and the extraction of contaminated air is stopped, it would not be long until there is a tragedy on a mine site. It is as important as an oxygen tank is to a scuba driver working or enjoying time under the water. Without clean air a catastrophic event is just a step away.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Hinchinbrook, I will stop you there. Under the provisions of the resolution agreed to by the House on 30 October 2018, and the three hours for consideration of the bill having expired. I will now put all remaining questions.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Question put—That clauses 1 to 99, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 99, as read, agreed to.

Mr LAST: Did you call one to nine?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I am afraid it is closed.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 93).

Second Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.12 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced on 15 February 2018 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill. I am pleased to inform the House that on 15 March 2018 the committee tabled report No. 4 and made one recommendation: that the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 be passed.

In my explanatory speech on introduction of the bill I noted the bill replicates the content of the lapsed Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The committee, in their report, refer to the work of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of the 55th Parliament, being the previous committee, and its consideration of the lapsed bill and note that their report is based on the evidence gathered by the previous committee. I would also like to thank the previous committee for its work and the organisations that took the time to make submissions on and attend the public hearing in 2017 for the lapsed bill. I welcome the recommendation of the committee that the bill be passed. I do note the statement of reservation from the non-government members of the previous committee in the 2017 report which is why I will comment on some of the concerns raised by stakeholders in 2017 in relation to certain provisions in the lapsed bill throughout my contribution today.

Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the broadcasting of the ABC's *Four Corners* program *Moonlight State* which brought serious allegations about police corruption and misconduct to the attention of ordinary Queenslanders. This was a watershed moment in Queensland's history. The day after the *Four Corners* program, acting premier Bill Gunn announced a Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct, commonly known as the Fitzgerald inquiry. Initially expected to last about six weeks, the inquiry spent almost two years conducting a comprehensive investigation of long-term systemic political corruption and abuse of power in Queensland.

The Fitzgerald inquiry changed the policing and political landscape in Queensland and across Australia. It made over 100 recommendations covering the establishment of the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission and the Criminal Justice Commission and reform of the Queensland Police Service. Today marks another step in the fight against corruption and ensuring that the Crime and Corruption Commission is appropriately equipped so that it may continuously improve the integrity of, and reduce the incidence of corruption in, the public sector.

The bill before the House delivers on the government's 2015 election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. It is the product of an extensive period of public consultation with stakeholders as to the appropriateness of the current definition of 'corrupt conduct'. While there was general support for the scope of the current definition of 'corrupt conduct', in responding to the feedback received, the bill proposes a series of changes to the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in section 15 of the Crime and Corruption Act.

Firstly, the bill simplifies the existing definition of 'corrupt conduct' under section 15(1) by removing the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person. As the commission noted in its submission to the previous committee, the omission of this element removes an unnecessary layer of complexity from the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. The bill also removes the list of criminal offences in section 15(2). This subsection is merely a list of conduct which may constitute corrupt conduct if it satisfies the elements of subsection 15(1), but is not necessarily conclusive of corrupt conduct. Some of the conduct listed, for example sedition, grievous bodily harm and murder, have no immediate association with general concepts of corruption and would not of themselves constitute corrupt conduct unless the elements of section 15(1) are satisfied. As the commission noted in its testimony to the previous committee, section 15(2) has not really assisted in the interpretation and assessment of corrupt conduct and it was always a bit of an oddity that the long list of offences was included.

Secondly, the bill inserts a new section 15(2) with the effect of extending the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to capture the conduct of people outside the public sector that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. This extended definition is limited to the following types of conduct which would, if proved, be a criminal offence or a disciplinary breach providing reasonable grounds for terminating a person's services: collusive tendering; certain frauds relating to the application for a licence, permit or other authority; dishonestly obtaining or helping someone to dishonestly obtain a benefit from the payment of application of public funds or the disposition of state assets; evading a state tax, levy or duty or otherwise causing the loss of state revenue; and fraudulently obtaining or retaining an appointment within a unit of public administration. The amendment is generally consistent with changes made in New South Wales and Victoria. This enlarged definition is appropriate given the increasing degree of outsourcing and public-private partnerships in the delivery of government services. The boundaries of government service delivery are evolving in the 21st century and this new definition recognises the need for the commission to remain agile and alert to this changing environment so that it can continue to fulfil its overriding responsibility to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector. That changing environment includes increasingly sophisticated challenges that must be addressed.

I now turn to the concerns that the Queensland Law Society raised during the previous committee process, specifically that the new definition of 'corrupt conduct' is too broad. The committee in its report noted the differing views of stakeholders but was satisfied of the response provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to the previous committee in relation to these concerns. First, I want to expel the myth that the commission does not currently investigate the conduct of private citizens. This is simply not true.

Currently, section 15(1) recognises that the commission may investigate the conduct of private citizens that adversely affects, or could adversely affect, directly or indirectly, the performance of functions or the exercise of powers of a unit of public administration or a person holding an appointment. For example, if a private individual was to bribe a public official for favourable treatment and this influenced a decision taken by that official in relation to the awarding of a contract, this conduct of the private individual would be captured by section 15(1) and be within the jurisdiction of the commission.

Section 15(1) is currently limited to situations in which the holder of an appointment acts dishonestly or improperly. A new section 15(2) will enable the commission to investigate allegations of corrupt conduct that affects the way in which a unit of public administration performs its functions regardless of whether it is the result of dishonest conduct by a holder of an appointment. The requirements in new section 15(2) are cumulative. Essentially, it is conduct that: impairs, or could impair, public confidence in public administration; involves or could involve the conduct included in an exhaustive list of examples, such as collusive tendering or frauds relating to obtaining licences or permits; and would, if proved, be a criminal offence or be a disciplinary breach providing reasonable grounds for termination of employment. This is a significant threshold.

By way of example, a person who submits false qualifications for an appointment in a unit of public administration in a one-off situation is unlikely to be captured by section 15(2). However, if, over a period of many years, an individual creates and uses false academic qualifications for the purpose of applying for and obtaining employment across a number of units of public administration, this conduct may impair public confidence in public sector recruitment processes and, therefore, be captured by section 15(2).

Equally, the new definition will empower the commission to investigate the conduct of an employee of a private training company who accepts bribes from individuals with links to organised crime to provide qualifications to unqualified people so they could obtain government issued licences. In this situation, the conduct of the private employee has resulted in a government agency issuing licences in good faith to unqualified people and, as a result, undermines the overall integrity in the agency's licensing process. It is appropriate, and the people of Queensland would expect, that the commission has the ability to address this type of corruption.

I note that the changes to the definition of 'corrupt conduct' will commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation. While it is not anticipated that there will be a need for a long implementation lead-in time, a methodical rollout will enable units of public administration and the commission to discuss the impacts of the definitional changes, including the appropriate assessment of how and when a matter impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. This, in turn, will allow units of public administration to educate and build capacity among their employees to identify and deal with the new category of corrupt conduct. This approach will also minimise the potential for a large number of unnecessary notifications to be made by units of public administration to the commission once the changes commence. Therefore, on the whole, the new definition of 'corrupt conduct' is justified in its scope and application.

I note that if a person considered the commission was conducting a corrupt conduct investigation unfairly, which includes grounds that no investigation is warranted or that the commission does not have jurisdiction, the person may, under section 332 of the Crime and Corruption Act, seek judicial review before the Supreme Court. The commission will also be able to assess the effects of the new definition to determine whether it has resulted in any unintended consequences through its monitoring role under section 48 of the Crime and Corruption Act, which includes the ability to review or audit the way a public official has dealt with corrupt conduct. I also note that, in accordance with the most recent review of the operations of the commission, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and its successors have committed to continue to monitor whether the definition of 'corrupt conduct' is inhibiting the commission from investigating any conduct that ought to be subject to its jurisdiction.

More broadly, the bill includes amendments that will expand the commission's investigatory jurisdiction to allow the commission to investigate and otherwise deal with conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct; and conduct connected with corrupt conduct. The commission will be able to investigate this conduct, as well as corrupt conduct, that may have happened, may be

happening or may happen. The change will enable the commission to investigate and proactively address corruption risks and will be enlivened in a number of ways, including: by way of a complaint; by the commission on its own initiative; or through a referral of a matter by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, with bipartisan support.

Beyond the changes to the commission's corruption functions, the bill also implements recommendations from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, and report No. 99, *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. In delivering on the government's response to these reports, the bill includes a number of amendments that will improve the operations of the commission. These include: lengthening the time frame for the commission or a prescribed person to seek QCAT review of a reviewable decision from 14 to 28 days; streamlining the process that the commission must follow to commence disciplinary proceedings against current and former public sector employees, in both its original or review jurisdiction; addressing anomalies in relation to post-separation disciplinary proceedings so that the commission and other public sector entities may transfer a disciplinary finding or delegate the authority to make a disciplinary finding to one another when an officer changes employment; allowing the commission and public sector entities to share information relating to the disciplinary history of current and former commission officers in prescribed circumstances; and improving civil liability protections for the commission, its officers and police service review commissioners.

The bill also inserts a new section 40A into the Crime and Corruption Act, which will require units of public administration to prepare and retain complete and accurate records of any decision not to notify the commission of an allegation of corrupt conduct. This will enable the commission to perform its corruption monitoring role for corrupt conduct under section 48 more effectively. As the commission noted in its submission to the committee, this requirement 'promotes visibility of public administration decision making that is essential to ... a robust integrity system that serves the people of Queensland'.

I now turn to clause 18 of the bill, which proposes amendments to section 197 of the Crime and Corruption Act, which deals with information disclosed or produced under compulsion. Currently, section 197 abrogates the privilege against self-incrimination and states that an individual who is appearing before a commission hearing is unable to claim this privilege and must answer the question put to them or produce the document, thing or statement that is requested.

Section 197(2) provides a direct use immunity where the elements of section 197(1) have been satisfied and have not otherwise been expressly excluded. This protects against the direct use of a person's answer, document, thing or statement which was provided under compulsion in a later proceeding. This existing protection is not affected by the amendment in the bill and will remain.

The amendment in the bill makes clear that the commission may make 'derivative use' of an answer, document, thing or statement disclosed by a person during a coercive hearing to gain other evidence for use in subsequent proceedings. Currently, the act is silent as to derivative use. The amendment to section 197 is generally consistent with reforms in Victoria and the Commonwealth in which it was made clear that the fact that material is derivative evidence does not prevent it from being admissible against the person in subsequent proceedings.

The Queensland Law Society, in their submission to the previous committee, raised some concerns regarding this amendment. While I acknowledge and respect the views of the Queensland Law Society, I note that their opposition to derivative use is borne out of a fundamental philosophical objection to this type of use being made.

However, the amendment to section 197 does no more than confirm the existing position that evidence of a compelled witness cannot be used directly against them in a civil, criminal or administrative proceeding, but it may be used indirectly or derivatively against them. It is also important to note that this amendment merely clarifies that the direct use immunity under section 197(2) does not prevent derivative evidence from being admissible in subsequent proceedings. The result of the amendment does not mean that such derivative evidence will be automatically admissible. The bill in no way affects or restricts a court's inherent jurisdiction to supervise and control its own processes and determine the admissibility of evidence in a proceeding.

Further, in a criminal proceeding the courts will continue to have the ability under section 130 of the Evidence Act 1977 to exclude evidence if satisfied that it would be unfair to the person charged to admit that evidence. Fundamentally, if the commission were unable to derive evidence from answers provided by individuals under compulsion, this would significantly undermine the effectiveness of the coercive powers under the Crime and Corruption Act and the commission's objective of combating and reducing the incidence of major crime and corruption in Queensland. As a result, this is an important clarifying amendment that reflects the existing law and practices employed by the commission.

Following a review of the disclosure provisions in the Crime and Corruption Act, in line with recommendation 21 of PCCC report No. 97, it was identified that the current disclosure regime is a complex mix of provisions which do not facilitate the efficient exchange of information and thereby inhibits the commission from working cooperatively with other entities. As a result, the bill replaces the existing disclosure regime with a single provision based on section 16 of the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988. This new provision will provide the commission with a broad power to disclose information to entities the commission considers appropriate, such as a unit of public administration, a law enforcement agency or other Queensland integrity bodies.

The Queensland Police Union of Employees in their submission to the previous committee raised concerns relating to the use of search warrants for the investigation of criminal offences being subsequently used to further complaints of misconduct. The Queensland Police Union of Employees contend that the amendments to section 60 of the Crime and Corruption Act implement recommendation 22 of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97. Recommendation 22 called on the government to amend sections 42 and 44 of the Crime and Corruption Act to ensure the Commissioner of Police or a public official may, subject to claims of privilege, use information regarding alleged corruption provided by the commission for the purpose of dealing with the alleged corruption, including the taking of disciplinary action.

In the government's response to recommendation 22, the government supported the intent of the recommendation, but noted further consideration was required as to the legislative amendments which would best achieve this result. This further work will occur at a later date and include targeted consultation with the commission, the Queensland Police Service, police unions and any other relevant agencies to determine the most appropriate way to achieve this policy intent. The bill before the House in no way implements recommendation 22.

The Crime and Corruption Act does not give public officials power to use evidence seized under the authority of a search warrant issued under the Police Powers and Responsibility Act 2000 or another act in disciplinary proceedings. This is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Flori v Commissioner of Police and another 2014 which prohibited the Queensland Police Service from using material it recovered under a criminal search warrant for purposes outside the prosecution of criminal offences. Justice Atkinson in that case concluded—

> The material obtained pursuant to the compulsion of a search warrant may only be used for the statutory purpose for which the warrant was granted, that is to obtain evidence of the commission of an offence.

The consolidation of the disclosure provisions in clauses 14, 15 and 16 of the bill in no way seeks to overturn the Flori decision.

Amendments contained in the bill also improve the disclosure regime of another of this state's key integrity bodies, the Queensland Ombudsman. The amendments to the Ombudsman Act 2001 will provide the Ombudsman with greater discretion to disclose information to Queensland and Commonwealth agencies when the Ombudsman considers they have a proper interest for the performance of their functions and liaise with the Commonwealth Ombudsman and state and territory equivalents, when appropriate. These amendments were expressly supported by the Ombudsman who recognised that they would assist his office in performing its role more effectively and in a way which reflects contemporary expectations that oversight bodies will collaborate to maximise their benefits to the community.

Finally, on 29 November 2016, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee tabled report No. 99 into a complaint by Mr Darren Hall. The bill gives effect to the government's support for recommendation 1 of that report by making it a legislative requirement for the commission to provide procedural fairness to persons who may be adversely affected by a commission report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly or published to the public under the act. This amendment was expressly supported by the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Police Union of Employees.

I also want to foreshadow that I will be proposing minor amendments to be moved in consideration in detail. These amendments are wholly a consequence of the recent commencement of the Public Service Regulation 2018 to replace the Public Service Regulation 2008, which was due to automatically expire on 1 September 2018. These amendments ensure the relevant provisions of the 2018 regulation are amended as intended by the bill.

Again, I would like to thank the commission as well as other key stakeholders for their consideration and cooperation during the development of this bill. I will close my contribution as I started, by reference to the Fitzgerald inquiry and the road Queensland has travelled in the last 30 years. The Fitzgerald inquiry and the ensuing accountability reforms, including the bill before the

House today, serve as a reminder of the vigilance needed to ensure our public institutions, and those who work within them, serve the interests of all Queenslanders not a select or privileged few. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.34 pm): I rise to address the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice on 15 February 2018 and reviewed by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. From the outset, I can say that the LNP will not be opposing this bill, although we will be raising concerns with elements of it, highlighted by the evidence given to the committee by key stakeholders both in submissions and at the public hearing to the previous committee.

As outlined in the explanatory notes to the bill, the key objectives are to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and implement recommendations of report No. 97 of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. The PCCC review was a statutory review into the operations of the Crime and Corruption Commission, published in the report on 30 June 2016. The PCCC review was wide ranging and covered all aspects of the operation of the CCC, including: the overall performance of the CCC; the jurisdiction, responsibilities, functions and powers of the CCC; the application by the CCC of the principles in performing its corruption function; the CCC's role in the investigation of major crime; the CCC's handling of complaints of corruption; and the overriding responsibility to promote public confidence in the integrity of units of public administration.

The PCCC conducted public hearings and received submissions as part of their review, which produced a 121-page report with 29 recommendations. The explanatory notes detail that the bill implements the 2016 PCCC report by: lengthening the time frame for parties to seek a QCAT review of a reviewable decision; streamlining the process which must be undertaken when the commission commences disciplinary procedures against public sector employees; simplifying disclosure provisions so that the commission may work cooperatively with other relevant entities; addressing anomalies in relation to post-separation disciplinary proceedings; allowing the commission and public sector departments as well as the QPS to share information relating to the disciplinary history of current and former commission officers in prescribed circumstances; improving civil liability protections for the commission, its officers and Police Service review commissioners; providing for the chairperson of the commission to be the chair of the Crime Reference Committee and enabling the role to be delegated to the senior executive officer; removing the power for the commission to refer corruption investigation briefs to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for the purposes of considering prosecution proceedings; providing express authorisation for the derivative use of compelled evidence obtained under the CCC Act; and requiring UPA, units of public administration, to keep appropriate records in relation to any decision not to notify the commission of an allegation of corrupt conduct.

I also note the Attorney-General's amendments that will be considered during consideration in detail which omit certain clauses, including clauses 94 to 96. These amendments occurred as a consequence of the commencement of the Public Service Regulation 2018. The opposition will not be opposing those amendments.

The Queensland Law Society noted in their submission to the previous Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that they had concerns with the new definition of 'corrupt conduct'. They noted in their submission—

> The society is supportive of the inclusion of collusive tendering in the definition of corrupt conduct (proposed section 15(2)(b)(i) of the Act).
>
> We understand the need for the Commission to have access to extensive powers in order to effect its functions. However, we do not consider these powers should be open-ended and limitless. The definition as drafted is exceptionally broad and may be open to being construed too broadly. As such, it is our view that the jurisdiction of the Commission should be restricted to corruption that:
>
> - involves or affects a Queensland public official or public authority
> - is deliberate or intentional (as opposed to negligence or mistake)
> - is a criminal offence, or a disciplinary offence, or constitute reasonable grounds for dismissing or otherwise terminating the services of a public official, or in the case of a member of the Queensland Parliament or local government councillor, a substantial breach of an applicable code of conduct.

As outlined in the committee report as part of the background to the existing definition of 'corrupt conduct', section 15 of the act defines 'corrupt conduct' as adversely affecting the performance or exercise of power of a unit of public administration or an appointed person in circumstances where the conduct results in performance or exercise of power in a way that is not honest or impartial; involves a knowing or reckless breach of the trust placed in an appointed person; involves a misuse of information

or material; is engaged in for the purpose of providing a benefit or causing a detriment to a person; and would be a criminal offence or a ground for termination of employment. Further, conduct that involves abuse of public office, bribery, extortion, secret commissions, fraud, stealing, forgery, perverting the course of justice, electoral donation offences, loss of state revenue, sedition, homicide, assault, prostitution, illegal drug trafficking and illegal gambling are listed in the act as examples of what could constitute corrupt conduct.

The bill proposes to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to include conduct that impairs, or could impair, confidence in public administration in circumstances where the conduct would be a criminal offence or a ground for termination of employment and involves, or could involve, collusive tendering; fraud regarding an application for an authority associated with protecting health or safety, the environment, or the state's natural, cultural, mining or energy resources; dishonestly obtaining, or helping someone to dishonestly obtain, a benefit from the payment of public funds or the disposition of assets; evading a tax, levy or duty, or fraudulently causing a loss of revenue; or fraudulently obtaining or retaining an appointment.

QUT also raised concerns with the bill's intention to simplify the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and found that no such confusion was occurring between public sector agencies. They stated in their submission—

The explanatory notes to the Bill state on page 3 that ' ... the Bill simplifies the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing (i) the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person under section 15(1)(c) because this element has caused confusion among public sector agencies'.

QUT has found no such confusion with this aspect of the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and has, in fact, found its inclusion helpful in considering allegations of corrupt conduct. QUT, therefore, does not see a need for this to be removed.

The Australia Institute also submitted to the committee that the proposed amendment in the bill 'contradicts the stated aim of the ... bill to "widen the definition of corrupt conduct"' and would instead 'limit' the definition.

While we will not be opposing these changes, we do note the concerns raised by these key stakeholders. It is fundamentally important that the chief corruption-fighting body in Queensland, the CCC, is not distracted from its core task and concerns have been raised about this new definition of 'corrupt conduct' being too broad. That was the genesis of the Callinan-Aroney recommendations that the operational focus of the CCC should be on investigating serious cases of corrupt conduct.

It is a definition of 'corrupt conduct' that the Labor Party should know well. It was appropriate that the Attorney-General talked briefly of the 30-year anniversary of the Fitzgerald report being handed down. I note that this morning in question time the Premier also noted he Fitzgerald report in answer to a question. It was misstated, however, in that the question, as I recall, related to the allocation of police resources. The allocation of police resources is a far cry from the concern that the Fitzgerald report actually had which was the potential for ministerial direction of police matters, police affairs.

Mr Lister: It is not what Fitzgerald was saying at all.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. There is a very grave difference, and it is further proof that the government do not fully appreciate the Fitzgerald report.

Thirty years is a good time frame in which to analyse these matters. For 25 of the last 30 years the Labor government have been in power in Queensland. On this side of the House we are regularly subjected to hectoring from the government in respect of the Fitzgerald report. I think on this the government lacks some integrity that should be raised in a debate of this nature. It is not good enough for the government to constantly hector the opposition on this matter when, frankly, over the last 30 years we have seen a culture grow of corruption, nepotism and malfeasance.

If we look back at the 25 of the last 30 years when the Labor government have been in power, in 1995 Anna Bligh, as a newly elected member of the Queensland parliament, mentioned one of her campaign workers Di Fingleton. Three years later—against every recommendation, against every thought of the Fitzgerald inquiry—Di Fingleton was appointed Chief Magistrate in Queensland in contravention of the process set down by the Fitzgerald report. In 1999 Labor MP Bill D'Arcy was charged with multiple sex offences. Before Bill D'Arcy was charged, the then premier, Peter Beattie, signed off on his superannuation entitlements, not forgetting that earlier in 1992 Keith Wright was convicted of serious child sexual offences.

By 2000 the Shepherdson inquiry brought about the resignation of the then Labor deputy premier, Jim Elder. Labor MP at the time Mike Kaiser admitted to electoral fraud. Anna Bligh would later appoint Mike Kaiser as her chief of staff and gave him a $100,000 bonus on the basis that he could be a mentor to other ministerial staff. Another outcome of the Shepherdson inquiry was that Paul Lucas was found to be an opportunistic—

Mr Stevens: Sixteen people in total.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Mr Paul Lucas, who went on to be deputy premier under Anna Bligh, was found to have an opportunistic enrolment at an address. As I said, he would go on to become deputy premier.

In 2005 how could we forget Gordon Nuttall, who went on to face five charges of corruption and perjury and was convicted in 2010. Let us never forget that it was Anna Bligh who seconded a special motion of state parliament exonerating Gordon Nuttall. As I recall, parliament was specially reconvened. What we witnessed there was minister after minister after minister get up and defend Mr Nuttall. As we recall, Mr Nuttall was facing criminal charges over lying. Let us not forget the ministers who got up to back Mr Nuttall.

Mr Hart: Is it open and transparent when they do that? I'm not sure it is.

Mr JANETZKI: There was a complete lack of openness and transparency. Let us not forget the ministers who got up to defend Mr Nuttall—Beattie, Bligh, Schwarten, Spence. They were the ministers who got up to defend Gordon Nuttall at a specially reconvened session of parliament to exonerate Mr Gordon Nuttall.

In 2006 the Labor government voted for laws that made it lawful to lie in parliament. How can this government ever lecture the opposition in respect of the Fitzgerald report with this track record over the last 30 years? It continues.

In 2007 a former Labor cabinet colleague of Anna Bligh, Merri Rose, was jailed for attempted blackmail. Later, in October 2007, Pat Purcell, the then member for Bulimba, was charged with assault. The minister later admitted to the assault and he lied about that as well. In October that year, Anna Bligh appointed her husband to a senior position—again, completely in contravention of the corruption-fighting Fitzgerald report that said that every senior position in the Public Service should be subject to public advertising.

In 2008—we have moved on from 2007; there is a long, long list—the Labor government appointed—would you believe it?—Peter Beattie to trade commissioner, again without any public advertising of a senior Public Service position, in clear contravention of the Fitzgerald report and clear contravention of the recommendations for transparent and accountable government in Queensland.

In 2009 it was revealed that members of the Queensland Labor Party were pocketing hundreds of thousands of dollars in so-called success fees for being awarded major Public Service contracts. There was a wide variety of people caught up in these success fees. By July 2009 when the current Premier was in Anna Bligh's cabinet—

Mr Hart: When she sold QR.

Mr JANETZKI:—I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh—when all the assets were sold, $21 billion of them, Tony Fitzgerald, the author of the report which the government constantly refers to, said this about the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments: Access can now be purchased, patronage is dispensed, mates and supporters are appointed and retired politicians exploit their political connections to obtain 'success fees' for deals between business and government. That is a very long history of conduct right across Labor governments.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to the present now.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! There has been a lot of chatter. I know there are some things that might be a little antagonistic, but the member for Toowoomba South has the call.

Mr JANETZKI: Let us not forget that this bill was originally introduced in its first iteration on 23 March 2017. We all know what happened throughout 2017: mangocube started causing a problem for the government. This bill has languished on the *Notice Paper*. Of course there was an election in between, but for 18 months this bill has been sitting on the *Notice Paper*. I will come to the member for

Miller shortly, but I also want to acknowledge a couple of other interesting incidents that are occurring today. It is not just over the last 30 years. I expect other members of the opposition will speak about this, but who could ever forget Ipswich? There is a vast array of issues that could be canvassed, but I do not intend to go too much further there.

This bill applies to a whole range of parties, and I could not speak to the bill without mentioning the CFMEU. Let us not forget what a Federal Court judge has found about the CFMEU. I do not need to make anything up. I think it was Federal Court Justice Jessup who said that it was the worst recidivist in common law history. They have an egregious record of repeated and wilful contraventions. This is the company that the Labor Party keeps which determines preselections and which pushes up donations. It is not just these aspects of the CFMEU. Over the last few years there has been a range of unlawful conduct that has been established—

Ms Leahy: And funding.

Mr JANETZKI: And funding—across building sites in South-East Queensland. We have findings of unlawful conduct on building sites at Brisbane Airport, Pacific Fair, Gold Coast Hilton and QUT—even Brisbane Common Ground, which is a housing project for low-income earners. In the last 18 months the CFMEU has been fined $2.4 million. This is the company that the government keeps.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: And a range of appointments. We have $2.4 million in fines in 10 matters that have been brought. If I have raised anything, it is the culture of Labor Party politicians over the last 30 years—the disdain that they have for the Fitzgerald report. It is completely disregarded by the Labor government when it suits them, but when it doesn't they refer to it.

I should make a couple of comments now about the member for Miller. The CCC investigated and made some comments—very foolish is what the CCC has said about the member for Miller. We have seen the deletion of an email account at the commencement of an RTI request. What we have seen dribbling out over the last couple of weeks—and there have been more this week—are emails which have truly shown who runs the Labor Party and the depths to which they will go and the methods they will use. We have seen a private email channel from union officials through email accounts that were sought to be deleted by a minister of the Crown.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been very patient but I rise on relevance. This is not about corrupt conduct. He is talking about matters that have been before the CCC. No corrupt conduct has been found. How about the member comes back to the bill? He has had 20 minutes to do it.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, I have had a look at the speaking list and I cannot see your name. If you have something to say, I suggest you put your name on it. Member for Toowoomba South, you have drifted fairly broadly so please focus on the clauses in the bill.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will return to the CCC annual report, because I believe the culture of openness and transparency in government starts at the top. With this Labor government, I believe that the fish rots from the head, whether that be the member for Miller. But I will move on because I understand the interjection.

The CCC report that was released on Black Friday revealed a couple of interesting features. Fish rot from the head. We have seen a sharp increase in corruption complaints in the last year. In fact, the number of corruption hearing days has more than doubled in the last year while corruption allegations have increased by 45 per cent in the last two years. I have spoken about this in the House before, but we see this in the report from the Queensland Ombudsman which recently outlined a range of reported wrongdoing in the public sector. In the 2016-17 report of the Queensland Ombudsman, reported wrongdoing in the public sector has skyrocketed. There is no other word for it. It is up 36 per cent. In 2016-17 reported complaints have increased by 36 per cent. Of greatest concern is that of 798 public interest disclosures—that is, reported wrongdoing in the public sector—more than half of them, 53 per cent, was about corrupt conduct.

What we see over 30 years is a culture of conduct that shows the very heart of the Labor Party, and as I have gone through the issues over those 25 of 30 years in government we have seen that. Now we see it flowing through to the Queensland Ombudsman's report. It is not just Labor Party politicians; it is not just the CFMEU. The culture that is being led by the government is now filtering down. There are significant concerns here and we need to take them seriously.

As I mentioned earlier, we will not be opposing the new definition but we do note the concerns of the QLS and trust that the CCC will maintain its core focus on fighting major crime and corruption in Queensland. The other issue we want to raise as part of the debate relates to the derivative use of compelled evidence and the misuse of search warrants and compulsive powers. As noted in their submission to the committee, clause 18 of the bill seeks to amend section 197 of the act to provide express authorisation for the derivative use of compelled evidence obtained under the act.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

MOTION

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.59 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the health minister for his policy failures and wrong priorities, including:

(a) changing the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, without speaking to the Cilento family beforehand, rather than improving health services for our sickest kids;

(b) failing to publicly explain the 'tissue bank' matter where cancerous tissue was given to four children, and the release of the mental health reports relating to the death of Manmeet Sharma;

(c) failing to accept Westminster ministerial responsibility and seeking to divert blame to his department for an 'error of judgement made at middle management level' when the Gold Coast HHS tried to outsource services provided to senior residents under the Commonwealth Home Support Program;

(d) labelling the rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record an 'incredible success' despite doctors losing confidence, regular system outages and a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation;

(e) breaking a pre-election commitment by delaying a new mental health facility in Mackay by one year;

(f) only providing an additional six beds for the Ipswich Hospital which is still more than four years away and well behind forecasted requirements;

(g) overseeing ambulance ramping levels at 25 per cent that has continued to increase;

(h) blaming a typo in a government fact sheet for delays to stage 2 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital;

(i) breaking an election commitment by delaying the rollout of the new ice rehabilitation facility in Rockhampton;

(j) cutting funding to the IDEAS van; and

(k) ongoing threats to regional maternity services.

What is quite clear is that the health minister is not up to the job and he should be sacked. This is a minister who hides behind bureaucrats when he does not want to address an issue, he blames bureaucrats when the issue is too hot to handle and he needs a scapegoat, he regularly goes missing in action to avoid any responsibility and accountability, and he refuses to front up when the tough questions are asked of him.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Training and Skills Development, please direct your comments through the chair.

Ms BATES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The member for Waterford is interjecting but is not in her own seat. It goes from bad to worse to just plain embarrassing. Queenslanders have had a bellyful of his 'dog ate my homework' excuses. He is the Minister for Health on $330,000 a year and the buck stops with him. The minister's list of policy failures is mounting and he has not even been in the job for a year. In fact there are so many failures he has presided over but the word limit of this motion restricted my ability to list more.

Members, this is a serious issue. The Health portfolio is the biggest portfolio in the budget. Despite that, we have a public health system lurching from crisis to crisis. Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health system and the Palaszczuk government is not delivering. The health minister's policy failures and twisted priorities are a stark reminder that the public health system under Labor is lurching back to the bad old days under Anna Bligh.

Everyone still remembers the fake Tahitian prince ripping millions off the taxpayer and the $1.25 billion Health payroll debacle that still continues on after almost a decade—where nurses are still being harassed for overpayments as small as $50. As a nurse, I know how important it is to make sure our front-line staff are supported with the resources they need. Unlike the health minister and the Minister for Education, I have worked in EDs, operating theatres, surgical wards and medical wards. Unlike our health minister, who is a pretend doctor—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Industrial Relations, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms BATES: Unlike our health minister, who is a pretend doctor, I am not a pretend nurse. The LNP had record health budgets as well, but we actually improved patient care for Queenslanders. The latest Queensland Health hospital performance data shows that our elective surgery wait times are blowing out under Labor yet again. Our emergency departments are bursting at the seams and ambulance ramping continues to increase. Fewer patients are being seen within clinically recommended time frames, putting their health and their recovery at risk. Ambulance ramping continues to increase. It is now up to 25 per cent across the state, and in some hospitals it is double.

We will have a lot more to say when it comes to the bungled rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record system, which has all the hallmarks of another Health payroll debacle and, worse still, could impact on patient care. Our hospitals are under immense pressure. We only have to look at the government's own statistics. These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. It is your mother, or your son, or your close family friend. It is time for the Premier and the health minister to stop playing politics and start putting patients first. The LNP actually focused on improving patient care. We ended Labor's monolithic and centralised control of Queensland Health by creating 16 local hospital and health boards.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Training and Skills Development! Pause the clock. All members, it is not acceptable to interject across the chamber yelling 'you' at other members. That is personal. If you wish to take the call, please speak in the debate. Other than that, cease these personal interjections.

Ms BATES: We doubled the subsidy to help patients travel to our hospitals, helping rural and regional Queenslanders get access to the services they needed. We reopened regional maternity services that were actually shut down by the previous Bligh Labor government. We appointed the state's first-ever Mental Health Commissioner and ensured the new Mental Health Commission received the resources they needed. We delivered major improvements to surgery waiting times. The LNP's record investment in Queensland Health meant similar improvements in emergency departments. Ambulance ramping reduced under the LNP and we cleared Labor's long-wait public dental list.

The health of Queenslanders is too important to risk a do-nothing health minister clearly out of his depth, not across his brief and not up to the job. The minister likes to trot out the glib political lines and play political blame games. He should just do his job. It is quite clear the health minister is not up to it. His policy failures are mounting. His priorities are twisted, with the extraordinary decision to rename the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. The health minister is not up to the job. It is time the Premier showed some leadership on health and sacked her Dr Dolittle incompetent minister—

Dr Miles: Mr Speaker—

Ms BATES:—and I commend the motion to the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please do not rise to your feet while the member still has time on the clock. It was disrespectful to the member who had the call.

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): The member for Mudgeeraba must have been up all night googling news stories to get her feeble list together for this motion, and even then she could only get to (k). Those opposite only seem able to understand alphabetised lists. It is like they are writing for BuzzFeed. It turns out though that the Palaszczuk government has a whole alphabet of achievements to stand up against the member for Mudgeeraba's (a) to (k) of complaints.

A: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, where the first has been appointed on Cape York Peninsula and more are rolling out across North Queensland. B: Bailey Henderson, the site for a brand-new Toowoomba Hospital. C: the Commonwealth Games, where our ambos and health staff were the real stars. D: dialysis, where we are investing $20 million to enhance renal services in North Queensland.

E: we are expanding aeromedical services in Central Queensland, with the CQ Rescue Helicopter Service in Mackay now staffed to provide 24/7 medical coverage. F: we have new foot clinics so Queenslanders with diabetes will receive treatment earlier, saving them from amputation. G: we are growing the use of medicinal cannabis, with 10 additional places being made available for the trial at Children's Health Queensland.

H: hospitals, where we are investing in major redevelopments at Logan, Caboolture, Ipswich, Nambour, Redcliffe, Kingaroy, Atherton and Roma. I: the $100 million ice strategy to reduce the impact of ice on Queensland families and communities. J: Julia Creek Hospital, with the $8.4 million replacement of the multipurpose health facility at Julia Creek—just one of 140 remote and rural health facilities.

Government members: K!

Dr MILES: K: we are keeping up with demand, investing half a billion dollars in the Specialist Outpatient Strategy.

Government members: L!

Dr MILES: L: we are listening. We listened to the 900 doctors who petitioned to change the name of the children's hospital.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There are members who are not in their own seats and they are interjecting. I ask members to return to their seats if they wish to do so. I know this is a robust debate but I am having difficulty hearing some of the points made by the minister, which means Hansard is also having difficulty.

Dr MILES: We listened to the 900 doctors who petitioned to change the name of the children's hospital. We listened to the board, we listened to the hospital foundation and we listened to the 39,000 Queenslanders who had their say. M: we are investing $350 million in statewide mental health, alcohol and other drug services. N: nurses and midwives, where instead of sacking nurses, like the LNP government did, we have employed 6,070 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives. O: we have opened the PA's new patient access coordination hub which provides a bird's-eye view of demand, patient flow and bed capacity, making patients' visits smoother and faster.

P: we delivered a long overdue pay rise to our hardworking ambulance officers and paramedics, bringing them into line with their counterparts in the rest of the country. Q: the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rheumatic Heart Disease Action Plan. R: a record Health budget, more than $18.3 million. S: sexual and reproductive health including passing historic laws to allow women to control their reproductive health.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, please resume your seat. Deputy Premier, can you please return to your own seat if you wish to interject.

Dr MILES: T: for the Torres Strait Islands—primary healthcare centres on five islands will get a $14.7 million investment. U: universities went smoke free, the largest ever voluntary smoke-free initiative, saving 400,000 students and staff from passive smoke. V: vaccinations—from free flu vaccines for children under 5 to home visit immunisation clinics. W: winter beds. X: more X-ray facilities. Y: youth mental health—fixing the mistakes of the Newman government in closing the Barrett Adolescent Centre. Z: we have zealously pursued every single dollar owed to our hospitals by the Commonwealth.

I am not done; there is literally more than an alphabet of achievements for this Palaszczuk government, which stands up against the feeble list of whinges from the member for Mudgeeraba.

Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (5.11 pm): It is a great pleasure to speak to this motion moved by my Gold Coast colleague the member for Mudgeeraba. I am proud to have the Gold Coast University Hospital in my electorate and to represent the many men and women who work tirelessly to make sure patients and their families are well cared for across our city. I also have the health and knowledge precinct in my electorate, which has the potential to be a hub of innovation and excellence in health related industries if, and hopefully when, the government manages to actually lock in some tenants, but that is another issue entirely.

What is clear to me as the local member is that the minister is not willing to support the staff at the Gold Coast University Hospital to the extent that they need. In their most recent annual report, service performance shows there is a clear lack of support for our front-line personnel and they are struggling to meet the markers set for them. Over 46 per cent of targets were not met, with a number being significantly off the mark. Let's look at some of the worst—things that the minister should be addressing instead of renaming hospitals in Brisbane.

For category 2, where it is recommended that patients are seen within 10 minutes, there was a target of 80 per cent but an actual of only 57 per cent. For category 3, which is patients to be seen within 30 minutes, there was a target of 75 per cent and an achievement rate of only 46 per cent. One thing that constituents raise with me regularly is wait lists. On the Gold Coast we have a median wait time for elective surgery of 40 days despite the target being 25. Another one, the patient off-stretcher target, was 90 per cent, but both Robina and GCUH achieved just over 70 per cent. This is by no means a reflection on the staff on the ground. They need the right structures, support and resources to hit these targets and that firmly comes back to the government.

The doctors, nurses and other health workers I know and whom I have been privileged to meet during my time as their MP work as hard as they can to care for their patients. They are stretched to the limit and that falls back on the minister's priorities and the resources he provides them. Another example of the lack of support is the rising number of incidents in which staff have copped abuse over the last few years. Our Gold Coast hospitals have shown an increase of 56 per cent in this category since 2016. Despite that, the promised police beat at the hospital has long been forgotten. A legacy for the precinct that should have been left from the Commonwealth Games has never been realised.

With outrageous statistics like these, why would the government not put in place a support mechanism like this when it is clearly needed? I know police go through the hospital all the time on other jobs, but workers there tell me that having a permanent police presence would vastly improve their safety. It would make it easier to report incidents, especially late at night or in the early hours of the morning, instead of having to travel to Southport station after a long shift. Even the minister's rhetoric around Queensland's record health budgets is a farce when every year every government, no matter the political persuasion, will deliver a record budget. In 2012-13 there was a 7½ per cent increase to the Gold Coast health service, in 2013-14 there was a 4.5 per cent increase and in 2014-15 there was a six per cent increase.

The motion before us also mentions the recent concerning incident involving the Gold Coast home support program. When the minister is ready and willing to throw his staff under a bus when it was he who missed something within his own department, it is clear that in the end it is his job that concerns him most, not the staff or the patients. In the end, it is his portfolio, and he needs to take responsibility and control for what happens in it. That is a common theme that we see within the government where they are more than happy to send out a public servant in the place of a minister or for a minister to just not appear at a press conference.

It is astounding to think that this is happening in our hospitals and health services and the minister has been more focused on a name change. Not only has he done this with so little care for the Cilento family; but what is more concerning is the fact that this is where his priority lies. Rather than changing a name, why not look at what is going on within our hospitals? The minister needs to ensure all patients are receiving the best care possible and they can work out the branding of that hospital later. What is the point of it? Why would we spend all these taxpayers' dollars to just change the name? Given the other competing priorities, it is hard to believe that this is at the forefront of his mind. This is a minister who is more interested in spin than substance and who does not give our frontline workers the support they so desperately need. I commend the motion to the House.

Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (5.15 pm): It gives me a lot of pleasure to stand and talk about Labor's investment in new and improved hospitals and in particular the Ipswich Hospital. The Palaszczuk government is continuing to make significant investments in health facilities right across the state. This year's budget delivered on our $679 million investment in our Building Better Hospitals program. It includes funding of $281.2 million for the Logan Hospital redevelopment, which will deliver up to 192 additional beds, as well as $12.6 million for the Logan Hospital maternity services project. We are also investing $252.7 million in the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment, which will deliver 130 additional beds.

The Palaszczuk government has also delivered $124.5 million for stage 1A of the Ipswich Hospital expansion. This expansion will deliver a new mental health unit, an MRI suite to grow clinical capacity, and an integrated community healthcare centre and outpatient facility. The new 50-bed mental health building will replace an ageing facility and create an additional six beds to provide a purpose-built centre for acute mental health care for adults and seniors. The addition of an MRI machine means Ipswich Hospital will no longer need to send patients to other hospitals for MRI examinations. That means outpatients will have greater options to receive care closer to home and inpatients will have ready access to imaging that will accelerate clinical pathways and allow patients to go home sooner.

The LNP want to criticise the Palaszczuk government for investing $124.5 million in the health needs of Ipswich. The LNP would not know anything about health infrastructure. From their time in government they would have us think that we could cut healthcare workers and still be able to provide quality health care to a rapidly growing population. The LNP did not make a single election commitment to rebuild a single new hospital or health facility. The LNP opposed the Ipswich Hospital redevelopment prior to the election, so to have them now say that the hospital upgrade is not big enough is unfortunately typical of the hypocrisy we have come to expect from this mob. They want to criticise this important upgrade because it provides six new beds in a fully redeveloped 50-bed unit.

Hospitals are not just beds. A modern, 21st century hospital provides a broad range of clinical services: surgery, outpatient services, emergency care, acute mental health services, maternity care, palliative care, interhospital transfers, and specialist clinical procedures such as MRI imaging, dialysis and radiography services. They provide treatment spaces, nurses' work stations, kitchens and car parks. Redeveloping a hospital requires considering all these needs and often performing the redevelopment in stages. That is what is planned for our hospital in Ipswich. In fact, that is why it is called stage 1A.

The $124.4 million for Ipswich Hospital's redevelopment is on top of the $128 million that the Bligh Labor government committed in 2010 for the major expansion of the Ipswich Hospital, which promised 90 new beds for the hospital, a doubling in size of the emergency department, a short-stay surgery section, and a separate waiting area for children and their families.

This expansion was fully funded by the Bligh Labor government, yet the Newman government was happy to cut the ribbon at the opening of that expansion and take credit for a Labor funded investment—proof that those opposite can only cut things. They did this while at the same time cutting thousands of Queensland Health jobs. When the LNP got into government in 2012 they did not waste time sacking 4,400 health jobs, including 1,400 nurses, 700 allied health professionals and 50 doctors. The LNP cut $21 million from the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service budget in their first term and sacked 84 staff. People in Ipswich still remember.

In an especially callous manoeuvre the Newman LNP government closed the doors of the Barrett Adolescent Centre, leaving young patients bereft of any other alternative mental health services. Cutting health services and sacking front-line healthcare workers is just toying with people's lives, but the LNP called it efficiency. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government has the vision to plan, build and expand hospitals to accommodate our growing population. Our Building Better Hospitals Program includes $3 million to commence planning and development of a business case for the Wide Bay and Burnett region.

During the recent governing from the regions program in Toowoomba, the Premier and Minister for Health announced that Baillie Henderson is the preferred site for a new Toowoomba hospital and $9 million will be provided for the detailed design phase—proof that this government invests in health.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I have already given instructions that if members wish to have conversations they should take them outside. There is too much audible noise in the chamber that has nothing to do with the debate at hand.

Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the member for Mudgeeraba's private member's motion which condemns the health minister, Steven Miles, for his many failures. If one thing has come through loud and clear since I was elected this time last year it is that Queenslanders are sick and tired of politicians who fail to take responsibility and who are only interested in looking after themselves. People are sick and tired of governments that are motivated by ideological hatred and governments that are only interested in the pursuit of power and the maintenance of it.

If we are looking for an example of someone who fails to take responsibility and is only interested in looking after his own self-interest, we need look no further than the Minister for Health. Here is a man who, when the going got tough in the seat of Mount Coot-tha, decided to cut and run for another safe Labor seat rather than stand and fight for the community that he supposedly cared for; a man who has shown time and time again that he goes missing when the going gets tough; a man who hides behind bureaucrats rather than fronting up to answer the hard questions on issues like the tissue bank bungle, reports into the death of Manmeet Sharma and the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital.

Over the past 12 months I have had cause to visit the emergency department at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital three times. At the outset let me state that nurses, doctors and the support staff at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital do their best to provide patient care in a timely manner.

It is clear, however, that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital is heaving under the weight of demand and Sunshine Coast residents are suffering as a consequence. Both anecdotal experience and the raw statistics paint a picture of a hospital that needs investment now to meet the health needs of Sunshine Coast residents. In August just past, 33.4 per cent of patients at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital were not attended to within clinically recommended times.

What have we seen this government do to address the problem? Through mismanagement and a failure to prioritise the demonstrated needs of Sunshine Coast residents rather than fast-track the delivery of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital stage 2, we have seen this government fail on their original commitment to deliver stage 2 by 30 June this year. This is just another in a long list of failures from this Palaszczuk Labor government. Perhaps most disappointingly we saw the minister seek to misrepresent the facts by blaming a typo in a government fact sheet for delays to stage 2 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

It is time for the Premier to start governing for all Queenslanders, not just those who live in safe Labor seats. Members of this House are aware of my passion to ensure that all Queenslanders are able to access health care to address their mental health concerns. In October last year I was heartened to hear the then health minister, Cameron Dick, say that a new mental health facility for the people of Mackay would be opened in June 2018. Disappointingly, however, it has now come to light that the planned unit will not open until June next year. We can now see just how hollow Labor's election promises are. They say one thing before an election and deliver another after an election. The Minister for Health is more interested in waging an ideological crusade to change the name of a hospital rather than delivering better care for patients.

One of the fundamental premises of the Westminster system is ministerial accountability. The Minister for Health and his colleague, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, have consistently shown they believe it is appropriate to ignore this convention. Given that they continue to fail to accept responsibility, the time has long passed for the Premier to show some leadership and relieve them of their ministerial responsibilities. It is time for this government to put patients before politics and start delivering the world-class health system that all Queenslanders deserve.

The Premier says that she wants to run an open and transparent government, but to date we have only seen a culture of arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy that puts the interests of the Palaszczuk Labor government ahead of the people of Queensland. Queenslanders know when they are being sold a pup and they know that 'Dr Dolittle' is more interested in keeping his job—

Mr SPEAKER: Members will be referred to by their correct title. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: They know that the Minister for Health is more interested in keeping his job than looking after the interests of all Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that for the remainder of this debate members' correct titles will be used, otherwise there will be action taken.

Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise to oppose the baseless motion from the member for Mudgeeraba. The motion seeks to condemn the minister for his 'wrong priorities', so let us talk about what those apparent wrong priorities are. Since the election 12 months ago the health minister has: welcomed over 730 new doctors to Queensland public hospitals across the state in just the past year; continued to deliver on our promise of an additional 3,500 additional nurses and midwives, including 400 nurse navigators and 100 midwives, with thousands of them already employed; fought the federal LNP government on funding cuts and won—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member is not taking interjections. I ask members to cease interjecting so I can hear the member's contribution.

Ms LINARD: The minister has: expanded the specialist outpatient strategy; opened Townsville Hospital's new $8 million children's ward; ensured that 1,400 extra cardiac patients will be seen at the Cairns hospital thanks to a second cardiac catheterisation laboratory; certified the new Queensland Ambulance Service agreement, making Queensland's hardworking and highly professional paramedics among the best paid in the country; appointed a new Health Ombudsman; announced a $105 million investment to address the impact of ice on Queenslanders, families and communities; commenced stage 1A of the $124 million redevelopment of the Ipswich Hospital; assured that Queenslanders will be the first in the country to have access to the latest lifesaving cardiac technology thanks to a $4 million boost to a new state-of-the-art imaging and navigation system at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital cardiac catheter lab; endorsed the detailed business case for the redevelopment of the Nambour Hospital; commenced construction on the new state-of-the-art public health facility as part of the $1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you have made your contribution. You are warned under standing orders. I have just given a general direction to the chamber.

Ms LINARD: The minister has: launched a new program in parts of the Gold and Sunshine coasts targeting children to help raise childhood vaccination rates; and launched the SPIDER trial in a partnership between neurologists at RBWH and the Queensland Ambulance Service to improve outcomes for Queensland stroke victims.

I could go on and on. In my own electorate of Nudgee the health minister has opened a new multimillion dollar emergency and fleet management precinct and ambulance station at Geebung and a step-up step-down community mental health facility in Nundah. I ask the member for Mudgeeraba and all those opposite: which of these are the 'wrong' priorities? Given that you seem to like reciting your alphabet, let's do it this way: (a) hiring the extra front-line health workers that Queenslanders need; (b) standing up for Queensland's hospitals after the Turnbull-Morrison LNP government withheld as much as $1.2 billion from sick Queenslanders and you said nothing; (c) improving outcomes for cardiac patients—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, make sure you direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LINARD: Members of the opposition said nothing. Was it (c) improving outcomes for cardiac patients; (d) reinvesting in adolescent mental health services that the opposition cut; (e) increasing childhood immunisation rates; or (f) improving outcomes for stroke victims? Was it (j) delivering a new drug rehabilitation facility in Rockhampton; or (k) investing in extra beds and new facilities across Queensland? Which is it?

In the time I have left, I want to make some comments with regard to the government's decision to return the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital. Everyone involved with the original project knows that it was always to be known as the Queensland Children's Hospital. As far back as 2009, all media articles referred to it as such. The government, the media, the medical profession, the community: everyone knew it. Since my election in 2015, doctors, nurses and staff of the hospital who live in my electorate have raised with me the changing of the name by former premier Newman as an issue. When it was raised with the health minister again this week and he responded that this call to return the hospital to its original name has come directly from the medical fraternity, I heard members of the opposition call out, 'What? Left doctors?'

What appears to have been lost on the member for Mudgeeraba and members of the opposition is that this is actually about Queensland children and their families—nothing else and no-one else. This is about Queensland children and families. Those doctors, nurses and medical staff and the hospital foundation itself, who are the ones calling for this change and who some of you are so willing to discount, are the very people—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask you again to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LINARD:—who some members of the opposition are so willing to discount, are the very people saving the lives of Queensland's sickest children. They make no mention of them. What the opposition is really doing is politicising an issue of its own making.

(Time expired)

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (5.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister and member for Mudgeeraba. I have to remind the Labor member for Nudgee of a number of things. When it comes to Labor and our health system, the words 'incompetence', 'mismanagement' and 'failure' come to mind. These words are absolutely synonymous with how this Labor government is running the health system in Queensland. They also remind us all of how Labor has previously run the health system here in Queensland, in the failed Beattie and Bligh years.

I will remind Labor and all members of the House of Labor's previous PPP Health program—Patel, payroll and the fake Tahitian prince episode. Can members remember the time of the payroll fiasco? There was a $1.2 billion wastage of taxpayer dollars with respect to the failed implementation of the payroll system. The heartache and pain that caused for our hardworking clinicians, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals was disgraceful. We had the Patel saga—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton. Your interjections are not being taken.

Dr ROWAN: The clinical governance failures at Bundaberg Hospital led to heartache for patients and the public shaming of Labor.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Dr ROWAN: Do members remember the Morris inquiry, the Davies commission and the Forster review?

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Lytton, I have just asked you to cease interjecting. You are warned under standing orders.

Dr ROWAN: The Labor member for Lytton does not like hearing the truth when it comes to Labor's litany of disasters in relation to health care. They also had the fake Tahitian prince episode, with Mr Joel Barlow defrauding taxpayers of $16 million—an extraordinary amount of money—with the failure of corporate governance here in Queensland.

It takes a special kind of incompetence by Labor to have a health system in crisis once again. To think that the first priority for them in the 56th Parliament was to change the name from Lady Cilento Children's Hospital to Queensland Children's Hospital! This is a disgraceful act when it comes to a pioneering Queensland woman. This is precisely how Labor's failed health minister is operating. Sadly, he is operating with the full support of the Premier and Labor members opposite. We have heard nothing from female Labor members in relation to this change. It is extraordinary for the Deputy Premier and the member for Waterford to have said nothing in defence of an iconic Queenslander.

Recently it was also revealed that nearly every hospital across Queensland is failing to meet clinical benchmarks for emergency department and surgical wait times. South-East Queensland emergency departments are the worst performing in the state, with the Sunshine Coast, Metro North, Metro South and Gold Coast regions all falling well short of their targets for category 2 and 3 patients. Perhaps we should not be so surprised by the Metro North result. After all, the minister in his infinite wisdom decided to cut 68 hospital beds from the Metro North Hospital and Health Service last financial year. Meanwhile, it was also revealed that not one hospital and health service met the 25-day median waiting time for elective surgery last financial year. Most shocking was the revelation that the median waiting time for surgery in the Central West region is 259 days, when the target is supposed to be just 25 days.

Ms Leahy: A disgrace.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection. It is a disgrace. How the Premier or indeed anyone on the other side of the House can say that they support our regions while they allow critical health metrics like this to blow out is anyone's guess.

The Palaszczuk Labor government professes to care about rural and regional Queensland, but its words are hollow rhetoric. It is allowing crime to spiral out of control, unemployment is up and infrastructure spending is down, but perhaps the greatest slap in the face of Queensland patients and our amazing health professionals is the way that this Labor government, especially its health minister, shirks responsibility and accountability when such failures are presented.

Last week, when questioned about these shocking emergency department wait times, during what should have been a happy photo opportunity at Suncorp Stadium, the smile quickly disappeared from the face of the Minister for Tourism as she tried to somehow shift the Queensland health minister's failings on to the federal government. It is always someone else's fault. Labor blames the Commonwealth and industry; it tries to blame the opposition and the crossbench. It is simply not good enough.

We also have delays in the rollout of the drug rehab facility in Rockhampton. We have had the heart valve tissue bank debacle, where four patients were given tissue from a donor who had brain cancer. Rural maternity services are under pressure, particularly in Chinchilla and Theodore. There are system issues with the integrated electronic Medical Record, with clinicians losing confidence and patience.

This health minister is absolutely flatlining. He is on life support. He stands condemned today for his litany of failures while health minister in this government. Labor stands condemned for all of its failures over years and years.

(Time expired)

Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.37 pm): Unsurprisingly, I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. I will tell members why. Clearly it is 31 October. Why else would the LNP opposition launch a Halloween scare campaign against our hospitals? Those opposite are trying cheap tricks to spook Queenslanders into thinking they will not receive great care. The LNP and the member for Mudgeeraba have done nothing but talk down our health system. They spend every day moaning and groaning and criticising our hospitals and health workers, trying to undermine public

confidence in our hospitals for their own political benefit. Our hardworking doctors, nurses, health practitioners and paramedics work tirelessly across Queensland to provide excellent care to all Queenslanders. I should know. As a paramedic of 25 years, I know exactly how hard our health people work across this state. I will not knock any of our health professionals. I will leave that to the LNP.

Whether people live in my electorate in North Queensland or in the electorate of Mudgeeraba in the south, they have access to a world-class health system. Here we are again listening to the LNP's attempt to trick Queenslanders instead of helping to treat them. In true Halloween style, the member for Mudgeeraba has come out in fancy dress today as someone who cares about Queenslanders and their health. She is masquerading as someone who cares about better health care, even though she is a member of the party that sacked 4,000 Health staff—1,800 nurses and midwives, some of those nurses in my town of Townsville. We can see through the trickery, and so can Queenslanders.

The member for Mudgeeraba has said that the health system is in crisis at least 10 times since becoming the shadow health spokesperson. She has said that our doctors and nurses are not delivering world-class health care at least 10 times in her role. This is unfounded hysteria which belongs in a scary movie perhaps titled 'Another Scary Movie'—the ghosts of the LNP, here to scare you now in the dead of night! Today's motion is no different; it is just another crazy, lazy attempt by the LNP to get some runs on the scoreboard. Those opposite are even too lazy to source their own material. They just read the health story in the paper and go on the attack. It is clear they have not even read the report it relates to.

Their alphabet list today consists of old topics that have been widely canvassed and well ventilated both in this House and through the media. Instead of asking new questions—just like every day in question time—they are just blowing hot air, blowing up deluxe! For cheap political points the LNP is willing to use untruths and poor reporting to disparage 90,000 hardworking doctors, nurses and health professionals.

Unlike the LNP, we believe that all Queenslanders—no matter where they live or where they are from—deserve the best possible health care. That is why the Palaszczuk government has a record budget of $18 billion this year. There are no tricks from us. We just deliver. It was Labor that delivered the new $8 million Townsville Hospital paediatric ward that the Premier opened this year. It was Labor that delivered the new mental health facility in Townsville Hospital. It is Labor that is delivering a new ambulance station in my electorate in Kirwan. It was Labor that restored front-line health staff such as nurses and midwives in Townsville Hospital. Our hospital and health service improved in all emergency department, elective surgery and specialist outpatients seen and treat-in-time rates last financial year. Some 100 per cent of elective surgery patients were treated within clinically recommended times across all three categories. That is an incredible statistic, but do we hear members of the opposition talking up Townsville Hospital? No. They just go back to whining and moaning.

I know the people in my electorate are proud of our local hospital and its staff and our Ambulance Service. It is time the LNP stopped bagging our health system and started talking up our hospitals, because Queensland has some of the best health services in the world. Quite often I am asked why I wanted to do this job. It was after I saw people in the Ambulance Service—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I cannot hear the member's contribution.

Mr HARPER: I came here because I saw people get sacked in my own profession—our first-aid people, our baby capsule people. It was the current member for Broadwater as the then member for Mundingburra who had his own baby capsules fitted and then sacked Denis. That is disgraceful! I will stand up for those people in the health sector.

(Time expired)

Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (5.42 pm): I rise to support the private member's motion condemning the health minister and I start with the Palaszczuk government's decision to cut the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening van, putting Indigenous Queenslanders' health at risk. Labor urgently needed to step up and restore this funding, with patients' health being put at risk by this funding cut, but we were dismissed and even had the questions we raised in this place ignored. Our pleas were ignored. I remind the House that during question time I asked the Premier—

Given the importance of closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, why have we seen the continuation of funding cut from the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening service, the IDEaS Van, that delivers vital mobile diabetes screening services for Indigenous Queenslanders ...

The Premier did not even have the decency to answer the question. Instead, the Premier elected to play politics and the blame game and showed no empathy at all. The response proved that this government had absolutely no idea about the issue or the government's actions which contributed to the demise of this critical local service. What further highlights this minister's policy failures and incompetence is the fact that the health minister has been so arrogantly dismissive of the plight of Indigenous Queenslanders. He was kicked out of parliament that day and left the Premier to continue the arrogant and dismissive attitude on his behalf, all at the expense of those most vulnerable.

If Labor is committed to closing the gap it would restore funding to the IDEaS van and just get on with it. Since 2013 this van has travelled 200,000 kilometres and helped save the eyesight of thousands of Indigenous Queenslanders, but this work is being put at risk by this heartless decision by Labor not to continue this vital funding. The health minister has made it clear that he has no intention of even looking at it or restoring the funding. With a Health budget of some $18 billion, surely there is room to set aside a little bit so this van can continue to help Indigenous Queenslanders. Cutting funding for this service will have a real impact on the ground, as highlighted by IWC manager Wayne Mulvany. I thank him and his staff for continuing to take the fight up to this incompetent government. While every day and in every way those opposite criticise the policies of the federal government, the only government with a heart and empathy that restored the service was the federal coalition and I acknowledge our federal member Keith Pitt in righting this insidious state Labor decision to cut this funding.

The current Labor government has abandoned people in rural and regional Queensland in their time of need, and the dysfunctional Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is a good example. I have called out the Minister for Health in this place many times for ignoring the Queensland Ombudsman and its investigation into the administration of the PTSS. I have called on him to ensure that this service is eligible from Agnes Water to Bundaberg. People have to travel this trip of 250 kilometres many times a week, yet they are no longer eligible. Changes in 2015 by this government have made a complete mockery of regional Queenslanders' access to world-class health.

Despite four reviews and audits since 2010 of the PTSS by the Queensland Ombudsman and numerous recommendations for change, Queensland Health continues to do nothing. The only changes in 2012 were by the LNP when we doubled the allowances and made other serious reforms. These people are not well. The state government is not doing anything to help them get better either. I call on the Minister for Health to take up the cause—listen to what the Ombudsman said—for all Queenslanders in all electorates. Let us get this right. I call on the minister on behalf of those sick people in my electorate to make it a priority to implement the recommendations of the Ombudsman, and the PTSS needs to be a priority.

If there was not enough evidence that this motion is justified, I highlight a further example of the complete arrogance and incompetence of this state Labor government by highlighting the horrendous issue of those suffering with severe pain and the consequences of their access to adequate pain management. Residents in the Bundaberg region have to find their own way to the Sunshine Coast now—something they find hard. They have to stay overnight to recuperate and then they have to make the long journey home. It is a huge relief that sometimes we can do public-private partnerships to ensure specialist services are delivered. I ask why a public-private partnership or recruitment of a pain specialist cannot be a reality for the people in Bundaberg and the Burnett region who suffer from chronic pain. The government has known about this for four years and still we see people suffering in our region with the complete arrogance and the dismissive nature of this minister. Why can the state government agree to a specialty service for eyes in our region but continue to ignore those with chronic pain?

I recently tabled a petition in this place with 600 signatures asking for the state government to fund a pain management clinic. Despite seeing these signatures Minister Miles ignored the petition, instead stating that the Sunshine Coast is now the hub. It is simply not good enough. Many constituents have raised the idea of seeing a specialist in the region. They just want this government to show leadership. Can members imagine how awful it would be to travel a 300-kilometre round trip in severe pain just because we cannot get the minister to acknowledge how important this is? I am asking the minister to reconsider his reply and look at enacting a public-private partnership. We need a chronic pain specialist. We need the minister's leadership. He needs to listen to the people of the region. Some 600 signatures should not be ignored in terms of those suffering pain and all of us should have sympathy and empathy. More importantly, our government should show real leadership and provide chronic pain management to the people of the Bundaberg region. We need a minister with some leadership skills.

Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. This motion demonstrates the sheer hypocrisy of the opposition given its terrible Health record when it was in government. I lived through that record. I was there working in Queensland Health during the entirety of that record and I saw what happened to workers under that record. More disturbingly, I saw what happened to patients and it is not something I will quickly forget. I will tell members something else I will not quickly forget, and in fact I will never forget it and I suspect no nurse or midwife in this state will forget it: that the member for Mudgeeraba—a nurse—voted against safe nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios. I remember that record clearly. In government that was a record that consisted of sacking healthcare workers and cutting and closing services.

Let us look at a few examples from my experience. The statewide stroke service—gone. That was a service that supported patients with complex needs discharged to rural and remote and regional centres in areas represented by many of the members on that side of the House. That service has gone so there is no support, no advice, no equipment for doctors, nurses and physios in these areas. There was no thought for what that meant for patients—just a number on a page, a number to be gotten rid of. The clinical facilitator in our ward was just another number—gone from our ward, as they were from every ward in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. There was no thought put into what it meant to get rid of positions like that. That clinical facilitator was one of the most experienced, dedicated, educated nurses I have worked with in that she had over 40 years of experience, but guess what? She was gone.

A month after she was gone we were all summoned into a meeting by the senior management of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. In fact, the assistant director of nursing was sent to that meeting. They sat us all down in a room and castigated us. They asked, 'Why aren't you doing these jobs? Why aren't you doing jobs A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H?' We looked at them and thought to ourselves, 'Are they joking? Are they serious? Is this a serious meeting that we are having here?' We looked at those jobs and asked, 'Did you think about how those jobs were performed a month ago? Every single job that you are demanding to be done was done by the clinical facilitator.' There was no thought whatsoever for what getting rid of the clinical facilitator meant for the patients.

Having been a nurse for over 30 years, I know how hard our nurses, doctors, midwives and healthcare professionals and support staff work. The record of those opposite while in government is of utterly abandoning our wonderful healthcare workers. In just three years, 4,400 Health staff were sacked, including 1,800 of my nursing and midwifery colleagues.

Although that is tragic, slashing funding to non-government organisations that carried out preventative health projects and health promotion was utter vandalism. Getting rid of funding to organisations such as Diabetes Queensland, Drug Arm, the Eating Disorders Association, the Kidney Support Network, Mission Australia, Lupus Australia, the National Heart Foundation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Lung Foundation was utter vandalism. When you destroy preventive health services, when you destroy health promotion services, you do intergenerational damage. I am proud to be part of a government that has had two successive health ministers who are doing everything they can to restore those services.

I will not even get on to the Barrett Adolescent Centre, because that upsets me too much. I want to talk about Indigenous sexual health. In 2011, we had a chance of eradicating syphilis in remote communities. Did we take that chance? No. We got rid of the services that would have allowed that to occur. Now, we have an epidemic of syphilis in those communities. This is an unacceptable tragedy.

We have heard the shadow spokesperson for health put forward an alphabet of statements in today's motion, which claims that Queensland's health system is in crisis. We have heard the shadow spokesperson imply that Queensland does not have a world-class health system when nothing could be further from the truth. I have worked in it. I have worked in other systems. I know that it is a world-class health system. That is backed up by research from around the world.

This motion is shameful. The shadow health minister and the Leader of the Opposition should be standing up for Queensland Health, they should be standing up for Queensland Health workers and they should be standing up for patients. They should be calling on the Morrison government to stop its cuts and its chronic underfunding of health and standing up for our workers and the patients of this state.

(Time expired)

Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (5.52 pm): Labor has one answer for all problems: just throw money at it. It does not matter how much, or where it lands, Labor says, 'We have solved the problem with a motza of dough.' Of course, Labor forgets that it has to have the outcomes. It has to have people well and leaving hospitals. It has to have people being paid. As I said yesterday, the best way to turn $1 million into $1,000 is to give it to a Labor government.

The health minister made much of what the government has spent in hospitals and the like, but, in September this year, in answer to a question on notice, he said that backlog and maintenance of the hospital system stands at $600 million. That is an example of the inadequacy of this health minister, of the paucity of this health minister, of the inability of this health minister to understand the health system. We have a backlog of maintenance of $600 million.

Worse than that, in a statement produced by the health minister in relation to the Health portfolio, for 2017-18 six HHSs are in deficit. Labor cannot take into account the financial necessities of the people of Queensland. It throws money at it, it wastes money, but we have an absolute disaster of a backlog of maintenance. This is not the first time this has happened. It happens over and over again and it always comes back to the LNP, when it is in government, to clean up the mess. Under Lawrence Springborg's tight control, we cleaned up the health mess.

I turn to the Sunshine Coast—my home—and the Sunshine Coast HHS. It is a disaster. The annual report outlines the targets missed in regard to the number of patients treated in ED, outpatients and elective surgery and a deficit of somewhere near $14 million for 2017-18. That is clear evidence that this government simply does not understand the health system and, more importantly, it does not know how to fix it.

Who do the members opposite blame? Everybody else—Morrison, Turnbull, us. We lost in 2015, yet we are still to blame. All the members opposite can do is point the finger at somebody else and say, 'It's not us. It must be you and it must be you.' It cannot be them. The members opposite should take responsibility for their own mistakes.

I take up the point raised by the member for Burnett in relation to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. The report into that scheme came down in June 2017 and nothing has been done. There are members opposite who represent regional areas and who have constituents who travel to Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast for treatment, yet they are trialling paper in Cairns. Eighteen-plus months after the report came down, this mob cannot even get the treatment right by paying subsidies for travel and accommodation to the sickest people in regional Queensland and they do not care. It is a disgrace.

I refer to Lady Cilento. Need more be said about a woman whose name has been trashed by the ALP? The members opposite do not care. They are changing the name of the hospital because that is something that we did in government. The members opposite want to trash whatever we did in government. It was an excellent move to name that hospital after Lady Cilento, who dedicated her life to children. The members opposite do not get that, but they will spend half a million dollars trashing her name by taking her name off that hospital. Dr Steven Miles' great attribute is a paper on declining union membership. I say to the Premier—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I remind you, as I have other members, to use members' correct titles.

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.57 pm): If the member for Caloundra thinks that the Labor Party's answer to the health system is to provide funding, then we know the three answers from the LNP to the health system: cut, sack and sell. No other government provided services in this state suffered more from the very deep cutting, sacking and selling by those opposite when they were in government than the Queensland health service. They should hang their heads in shame.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, believe it or not, I am having difficulty hearing the Deputy Premier. I would like to say to members that their interjections are not being taken. I would like to hear the contribution.

Ms TRAD: Because those opposite have a very alphabetised approach to their thinking—and I can understand why that is helpful when they are the type of people they are—I would like to respond to the motion before the House. We all know that the member for Mudgeeraba has been very busy with her (a) to (k). Here is the LNP's (a) to (k) when it was in government. The LNP's (a) to (k) of failures is writ large in the memories of Queenslanders.

'A' is for attack doctors' pay and conditions. I know that the member for Moggill knows all about it. Why should we place one single piece of credibility on anything he says when his own peers dumped him because he would not stand up to Campbell Newman when he was the head of the AMA in Queensland? 'B' is for the Barrett Centre, closed against all good medical advice by those opposite with devastating consequences. 'C' is for closing: they closed Eventide aged care centre, Biala and Wynnum Hospital. 'D'is for devastating cuts: $45 million from mental health in their first year—the worst cut of any state government ever.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Deputy Premier should not have to raise her voice so much to be heard over the interjections. I appreciate the passion in the room, but we need to be able to hear members without people having to shout.

Ms TRAD: 'E' is for the 1,800 nurses and midwives sacked by the LNP government. 'F' is for failing 100 per cent of their own targets for emergency department waiting times. 'G' is for gag clauses: slapping them on NGOs to prevent them from advocating for their own sector. 'H' is for hospitals: unfunded and understaffed under the LNP. 'I' is for intake: cutting the nursing graduate intake to record lows. 'J' is for jobs: 4,400 gone, slashed, sacked from the health sector under the LNP government. Finally, 'K' is for Kingaroy: the Farr aged care home in the Leader of the Opposition's own electorate closed in the first year of the Newman government. The only public aged care facility in Kingaroy was shut down on her watch.

I listened very carefully to the member for Bonney's contribution in this debate.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under standing orders. I am tired of having to ask members to cease the personal interjections.

Ms TRAD: For the member for Bonney to get up and talk about the Gold Coast University Hospital, when it was a Labor government that conceived it, funded it, and built it; for the member for Bonney, who proclaims to have a conviction around the rights of women's health, to come into this chamber and not exercise the courage of his convictions in abortion law reform just shows what type of a coward he is.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I think you might find some unparliamentary language there. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms TRAD: I withdraw. For the member for Burnett to talk about Closing the Gap, what word has he uttered in relation to Indigenous housing in remote communities? The one single thing that could turn around the health metrics for Indigenous people for generations and he is mute.

Let me now turn to the Queensland Children's Hospital. I was the local member at the time that the CEO premier decided against all advice, without consultation, to change the name. I am enormously proud of the health minister for his courage to stand with health professionals in this state to give them what they need and what parents who go to Lady Cilento want.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Southern Downs!

Ms TRAD: They want their hospital to be called the Queensland Children's Hospital—as it should be, as it always was. I would prefer to respond to the board, to parents, to the staff, to all of those people—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs! I now have to raise my voice to be heard over you. You are warned under standing orders. This level of interjection will cease, members.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. For five minutes the Deputy Premier has done nothing but yelled down the microphone.

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me, Leader of Opposition Business, that is not a point of order. I have given a ruling and I will tell you why my ruling stands. My ruling stands because I have had members making contributions during this debate where one side of the House has listened to that contribution without massive interjections. It does not depend on who the member is. I will not tolerate a disorderly House. I will allow a certain amount of interjections and I have been clear about that. Members, our standards must improve.

Ms TRAD: I am enormously proud of this health minister and his track record in a very short period of time and I am enormously proud of the Palaszczuk Labor government's performance in relation to health.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 38:

LNP, 37—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 47:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: Palaszczuk, Frecklington; C. O'Rourke, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

War Service Honour Board

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, a reminder that at 7 pm in the red chamber there will be the unveiling of the War Service Honour Board. I hope as many members as possible can join us.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3236, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.10 pm), continuing: As noted in the society's submission to the committee—

Clause 18 of the Bill seeks to amend section 197 of the Act to provide express authorisation for the derivative use of compelled evidence obtained under the Act. We understand that this would allow information to be used in other proceedings such as disciplinary proceedings.

The Society notes that the law relating to derivative use can be exceptionally complicated. As such, we consider that the proposed amendment may have unintended and adverse consequences.

…

The Society is exceptionally concerned about this proposal.

As outlined in the committee report, the CCC has the power to conduct coercive hearings that compel witnesses to attend and give evidence, and override the right to silence and the privilege against self-incrimination. Section 197 of the CCA provides that if a person claims privilege from self-incrimination prior to answering a question or producing a document or thing but is compelled to provide the evidence, the compelled evidence is not admissible against them in any civil, criminal or administrative hearing. The bill proposes to amend section 197 of the act to provide express authority for the use of derivative evidence, clarifying that, while the compelled evidence is not itself admissible in a civil, criminal or administrative proceeding, derivative evidence is admissible. We also note that the amendments to clause 18 are raised as a possible breach of fundamental legislative principles, specifically in relation to adversely impacting the rights and liberties of individuals, specifically in relation to important protections against self-incrimination.

Finally, I refer to issues raised by the Queensland Police Union of Employees at a public committee hearing. The QPUE raised concerns with the current proposal contained in clause 15 of the bill relating to the use of search warrants for the investigation of criminal offences being subsequently used to further complaints of misconduct. The QPUE believes that there could be a misuse of the search warrant powers in the process of the investigation.

Further to the previous point raised by the QLS regarding amendments contained in clause 18 of the bill, in the Attorney-General's second reading speech we would appreciate clarification of clause 15, as well as an address to the concerns raised by the QPUE. We note that amendments contained in clause 15 of the bill were raised as a potential breach of fundamental legislative principles, specifically that it may adversely affect the rights and liberties of individuals.

I thank the committee members for their review of this bill and those stakeholders who took the time to provide a written submission and/or attend the public hearing to share their views. The fight against corruption is an important one that we wholeheartedly support. The CCC needs to have the proper resources and powers to investigate any allegations. However, natural justice always needs to be afforded to anyone accused of an offence and, wherever possible, the CCC needs to be open and accountable to public scrutiny to the effect that it asks of agencies and individuals that it investigates.

Finally, I acknowledge the current CCC Chairman, Mr Alan MacSporran QC, for his leadership and for putting his hand up to take on what is one of the most difficult and challenging public sector agency leadership positions in Queensland. I look forward to the Attorney-General's response to some of the issues I have raised during my contribution.

Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (6.14 pm): I rise to recommend that the House support the passing of the legislation before us this evening. I listened to the contribution made by the member for Toowoomba South, who I understand is a commercial lawyer. I should point out to him that I think I have spent more time in court representing his side of politics than my side.

This bill will bring Queensland's legislation into line with that of New South Wales and is consistent with that jurisdiction. With the change in the way service delivery is affected by governments, with private entities and government working together to deliver services, it is important that legislation keeps pace with the way those services are delivered to the community. The bill does exactly that. It is further evidence of the commitment that the Palaszczuk Labor government has to good governance and is an election commitment from 2015. The first stage of reforms have been passed previously in this House.

This bill is technically well measured and is a response to the community's expectation that the Crime and Corruption Commission is able to do its job, which is to ensure that the people of Queensland are well protected from corruption within organisations that, for the most part, are here to serve the people of Queensland and deal with the complexities of governing a vast state such as Queensland. The bill is for an act to amend the following legislation: the Ambulance Services Act, the Crime and Corruption Act, the Director of Public Prosecutions Act, the Fire and Emergency Services Act, the Ombudsman Act, the Police Service Administration Act, the Public Service Act and the Public Service Regulation for particular purposes.

In the time available to me this evening, I do not intend to deal with each section separately. I will deal with the more substantive parts of the bill and recommend that the bill be passed. As stated earlier in my contribution to the debate on the bill, the policy objectives of the bill are to give effect to the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and implement recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, and report No. 99, *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. The government's response to report No. 99 supported the recommendation and undertook to progress amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act that would make it a legislative requirement for the commission to provide procedural fairness to persons who may be adversely affected by a commission report that is publicly released.

I will now deal with policy objectives dealing with the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. As outlined in the explanatory notes to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—

> ... the Bill simplifies the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing (i) the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person under section 15(1)(c) because this element has caused confusion among public sector agencies; and (ii) the list of additional matters, criminal offences or behaviours, which could be 'corrupt conduct' under section 15(2) because it has not aided in the interpretation of the definition.

As part of the process to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct', the government released an issues paper on 25 February 2016 titled *Corrupt conduct under the CC Act* to canvass the views of relevant stakeholders. The responses to the issues paper were generally supportive of the current

definition, as conduct that falls outside the current definition is dealt with by units of the public administration. On the basis of submissions from the commission, as well as government and non-government stakeholders, the bill makes important changes that will simplify the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to assist UPAs in their interpretation and understanding by widening the definition to include conduct of persons that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration, consistent with the commission's overriding responsibility to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector.

The bill widens the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to include certain conduct that impairs or could impair confidence in public administration, even where it does not involve a lack of proprietary by a person who holds or held an appointment in a UPA. This extended definition is limited to the following types of conduct that would, if proved, be a criminal offence or a disciplinary breach, providing reasonable grounds for terminating a person's services: collusive tendering; certain frauds relating to the application for a licence, permit or other authority; dishonestly obtaining or helping someone to dishonestly obtain a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or the disposition of state assets; evading a state tax, levy or duty or otherwise fraudulently causing a loss of state revenue; and fraudulently obtaining or retaining an appointment in a UPA.

The amendment is modelled on changes that were made to the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption Act in 2015 to broaden the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. An example given in the explanatory notes to this new limb of corrupt conduct is that the commission will have to power to investigate, expose, prevent or educate about serious and systemic fraud in the making of applications for licences, permits or clearances issued under the Queensland legislation designed to protect the health or safety of persons or the environment or facilitate the management and use of valuable state owned resources.

The bill also provides the commission with a broader investigative jurisdiction by expanding its corruption functions under section 33 of the Crime and Corruption Act to enable the commission to investigate or otherwise deal with conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause the occurrence of corrupt conduct or conduct connected with corrupt conduct as well as investigate whether this type of conduct or corrupt conduct may have happened, may be happening or may happen. This broader investigatory jurisdiction is based on the powers conferred on the Independent Commission Against Corruption in New South Wales. The jurisdiction may be enlivened through a variety of methods, including by way of a complaint, by the commission on its own initiative or through a referral of a matter by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee with bipartisan support.

In deciding what action to take when dealing with the types of matters that will fall within the new broader investigative jurisdiction, the bill requires the commission to have regard to the public interest principle in section 34(d) of the Crime and Corruption Act. Under this subsection the commission must have primary regard to a number of public interest considerations, including the nature and seriousness of the conduct, particularly if there is a reason to believe it may be prevalent or systemic within a UPA.

The committee recommended that the bill be passed. I would like to thank the previous committee for the work they carried out on the bill in the 55th Parliament. I would like to thank the current committee members and the current secretariat of the committee for their assistance on this important bill. I recommended the bill to the House.

Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.22 pm): I rise to add a brief contribution to the Crime Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before us. I am not a lawyer of any kind—commercial or criminal—but I am a businessperson. What I know is that when a society has corrupt behaviour, when appointments to various boards and government agencies are made on the basis of nepotism, favouritism or corrupt conduct, business loses confidence in Queensland. People who want to invest their money in our state need to make sure that we have—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr WATTS: You really want me to start in on you, Minister? I am more than happy to have the discussion with the minister.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr WATTS: I will take the minister's interjections. I was not specifically talking about the minister's behaviour, which, by any measure, would be seen as very suspect—in fact, by the CCC seen as foolish. With this change of definition would it be considered corrupt?

The objectives of the bill are to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and to implement the recommendations of report No. 97 of the Parliamentary Crime and Commission Committee titled R*eview of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by*

Mr Darren Hall. The definition of 'corrupt conduct' is proposed to be widened by removing the requirement that corrupt conduct be engaged for the benefit of or detriment to a person. We certainly know that there was some benefit to some people with the minister's actions, don't we? It also proposes to remove the list of offences that could be corrupt conduct and replace them with a second limb defining corrupt conduct.

Corrupt conduct may now include such things as collusive tendering, fraud in relation to applications for a licence, permit or authority—it is not fraud in relation to applications for board appointments, unfortunately—or dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the payment or application of public funds. I will say that again: dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the payment or application of public funds. I would be interested to know whether the board appointments made via the mango cube application method are getting paid. If they are, one could say that they are certainly suspect and they are certainly receiving public funds. Corrupt conduct may also include the disposition of state assets, evading a state tax, levy or duty or fraudulently obtaining and retaining a government appointment. I will repeat that: fraudulently obtaining or retaining a government appointment.

I would be interested to know—and again I am not a lawyer so I might need to seek help from the member for Toohey—what 'fraudulently obtaining' means. If there was no application process and if nobody is consulted then was there a level of fraud? If there was not a level of fraud then I wonder if everybody in the bar at my local Fitzy's pub could have the email address where they send their applications for one of these plum government jobs.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr WATTS: I am curious as to what the current address is because obviously that one has had to be shut down. There has been a little bit too much public scrutiny on that one.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr WATTS: I hear the minister squawking away over there, protesting his innocence. I think he does protest just a little bit too much. He knows that his behaviour at the very best is incredibly borderline. Everybody else in Queensland knows where the campaign funding comes from and knows where his mates come from. It is all union money. They get a backdoor entry into plum government jobs paid out of the taxpayers' purse.

Let me come back to the bill. What is the bill about? The bill is about making sure the people of Queensland have confidence that there is not corrupt conduct. I am happy to go for a walk down the street with the minister in Toowoomba any day of the week and we will do a vox pop as to whether they think his behaviour is corrupt.

The facts of the matter are that the people of Queensland did not have the ability to be able to apply for those jobs, particularly after applications closed. They did not have the ability to get recommended for a job they did not apply for. The minister made sure that his union mates and friends of his union mates got the plum jobs to run Queensland on behalf of the people of Queensland.

We all pay our tax, we all run our businesses, we have employment and we do all these things. We need some public administration. What this bill is about is making sure that we have confidence in that public administration. When we have someone in a leadership position in this state setting this low standard—a standard that would not pass for the appointment of a P&C president—of allowing someone to apply after applications close, everybody knows that if this does meet the definition of 'corrupt conduct' then we should be changing the definition.

We are here changing it. We are broadening it. If it does not capture the behaviour that this minister has exhibited in this place then it should be broader. I am happy to have taken the minister's interjections. He has made me talk about a few things that I was not planning on talking about. It does show that in the fight against corruption in this state we cannot rest.

The Attorney-General said that this is about ensuring that we serve all Queenslanders, not the privileged few. I wonder whether all Queenslanders received an email to apply for those jobs after applications were closed or whether it was in fact only the privileged few that the Attorney-General referred to.

In order to fight corruption in this state, where possible these things should be open and accountable. Obviously not everything can be discussed openly by the CCC, but they need strong legislation. They need legislation that is fit for purpose and that is capable of doing the job. I put it to members that, if we go for a walk down any street and ask people what they think, they would see the minister's behaviour as not meeting the standard. The legislation should capture that.

The second part is that the CCC need the resources. One of the implications of broadening this definition is that there will be a lot more captured. The CCC has to try to work out how to prioritise and deal with cost blowouts and time blowouts. The other thing I know, coming from business, about corruption is that if it is not dealt with quickly then it makes it really hard if you want to mortgage your house and invest in a business. If you think someone else might be able to get favourable terms that are available to you, you are going to go, 'I won't make that deal.'

It has been reported widely in the media that the CFMEU has a shocking history on this. In the past 18 months the union's Queensland branch has been hit with fines totalling $2.4 million after losing 10 cases brought by the Australian Building and Construction Commission. What do you think that does to the businesses that are running construction works here in Queensland, when the CFMEU blatantly ignores the laws and funds the people who write the laws who then come into this place and will not hold the CFMEU accountable? Anyone in the construction industry is terrified of what the CFMEU can do to their profitability and their bottom line through its illegal behaviour throughout Queensland. The Attorney-General does not want to deal with it in any way at all.

There were plenty of other matters to do with nepotism, the bad culture of the Labor government and the way they are running government, but I am out of time.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Mansfield—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, I remind you that you need to be in your own seat when interjecting.

Members, I acknowledge that joining us in the gallery today are the Deputy Principal from Kenmore State High School, Andrew Blight; school captains Julia Viney and Nicholas Visser; and vice-captains Adelaide Rusinga and Jacob Turner.

Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (6.32 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill that is before the House today is an endorsement of the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to providing the Crime and Corruption Commission with the tools it needs to continue the work of ensuring integrity in our public institutions. It also fulfils an election commitment to bring stage 2 of this bill before the House in this term. This bill demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to deal with corruption at all levels of government.

I would like to thank the Leader of the House for her longstanding commitment to the people of Queensland in ensuring that we have a robust and independent legal system which will deliver a corruption-fighting agency dedicated to the highest ideals. I would also like to express my thanks to the other members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the secretariat for their insights and cooperation as we considered the bill.

As the Leader of the House indicated in her introductory remarks, this bill replicates the content of the bill which was introduced into the previous parliament and which lapsed when parliament was dissolved for the 2017 election. The bill received wide scrutiny by a previous parliamentary committee. The purpose of this bill is to provide greater clarity to the Crime and Corruption Commission by widening the definition and scope of 'corrupt conduct'. As we have seen in recent times, corrupt conduct can take many forms and is not always a simple case of an individual or group deriving benefit from unconscionable behaviour within the public sector. The new definition now defines 'corrupt conduct' as anything that undermines public confidence in public administration. As the business of government has grown increasingly reliant on public-private partnerships and outsourced service providers, there was a distinct need to widen the definition to encompass the new operational environment.

The second purpose of the bill is to incorporate into legislation a number of recommendations from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97. Chief amongst those recommendations was a lengthening of the time frame for a Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal review from 14 to 28 days for reviewable decisions, as well as amendments to the disclosure requirements which until now have prevented the transfer of a disciplinary matter to another entity if an employee moves jobs.

The definition is widened to capture certain conduct by people outside the public sector that impairs, or could impair, the public confidence in public administration, even where the actions of the public sector employee have not lacked propriety. This change is strongly supported by the commission and is consistent with recent amendments in New South Wales and Victoria. The amendment will

enable the commission to oversee and investigate conduct such as collusive tendering and fraud in applications for licences or permits issued by government and is appropriate given the increasing degree of outsourcing and public-private partnerships in the delivery of government services.

Additionally, the Ombudsman will have greater discretion in his interactions and disclosure requirements when dealing with other state and federal agencies. Further, as a result of this bill being passed Queensland will be brought into line with other services that work to prevent the undermining of public administration. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, I do apologise for what I said previously. You are the shadow minister and you were sitting in the correct seat. I got that wrong. I do apologise.

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I, like the member for Mansfield, would like to thank my colleagues on the committee—I am a member of that committee myself—and the staff who, as we often say, do an outstanding job. I would like to pay tribute to them.

I would like to focus on one particular aspect of the bill, and that is the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. I thank the Attorney-General for her second reading speech earlier. I note that she invoked the Moonlight State and the Fitzgerald inquiry, and that is very appropriate. I would like to explore some potential improvements to the definition of 'corrupt conduct' as they might relate to examples of recent public administration that we have seen in Queensland and also in the operation of this House itself.

The member for Toowoomba North, my good friend, recently spoke about public confidence and about the government's published protestations about serving all Queenslanders, not just the privileged few. I want to focus on the words 'not just the privileged few'. One of the concepts of corrupt conduct which was exposed by the Fitzgerald inquiry was that very issue—the privileged few having access to power, having access to opportunities and personal enrichment at the expense of the common good.

We have heard a number of speakers in this debate talk about the astonishingly bad revelations regarding the mangocube email account. I note that the minister is here in the House to hear what I have to say. I think that is very sporting of him.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This has nothing to do with the bill and I ask the member to come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr LISTER: Yes. As I continue my exploration of ways in which perhaps the definition of 'corrupt conduct', which is a central part of this bill, might be improved—

Mrs D'Ath: You narrowed it when you were in government—just saying.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. I have not been in government. I am a member of the opposition and I have only been here for a year. That does not mean that, on behalf of the people of Southern Downs, I do not have some valuable insights to offer in this debate.

As I say, it is lamentable that the definition of 'corrupt conduct' does not capture—or at least did not at the time—the mangocube saga where we had terrible revelations of favouritism and backroom deals where friends of the minister, or perhaps his puppeteers, in the union movement had been giving him advice and direction on how to undertake his ministerial duties.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. Once again, the member has strayed right off the bill. I suggest that he address the bill and do his job.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! I advise the member to return to the long title of the bill.

Mr LISTER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I return to the bill and its implications for the description of corrupt conduct, we need to have a definition which would capture examples we have seen in recent public administration in this state—examples such as the use of private email accounts to circumvent proper practice in order to allow friends of the executive to exercise undue influence away from the public eye. As the Attorney-General raised the Fitzgerald inquiry in her second reading speech today, I think it is really important that we talk about the sorts of things which could be characterised as corrupt conduct. If this bill were really good—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member clearly is not adhering to your direction. He is repeatedly straying from the bill onto totally irrelevant imaginings and I suggest that he come back to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I advise the member to return to the bill.

Mr LISTER: I will return to the bill and I will continue to discuss the tenet of the bill, which is the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. As a member of this House and as a representative of the people of Southern Downs, I would like to talk about how the definition of 'corrupt conduct' might be improved to ensure that recent examples of public administration in this state could have been prevented or punished had the definition been appropriate.

As I say, the Attorney-General did invoke the Fitzgerald inquiry in her speech earlier this afternoon and I thank her for that. I would like to provide some rebuttal to the implication that the Fitzgerald inquiry and report had some bearing or genesis on the bill before us. I think the government needs to remember that oppressing the parliament or preventing it from carrying out its duties should be seen as a form of corrupt conduct. I would like to quote from the Fitzgerald report which states—

No government will have all the ideas, expertise and insight on any particular topic. As well, Governments are not the only bodies which have these attributes. Whatever the expertise required, the solution to any problem is something about which people can and do reasonably differ. The best result will be produced from rational debate by those with opposing views. The community is entitled to such a result.

The report continues—

It is much less likely that a pattern of misconduct will occur in the Government's public administration if the political processes of public debate and opposition are allowed to operate, and the objectives of the parliamentary system are honestly pursued.

Coming back to the definition of 'corrupt conduct', I think that we should consider it to be corrupt conduct to curtail debate; to silence us; to clamp down on the liberties of members of this House to speak on behalf of their constituents about matters of concern. One such matter of concern, as I said, was the terrible mangocube saga where we saw, in my view, the abuse of executive power in secret. One of the things that Fitzgerald said in his musings on corruption is that it is the absence of public disclosure and the absence of public knowledge of activities which allow corruption to flourish. I think ipso facto any mechanism which is used to keep the public uninformed about what the executive is up to could well be seen as corrupt conduct. I say again it is a shame that the definition is only being changed now and not at the time the mangocube saga was going on. There are other extraneous interests such as what the unions want and who has been elected by what faction to be in the ministry, though that is completely distinct from the interests of the public of Queensland, and that is the whole problem here.

I will continue to talk about the Fitzgerald report and how it relates to corruption and what could be seen as corrupt conduct. I want to look at statutory board appointments. I know that any conduct which enriches people secretly or against the public interest should be seen as corrupt conduct. I look at some of the infamous board appointments we have had in recent times which have clearly been examples of favouritism and nepotism—jobs for the boys for the friends of the Labor movement.

To come back to the question of secrecy and how that allows corrupt conduct to flourish, Fitzgerald said—

A Government can deliberately obscure the process of public administration and hide or disguise its motives. If not discovered there are no constraints on the exercise of political power.

The rejection of constraints is likely to add to the power of the Government and its leader, and perhaps lead to an increased tendency to misuse power.

The risk that the institutional culture of public administration will degenerate will be aggravated if, for any reason, including the misuse of power, a Government's legislative or executive activity ceases to be moderated by concern for public opinion and the possibility of a period in Opposition.

What that is saying is that one hides from the public things that one does not want them to find out about because there may be adverse electoral consequences. We had in the gallery today the honourable Matt Foley, who I understand had leave to appear at the Fitzgerald inquiry to represent the Labor Party. Where is Mr Foley now when we see examples like the mangocube debacle or when we see ministers of the Crown clearly doing the bidding of their union paymasters? The Fitzgerald report continues—

The ultimate check on public maladministration is public opinion, which can only be truly effective if there are structures and systems designed to ensure that it is properly informed.

We are going back again to open administration—the sort of stuff that the Palaszczuk government and the Premier herself goes on about ad nauseam. It further states—

A Government can use its control of Parliament and public administration to manipulate, exploit and misinform the community, or to hide matters from it. Structures and systems designed for the purpose of keeping the public informed must therefore be allowed to operate as intended.

I think that is damn right. Although I have reservations about the bill, I believe we should support it nevertheless.

Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (6.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I have heard the contributions in the House from the other side, although I am not quite sure after listening to them what outcome they are after in this bill. The member for Toowoomba South worries that the definition is too broad. The member for Toowoomba North wants it broader. I am not sure those on the other side are quite in tune or in lock step with each other about what they are after in this bill. Might I get them to refresh their memory about what a unit of public administration is and what the jurisdiction of the CCC is?

I would like to acknowledge my fellow colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: the chair, the member for Toohey, and the members for Mansfield, Southern Downs, Lockyer and Mirani. I would also like to thank the committee secretariat for their ongoing work and support for this bill. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of the 55th Parliament chaired by the member for Stretton should also be acknowledged.

As a former police officer, I understand how important it is for our public institutions to maintain their integrity, particularly those who police the police. The principle of policing by consent, first championed by Robert Peel in the 1820s, is how policing in our democracy has evolved. That consent can only be established and maintained when the community has faith in its institution and submits to the rule of law. That is what separates us from autocracies and police states.

Central to that is ensuring that we remain eternally vigil—particularly those of us who sit in this House—and insist on transparency where practicable. Reviews and reports such as the ones that predicated this amendment bill are an essential tool in ensuring that our processes and legislation are improved and refined to meet the community's expectations. We are here today to debate further amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act to ensure that we meet these expectations.

Of primary interest to those in law enforcement and the community more broadly are the amendments to the definition of 'corrupt conduct', and speakers before me have addressed the simplification of that definition. I also wish to focus on clause 5, which outlines the expansion of the jurisdiction of the CCC. To understand the proposed expansion requires an understanding of the current limitations the CCC has in relation to public sector employees or those who hold positions within a unit of public administration.

The new subsection enables the commission to oversee and investigate conduct such as collusive tendering, fraud in relation to certain licence applications and dishonestly obtaining public funds that impairs public confidence in public administration, even where it does not involve a lack of propriety by a public official. The proposed changes to the definition align with the commission's overriding responsibility to promote public confidence and integrity of the public sector. It is appropriate given the increased amount of outsourcing and public-private partnerships that we are now seeing in the delivery of government services.

An amendment to the CCC corruption functions in clause 7 will now allow the CCC to better exercise its investigative powers to address corruption risks. While we are aware of CCC investigations into instances of public corruption, the CCC work that is often unseen by the public is in the proactive identification of corruption risks. I think we can all agree that it is better to prevent corruption than it is to react to it, and I wholeheartedly support this aspect of the bill.

One area that I am pleased to see in this amendment bill is clause 32, which establishes improved information-sharing capabilities of organisations which are involved in the auditing and investigating of public entities. The work undertaken by these organisations is highly specialised, and personnel transfers across these organisations are quite common, particularly between the Queensland Police Service and the CCC. The ability of an organisation to be aware of an officer on appointment's suitability for employment is important to maintaining public faith in the organisation. Having only those who themselves have demonstrated the highest of integrity to investigate others is integral to this concept.

As a police officer, no-one ever really looks forward to the prospect of being subject to a then CJC or CMC or now CCC investigation. Often most officers would have little to no control—or even knowledge—over their involvement, particularly in broad-scale investigations. It must be of some consolation to those in the spotlight that the officers conducting the investigations are themselves beyond reproach. The amendments will ensure that the sharing of disciplinary information means that the integrity of investigators is high and that the integrity of the investigations themselves is not hampered by doubts about the quality of investigators. This will also extend to disciplinary matters currently under investigation to ensure that secondments are not cut short and investigations curtailed due to adverse disciplinary findings carrying over from previous secondments.

The other amendment I would like to mention here is one that I have had a number of constituents come to me on—and that is the ability to review QCAT decisions. Currently, individuals who have had adverse decisions made against them have had only 14 days to lodge an appeal against a decision. Notification by snail mail, infrequent mail delivery services and the inability to seek good independent legal advice on whether to appeal a decision means that 14 days is a very tight time frame. Clause 21 will extend the available appeal time frame out to 28 days. That will allow citizens the ability to make informed decisions about whether to appeal a QCAT decision relating to alleged corrupt conduct.

The final clause I would like to speak to is clause 17. This amendment is as a direct result of the PCCC report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. This amendment is one of procedural fairness—a tenet of natural justice that all those in law enforcement are, or should be, familiar with. This clause stipulates that the CCC must not include adverse information about a person in a report that is to be tabled in this House without giving the person subject of that information an opportunity to make a submission. Natural justice will now provide that such a person will have a right of reply where practicable.

These amendments hold true to an election commitment made by the Palaszczuk Labor government to deliver accountability and transparency. I am pleased to support this bill and I commend this bill to the House.

Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (6.54 pm): I take the opportunity to stand and speak on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill seeks to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in Queensland and implement the recommendations of the 2016 Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and the report titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall,* who was a former police officer, regarding procedural fairness to people who may be adversely affected by a report from the commission.

I would like to thank both serving and former members of the crime and corruption committee for their work on this bill and the reports from which its objectives are derived. I would also like to thank our committee members—the members for Toohey, Mansfield, Macalister, Mirani and Southern Downs. I would also like to thank the member for Coomera, the member for Currumbin and the then member for Beaudesert, now member for Scenic Rim, for their guidance and statement of reservations.

Like my colleagues, I will be speaking in favour of this bill. It is my intention to also raise my concerns over the bill's shortcomings and question whether or not this government is truly interested in cracking down on crime and corruption in Queensland. As I did at the committee, I wish to disclose to the chamber that Mr Darren Hall, who made the complaint to the commission, was sworn in with my cohort of cadets back in July 1986. I have remained in regular contact with Mr Hall, and his commitment to the people of our community could not be doubted. Darren served with much dignity and honour. Mr Hall is now making a new life as a successful businessman, and I wish him and his wife, Cathy, and their family all the very best. It is great to see Darren and his family doing so well after they faced some very challenging times.

Regarding Darren's complaint of not being treated with procedural fairness, on 22 July 2009 the report titled *Dangerous liaisons* was tabled by the then Crime and Misconduct Commission. That report made reference to Mr Hall, who had not been provided with an opportunity to address allegations made against him. I am pleased to see that clause 17 introduces a new section 71A into the act, which prohibits the commission from including adverse information about a person in a report to be tabled to parliament unless the commission provides the person with the opportunity to make submissions about the adverse information. It is a shame that Darren did not have that opportunity, as much hurt and grief could have been avoided.

As has been stated, the primary objective of this bill is to clarify and widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' as it appears in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Through the implementation of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in 2016, it is proposed that the definition be changed to remove the requirement that the conduct be engaged in for the benefit of or to the detriment of a person. It is also proposed that the definition be altered so that actions—such as collusive tendering; fraud in relation to applications for a licence, permit or authority; dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the state; evading a state tax or levy; and fraudulently obtaining or retaining a government appointment—may now be considered as 'corrupt conduct'.

As was expressed within the submissions received by the committee in relation to this bill, this proposal is not without its shortcomings. Indeed, the Queensland Law Society submission stated that, although supportive of the inclusion of collusive tendering within the definition of 'corrupt conduct', 'We do not consider that these powers should be open-ended and limitless.' The Law Society submission continued on to outline their belief that the proposed definition is far too broad and opens the jurisdiction of the commission. They suggested that their jurisdiction should be restricted to corruption that: involves or affects a Queensland public official or public authority; is deliberate or intentional, as opposed to negligence or mistake; is a criminal offence, or a disciplinary offence, or constitutes reasonable grounds for dismissing or otherwise terminating the services of a public official, or in the case of a member of the Queensland parliament or local government councillor, a substantial breach of an applicable code of conduct.

I understand the Law Society's position, but I cannot agree with restricting an investigation into corrupt activities. Our community expects corruption to be dealt with. Although disagreeing with the Law Society's suggestion that this proposed definition is too broad, we on this side of the House share their concern that it is likely to place further undue burden on the commission and take its focus away from combatting corruption in Queensland. Nonetheless, as supporters of the bill it is the duty of me and my colleagues to bring those opposite to task and implore them to allow the commission to get on with its core operational task of investigating major corruption in Queensland. The LNP trusts the commission to do this; however, we have serious doubts about the commission's ability to conduct the work it is charged to do when burdened with a government which seems happier to slash funding to the commission and plead ignorance when questioned about the integrity of its own members. Indeed, it is safe to say that the Labor Party's track record for corruption speaks for itself.

Debate, on motion of Mr McDonald, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

South Pine Road, Traffic Accidents

Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.00 pm): I rise in the House to speak about a serious issue in my electorate and to make a direct appeal to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. In my electorate the southbound stretch of South Pine Road going towards the city, bordered by Pullen Road and Halle Street, is incredibly dangerous. In mid-October during that rainy period there were four car accidents within five days in which cars went into residents' fences and onto footpaths; they were incredibly dangerous. This is not the first spate of accidents on this road. Over the years there have been numerous accidents because of the design of the road. Frankly, the residents have had enough. I would like to table the front page of the *North-West News*, which shows an example of one of those accidents.

Tabled paper: Article from the *North-West News*, dated 1 November 2018, titled 'Residents in fear' [1783].

The resident who lives next door to the house pictured, Pat Bourke, has lived there for 30 years. She is in a situation where she fears for her safety. The situation is so dire that she has spent $8,000 of her own money to basically barricade herself in. Not only does she have a brick wall but she has boulders behind the brick wall so she can feel safe. The people across the road, Jillian and Dennis, have a first-aid kit permanently situated in their garage plus orange traffic cones because they are so used to aiding those people who, unfortunately, have an accident on this section of the road.

This is a serious safety issue. I have written to the minister on at least three occasions. I have brought this matter up with Transport and Main Roads officials on numerous occasions. They acknowledge that there is a problem. They are conducting an investigation. I am very, very concerned that there is going to be a fatality on this section of the road unless action is taken immediately. I am calling on the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to personally intervene in this situation so that

there is not another accident. It is so bad that Pat Bourke was told unofficially by one of the Transport and Main Roads officials, 'If I was you, I would move out of this house.' That is not good enough. We expect action from the minister.

Ferny Grove Electorate, Vocational Education and Training

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (7.03 pm): I rise to report on the excellent work being done in my electorate of Ferny Grove in vocational education and training. The Brisbane North West Trade Training Centre, located in the grounds of Mitchelton State High School, was built by the federal Labor government in 2011 and is today being actively supported by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. Students from more than 20 high schools are accessing this facility and are receiving valuable real-world skills training in the automotive, electrical, engineering and health fields. They are students from both the government and private school systems and come from as far away as Craigslea, Kelvin Grove, Marist College, Ashgrove, the aviation college and even Loganlea.

Trade training for high school students is essential to provide the necessary skills to build our economy and drive innovation in the 21st century. Trade training centres have now been incorporated smoothly into the state school system to play an important role in meeting this need. I think it is well recognised these days that university is not for everyone and that hands-on training can be crucial to creating a career path that will lead to a well-paying job. Trade training centres providing VET courses as part of high school help to prepare young people for precisely this type of career. We know that a relentless focus on university-only education leads to early school dropouts and poor employment results. I refer to a 2012 Deloitte Access Economics report which observed that early school leavers who study VET in schools are more likely to experience good transitions into further study and work than early school leavers who do not study VET in schools.

Labor governments have always led the way in advocating for trade training and good jobs in trade industries. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is continuing this tradition. We understand that theory, while important, is not enough to get the job done. Recently I was lucky enough to be shown around the North West Trade Training Centre by manager Luke Cahill and school principal John Searle. The facility is excellent and the equipment is industry standard. The automotive shop alone is one in which I am sure many members in this House would love to spend a weekend tinkering away. A highlight for me was meeting the students in both the health and automotive streams. They were enthusiastic kids who were clearly thriving in an environment where they can learn practical skills which could lead to a future career. I am proud the Palaszczuk Labor government is continuing to support the trade training centres in Mitchelton when at the same time the Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison governments have not added one cent beyond what the last federal Labor government invested in this project.

Gold Coast, Police Resources

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise this evening to speak on a shocking story that was covered by the *Gold Coast Bulletin* last week. The story revealed a Gold Coast police officer is currently under investigation for allegedly taking kickbacks from funeral home directors and interfering with bodies at the morgue of a hospital. The details of this case are extremely disturbing including allegations the female officer took money and gifts from funeral home directors in return for referring families of deceased to their business while she worked at a morgue as well as allegations the officer removed things from bodies, including cutting a lock of a deceased woman's hair to send to her family overseas. These are just some of the allegations that have been made public. I shudder to think what further details have been kept from us.

While no charges have been laid, there is an investigation underway and the police officer in question has been transferred from the morgue at the Gold Coast University Hospital and is now working under supervision. This whole situation is disturbing to me on so many levels. Firstly, there is the thought of this happening to me or to my loved ones. Being taken advantage of in a time of grief like this is appalling and having a body tampered with is simply unthinkable. I would like those opposite—and this happened under their watch—to pause and take a moment to imagine this happening to them or their loved ones. It is not a nice thought, is it?

Why have Labor allowed this to happen over an extended period of time to Gold Coast families? Why have Labor, despite the obvious and growing needs of our community, consistently reduced funding and resources for police on the Gold Coast? This horrible situation is just another example of

how the Palaszczuk government is failing Queenslanders and failing the Gold Coast. The Palaszczuk government have reneged on their promise of 44 additional officers made last year during the election campaign. All up, the Gold Coast is short 88 officers, depending on which number and which day we look at it. This is despite the Gold Coast having a rapidly increasing population and a huge crime rate. That is 88 fewer officers out in the community protecting families and catching criminals.

The Gold Coast crime district is having its funding secretly funnelled into nearby Logan, and the Premier and her ministers have been caught out telling fibs in relation to the numbers. While the LNP are busy fighting for more police on the Gold Coast to keep our community safe, the Premier and the member for Gaven are too busy talking about *Dora the Explorer*.

Woodridge Electorate, Sporting Clubs

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (7.09 pm): Tonight I am honoured to stand in this House to express my thanks and appreciation to all those people who are the heart and soul of sporting clubs in the Woodridge electorate, to shine a spotlight on the wonderful work they do and to thank them for their tireless commitment to our local community.

At the outset can I take a moment to make special mention of Duane Antcliff, President of the Logan Brothers Rugby League Club, who is here tonight with other members of the club executive. They are joined by Brian Roberts, president and life member of the mighty Logan Brothers Old Boys with some other old boys as well. I congratulate Duane and all the Logan Brothers volunteers and Logan Brothers Old Boys for what they do to support rugby league in our community.

Club president Adam Woodley, vice-president Dave Charlton, and other members of the Centenary Plains BMX Club are also here with us tonight.

Mr Power: Great people!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. They are a great club with great people. It was a great pleasure to visit Centenary Plains BMX and Logan Brothers recently to help them open new clubhouses, which were built with funding assistance from the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Another local club which does terrific work in our community is the Logan City Netball Association. I am delighted that the club is also being supported by our government through a $366,000 grant. This investment will allow for a facilities upgrade, including a first-aid room and better access for people with a disability. As the club keeps growing, I want to thank stalwarts like President Toni Wardlaw and Secretary Terri Noakes for their dedication to local netball.

I also want to acknowledge the Logan City Cricket Club, 2018 premiers in the Queensland Sub Districts Cricket Association competition. Included in this group are life members Les and Pam Marshall, whom I proudly presented with Queensland Day Awards in 2017 and 2018 for their commitment to cricket and the community.

I also wish to thank Karen Gallpen, vice-president and head coach at the growing Southern Stars Baseball Club. Karen and other club members are the backbone of baseball in Logan. Karen manages teams, organises fundraising events, and is one of the driving forces behind a club that is creating league history by fielding three masters teams while also taking part in the inaugural GBL women's baseball league, an eight-week competition that the Southern Stars have kicked off with two massive wins.

Our littlest local legends are also being given a sporting leg up by Browns Plains Little Athletics with great guidance from people like Charlotte Halvorsen, the president of the club. The Browns Plains Little Athletics team ran away with many medals following the Jimboomba carnival on Sunday and continue to achieve plenty of personal best times.

Meanwhile, soccer is well and truly supported in our local area by Logan Metro and the Logan Roos FC. I want to thank Logan Metro president Samuel Escobar and Logan Roos secretary Abdul Khan and their teams for the work they do. The message 'We are Logan' is catchcry for our region, and it is heard and seen no better than when Logan Metro are in full flight.

The community of Woodridge is stronger because of these sporting organisations and other teams like them. It is easy to be a champion in this parliament with so many other champions in my local community, and I thank these clubs for their effort.

Gibb, Mr G

Mrs WILSON (Pumicestone—LNP) (7.11 pm): We all have someone pretty special in our electorates, and for Pumicestone Mr Graham Gibb is right up there amongst the best of the best. Graham stands out as someone who not only voluntarily serves the public at large but everyone he comes across, and he gives his time to make our community a safer and better place to live for all.

Graham is a volunteer in policing at the Bribie Island Police Station, where he has been instrumental in establishing the highly successful Coffee with a Cop program. He is also a volunteer for the Bribie Island police dementia awareness program and advocates the importance of looking after our older and most vulnerable citizens at every opportunity. Graham has also taken on the lead coordination role for the Bribie Island community and wellbeing day, which is being held next Wednesday at the Bribie Island RSL. This will be an annual event, bringing all community services together in one place to showcase the work they do and the support they offer. We will be supporting White Ribbon Australia on the day also.

In addition to his commitment to volunteer policing, Graham is also an integral part of the Bribie Island Volunteer Marine Rescue, which I am very proud to be the patron of. He is a VMR committee member, the liaison official for the Moreton Bay emergency services group and a VMR radio officer. Graham has continued his commitment to community safety by taking the chief organiser's role at the annual Bribie Island Emergency Services Expo. Unfortunately, due to the weather a few weeks ago we had to postpone this terrific event, so it will now be held on Sunday, 18 November, and I am very much looking forward to this. The aim of the expo is to educate the community on emergency services, disaster management and disaster preparation, with an array of emergency services showcasing their work, giving presentations and practical demonstrations. We have Graham to thank for being the driving force behind this expo every year.

Graham's approach to making his community a safer place for all really does set the example of what public service truly means. On behalf of all the residents of my electorate I would like to thank Graham for the work he does without praise or any fanfare.

Bray Park State High School

Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.14 pm): Tonight is a momentous night for the Bray Park high school community. Tonight, after years of lobbying and campaigning, the school is hosting its first academic awards night in its newly renovated and extended multipurpose hall. While I am being well represented during tonight's proceedings by Labor's candidate for Dickson, Ali France, this Friday I will join the school community to officially open the hall on behalf of education minister, the member for McConnel.

Labor knows that improving school facilities like the school hall represents so many positive opportunities for learning new skills and celebrating school spirit. This facility has been a long time coming for the school. It was sadly promised yet left completely unfunded and unsupported by my LNP predecessor in a failed re-election attempt in 2015, so it is a project that I take real pride and pleasure in being able to deliver to the school community. The hall is part of the Palaszczuk government's new Advancing Queensland Schools initiative, which supports over 500 jobs in 30 school communities right across the state.

At Bray Park we commenced construction on 11 December 2017, and practical completion was on 29 June 2018. For the first time the school now has a spacious weatherproof area to assemble and a purpose-built creative arts area with a real industry look and feel. The large stage, audiovisual room, storage, audiovisual facilities, box office and cafe will greatly enhance performing arts events. Preparation in the green room, as well as selling tickets and refreshments in the box office and cafe area, will add to the real-life atmosphere that is so important to budding performers. The fact that the stage and other areas have disability access ensures that it is an inclusive and practical facility for use by the whole school community. It means that the school will now be able to hold larger creative arts and sporting events on site rather than having to travel and incur the expense of external facilities.

The extended hall also has designed sports markings on the floor, making it a wonderful facility for school and regional sporting events. It will be an important community asset and help the school build on its already great reputation as an outstanding school. I would like to thank Principal Kirsten Ferdinands for her excellent leadership and all of the school staff for their commitment to the students. I would also like to thank everyone involved in designing, constructing and delivering this important

project. I appreciate how essential this infrastructure is for the school and how much it is valued by the community. This is infrastructure that will assist every student to reach their full potential for many years to come.

Baralaba

Mr BOYCE (Callide—LNP) (7.17 pm): On the north-west tip of the Callide electorate on the banks of the mighty Dawson River is the tiny town of Baralaba. It is home to about 300 people, but it lives in the hearts of thousands. This was evident at the recent centenary of the Baralaba State School, when the population more than tripled with past families, staff and students travelling from far and wide to attend the celebrations.

The township started when the Dawson River Anthracite Prospecting Company commenced prospecting for coal in 1901. With the growth of the township by 1917, the department of public instruction agreed to the opening of a provincial school if parents could provide a tent in which to hold classes. The Baralaba Provincial School—known as the tent school—officially opened on 19 August 1918, with 11 children in attendance. The second-hand tent itself lasted until 1921 when it suffered damage in a storm, and classes had to move to the nearby railway goods shed. One hundred years later, Baralaba State School is a prep to year 10 school with 99 students. It is well resourced and equipped with over 20 staff to support the education of our next generation.

The Baralaba area was originally home to the Gangulu and Wadja people. Examples of their artwork can be found along the Dawson Range, which was mostly inhabited by the Wadja people. The school centenary celebrations included the Kulgoodah Dancers from Woorabinda, 40 kilometres from Baralaba, part of the neighbouring Gregory electorate. Kulgoodah Dancers performed in a smoking ceremony with Gold Coast artist Luther Cora at the opening of the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast in April this year. Baralaba has always maintained close ties with Woorabinda, adding a school bus run in 1965, when the secondary school opened—a bus run that continues to this day.

Baralaba's economy revolves around farming and coalmining. The Neville Hewitt Weir boosts the prosperity of the area by providing storage for 10,000 megalitres of water for irrigated agriculture and provides water security for the town and the mining industry. I wish the school and the Baralaba community well for the next 100 years.

Mackay, Choir Performances

Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (7.20 pm): Recently Mackay was treated to a weekend of exceptional choirs. The Gondwana Voices, a choir of young people from across Australia, was developed through the work of Lyn Williams OAM when she created the Sydney Children's Choir in 1989. The choir has a reputation for being of the highest standard for young people not just in Australia but also internationally. I would recommend everybody to visit the choir if it is in their community.

The choir's performance in Mackay, at the historic St Paul's church, was all the more special for our community because we got to see one of our very own students perform—Ellen McCusker, a member of the choir. Ellen is a local student attending Holy Spirit College. She trains and travels with the choir, adding richness to the choir. We are very proud of Ellen and the commitment of her family to allow her to follow her love of singing.

The second choir we were treated to the following day was the very same Choir of Unheard Voices that performed previously at parliament. It is 10 years since its formation. The choir supports adults in the community who struggle with mental illness. Many of them are living in seclusion. The choir is a means of external pursuit and engagement and fulfilment for its members. The choir has progressed beyond simply learning songs to perform in public to its members writing their own songs, running workshops and supplying some of the musical back-up at performances. The choir is made up of amazing people who bring joy and happiness to audiences. They are also an inspiration. It is evident that they have all had struggles in their lives, and they are still able to proudly and professionally entertain others.

I will share some of the voices of the choir with members. Tracy was one of the first members. At first she did not want to be seen—she hid behind, not wanting anybody to see her—but now she sings by herself. She has written a song about herself, her life and her struggles. She said—

We all sing some songs that make us cry. We are family.

Dean also joined in 2008 after watching a video of Choir of Hard Knocks. Dean has been very unwell over the years and has not always been able to sing. He said—

No matter how sick I get, the choir still inspires me to participate. I feel welcome and it gives me comfort. One day I hope to write my own songs about love and life.

Kathleen said—

The choir has kept me out of the mental health ward. We are a good source of support for one another.

Since joining the choir she has learned to play the bongos. The choir members are supported by a strong, caring group—

(Time expired)

Sunshine Coast, Crime

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (7.23 pm): The first priority and duty of any government in Queensland should be the safety of its citizens. Lately we have had big issues in my electorate. When I looked at recent stories in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* I became concerned. I saw headlines such as 'Man, 35, arrested over string of Coast break-ins', 'Man, 21, charged with armed robbery of Coast 7-Eleven', 'Hunt on as tomahawk robbers strike twice in 24 hours', 'Coast armed robbers', 'Chemist armed robbery accused hopes for bail', '18yo held up by knife-wielding man' and—more concerning in the last couple of weeks—'Shooting sparks fears bikies are back'. I table the articles.

Tabled paper: Articles from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, various dates, relating to crime on the Sunshine Coast [1784].

I never thought I would be standing in the Queensland parliament saying that I have a concern about bikie gangs in the electorate of Kawana. That matter is before the court, but I can say that it is drug related and involves members of the Rebels bikie gang. Years ago I, as part of the LNP team, did everything in my power to get criminal gangs out of the state of Queensland. It is no coincidence that since Labor came to power in 2015 crime is up but the budget is down. We have seen hold-ups of the Liquorland at Aroona, Zarraffa's at Caloundra and 7-Eleven at Meridan Plains. Numerous homes on Kawana Island have been broken into. There was a robbery at Caloundra Midnight Pharmacy and a bikie shooting.

The Labor Party cut funding to Neighbourhood Watch groups across Queensland in the midst of a crime spree. This morning I asked the police minister about crime on the Sunshine Coast. Assaults are up by 19.2 per cent. Car thefts are up by over 30 per cent. As I said, we have now seen a bikie shooting. The response of the Minister for Police to the question this morning was—

Mr Speaker, I seek your ruling as to whether the question is in order.

The minister cannot even talk about the crime rates because he knows that the statistics are bad. Under the watch of this police minister crime is increasing, and the government has no plan to do anything about it.

As I said, the duty of the government of the state of Queensland should be the protection and safety of its citizens. Labor is failing. You cannot look at the statistics released by the Labor Party in any other way. Since 2015, crime on the Sunshine Coast has increased. It is no coincidence. Labor is soft on crime. Labor has always been soft on crime. The people it impacts are the residents.

(Time expired)

Mount Lindesay Highway

Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (7.26 pm): I rise to speak about the *West Mt Lindesay Highway development corridor: major road network study* update. This vital road corridor serves a growing area that deserves a government that backs safety and upgrades. This update lays out a 10-year plan for the future. This important update affirms the 2011 plan. It is important to reaffirm this plan because it is this plan that was abandoned by the LNP. Locals in Logan cannot forget that immediately on coming to government the LNP cut $182 million from the budget in the outyears to upgrade the Mount Lindesay Highway. Instead, it added only $800,000 for two turning lanes and ignored dangerous intersections, flood problems, safety, four-laning and grade separation. In short, the LNP ignored Logan.

This government is returning to investing in the Mount Lindesay Highway, instituting the Mount Lindesay Highway safety review. From that process we have seen safer four-lane intersections built, under construction or budgeted at Camp Cable Road and Stockleigh Road; service roads either under construction or budgeted in North Maclean and at Camp Cable Road, all the way down to opposite Greenbank Road; and service lanes on both sides of the road at Stockleigh Road, providing safer

access. We are doing vital four-lane sections from where the four lanes merge beyond Granger Road-Stoney Camp Road. This is vital because 20 per cent of the traffic exits there. The project should have been completed by the LNP government, but it was a victim of budget cuts. We have restored it to the budget.

We are also lifting and four-laning the section of road between Camp Cable Road and Johanna Street-Tamborine Street. This will reduce the incidence of Jimboomba being cut off by floodwaters and allow those going down to Tamborine Street to stay in the left lane all the way through from north of Camp Cable Road.

There is also a massive investment in the Logan Enhancement Project, which will create service roads directly from the Gateway to the Mount Lindesay without having to merge onto the Logan Motorway before exiting almost immediately. It effectively extends the Gateway onto the Mount Lindesay.

I am the first to say that there is more to be done on this vital road in this growing area. This plan identifies new projects for the future. We have already done vital work to make the intersections safer and put in the service lanes ready for four-laning and separation. I will be fighting for the funding for four-laning. I am also calling on the federal government to join in funding the Mount Lindesay. It is a vital interstate freight road that has been ignored for too long. What we cannot go back to is an LNP state government that will once again—as it did before—cut funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway. If I am there, I will not let them do that.

The House adjourned at 7.29 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, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson