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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 1 November 2018

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THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Canangeraba State School in the electorate of Burleigh. I wish to advise members that we will also be visited in the House this morning by attendees at the Introduction to How Parliament Works seminar.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: And that is not a reference to members in the House!

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.32 am): I seek leave to move general notice of motion No. 2, standing in my name, with respect to setting up a select Ethics Committee into the Premier.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 44:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 46:

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

Pair: C. O'Rourke, Watts.

Resolved in the negative.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Same Question Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the opposition has twice sought to seek leave to move the motion. It also of course has the opportunity each sitting week to put a motion on notice and debate said motion. In light of those points with regard to any future attempts to seek leave for this motion, I will be enabling the same question rule and I will be ruling it out of order.

PETITIONS

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

Category 2 Water Boards, Amendments

Mr Krause, from 332 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider the proposed changes to Category 2 Water Boards under the Water Act 2000 [[1785](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Redland Bay, Moores Road, Car Park

From 466 petitioners, requesting the House to support the development of a car park at Moores Road, Redland Bay, within the Weinam Creek Priority Development Area [[1786](#)].

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

Clifton-Leyburn Road, Speed Limit

From 235 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately assess the speed limit on the Clifton-Leyburn Road and provide urgent upgrades to ensure the safety of drivers and all road users [[1787](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPER

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Glass House (Mr Powell)—

[1788](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to fund the upgrade to Mount Mee Road between Ocean View and Dayboro.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade Mission

 Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I am pleased to advise that this weekend I will be travelling to China and South Korea on a trade mission. I am going to China at the invitation of the Chinese government, which is organising the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai. This import expo is a priority of President Xi and is taking place from 5 to 10 November, with over 2,800 companies from 130 countries registered to exhibit. Organisers are anticipating around 180,000 attendees.

China is aiming to build a new platform for trade and economic cooperation to safeguard the multilateral trading system and to promote the growth of the world economy. There are 14 Queensland companies taking part—from Kilcoy meat producers to seafood operators, our universities and a pharmaceutical company that produces a drug used by MS patients. China is Queensland's largest trading partner. In the last year, our exports to China have risen by \$4.8 billion to \$23.7 billion out of our record \$76.7 billion in total exports.

In addition to attending the Shanghai trade expo, I will also be meeting executives from retail giant Alibaba. Alibaba is an online retail giant whose sales total more than eBay and Amazon combined. It also has 48 supermarkets across China. The opportunities for Queensland producers from that meeting alone are extraordinary.

Our tourism minister has just released figures showing China accounted for 500,000 visitors to Queensland, spending \$1.3 billion. I will be hosting a dinner with Chinese tourism investors to investigate further opportunities in Queensland. If our tourism operators have access to Alibaba as a payment platform, it will make those transactions easier and make holidaying in Queensland all the more attractive.

I will also sign an agreement to export one of Queensland's greatest cultural claims to fame. This month, the dynamic Li Cunxin will lead the Queensland Ballet on a tour to Shanghai, Beijing and Xi'an. Maintaining a constructive and productive relationship with our most important trading partner is vital for Queensland.

After China, I will be travelling to South Korea, our fourth-largest trading partner. In the 12 months to August, our exports to there were worth \$8.3 billion. While South Korea loves us for our primary products, they also love us for our minds and Queensland's leading edge in renewable energies, including hydrogen. Near Townsville, Korean based Sun Metals has invested in one of the biggest solar power plants in Australia and that is one of the largest industries in Townsville. I will be meeting investors in South Korea to discuss further expansion opportunities for Townsville—jobs for Townsville.

It is a simple fact that, in the past, my government's trade missions have secured companies like Rheinmetall and JFE Steel to Queensland. Those are just two deals worth billions of dollars and hundreds of jobs. I am leading an outward-looking, export oriented, future focused government because Queensland is an outward-looking, export oriented, future focused state.

Mitsubishi

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): As an outward-facing, trade oriented economy, Queensland's success relies on our international reputation. While any trade agreement must get the best deal for Queenslanders, our strongest relationships are often our longest relationships, where trust and respect are the paramount factors for success. It is in that context that this evening I look forward to attending an event, along with the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mitsubishi Development.

Our relationship with Mitsubishi is one that, from its earliest days, has been built on quality—the world's highest quality metallurgical coal from Queensland's Bowen Basin being forged into the world's finest steel in Japan. Since that first mine at Blackwater half a century ago, Mitsubishi's role in Queensland has expanded. Brisbane is now the company's national headquarters.

In the aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Mitsubishi donated a mobile satellite trailer to Education Queensland, which continues to be used to support events in regional and remote Queensland. Mitsubishi is now branching out into our growing biofuels industry and, last year, was named the Wesley Medical Research Supporter of the Year for its ongoing support.

On behalf of this House, I congratulate Mitsubishi on its 50-year partnership with Queensland and wish it well for the next 50 years. It will be a great honour to attend this milestone event in Queensland tonight.

Industry Skills Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): My government is focused on jobs: jobs for today, jobs for tomorrow and jobs for the years and decades ahead. We are working hard every day to grow our economy and grow jobs for Queenslanders right now. We also have to have a laser focus on the new sorts of jobs that will be needed in the future. We cannot afford not to. I have said it before and I want to make it clear again: if we do not have the skills that industries need for these jobs, employers and companies will look elsewhere, go elsewhere and operate elsewhere.

Today, I am announcing that my government will host an Industry Skills Summit in Brisbane at the end of this month—on Wednesday, 28 November. Along with the Deputy Premier, the Minister for State Development and the Minister for Training and Skills, I want to tap into the thinking of the biggest companies in Queensland's traditional and emerging industries. I want to share the challenges of the future with industry, universities, the skills training sector and unions. We must all work together.

The day will begin with an industry skills round table, where leading CEOs and board chairs will discuss how we provide the skills for the workforce of the future. That will be followed by an Industry Skills Summit, where 200 delegates and key speakers, including mayors, will discuss the future of work. This is to ensure that we are not just willing but are able to provide the necessary skills for the decades ahead.

Let there be no misunderstanding: change is already happening to the way we work. I want the summit's panel sessions and workshops to come up with practical, achievable and imaginative ways to transition the state to be ahead of the game when it comes to new skills and jobs. For example, it is essential that future jobs are linked to what is happening in our education system—schools, TAFEs and universities. The labour market of the future will need skilled workers who have kept pace with—even leading the way in—technology, automation, innovation and the shift to a knowledge based economy. My government is preparing now and the Industry Skills Summit will be a major accelerator.

Vocational Education and Training, Industry Skills Summit

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.47 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in the skills of Queenslanders to make sure that they are ready for the jobs of the future. Although traditional trades will remain vital to our economy in Queensland, we also know that changes in technology are going to make those jobs even more advanced. The pace of change will require Queenslanders to have ready access to training that will allow them to upskill and reskill across their working life. To keep up and to keep our workforce productive will require the cooperation of all levels of government, training providers and industry alike. That is why the skills summit announced by the Premier this morning is so critical.

Queensland is not approaching this challenge from a standing start. We are already investing in skills for the future through free TAFE, giving our high school leavers access to 160 qualifications in high-priority industries to make sure that the next generation is prepared with the skills needed in priority areas. We are investing in TAFE Queensland with \$85 million in capital renewal of priority campuses to upgrade and modernise our training facilities. Thanks to Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, payroll tax rebates and WorkCover incentives, Queensland is leading the nation in new apprenticeship and traineeship commencements. We are investing in industry based and regionally based workforce plans to steer investment and engagement at the local level through Jobs Queensland.

We know that vocational education and training will need to adapt to remain relevant and responsive to changing workplace and industry needs. The *Skills for Queensland* discussion paper, which I released earlier this year, is engaging with training providers, business, industry and, importantly, the community to identify ways that we can make our training system even better. As I said, we need cooperation across all levels of government and that includes the Commonwealth. Today, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research is releasing its *Financial information 2017* report, which outlines government investment in the sector. The report shows that Queensland has increased its overall expenditure effort on vocational education and training by 4.5 per cent while at the same time the Australian government decreased it by 22.2 per cent.

Queensland has the runs on the board, but we are always looking to do more. The Skills Summit is a fantastic opportunity to hear directly from employers, trainers and community leaders about how we can all work together to build on the success of our training system to make it even better.

Commonwealth-State Agreements

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.49 am): Queensland is a vast state with diverse regions. Commonwealth-state agreements are a vital source of revenue for funding important infrastructure and services right across our state, from the remotest of our Aboriginal communities to the hospitals and schools at the heart of our busiest cities. The Palaszczuk Labor government is fighting for a fair deal for Queensland, but in recent years, under Scott Morrison as Treasurer and now as Prime Minister, the federal government has adopted a more aggressive and short-sighted approach to negotiating agreements with states and territories. Rather than focus on working with the states and territories to achieve the best outcomes and providing states with the fair funding necessary to deliver critical services, the Morrison government is short-changing us.

Negotiations in health have been undermined by uncertainty around funding for Queensland public hospitals. The Morrison government recently retrospectively applied changes which reduced national funding to Queensland by approximately \$240 million over the three years to 2018-19. The health minister, Steven Miles, along with his state and territory counterparts, have requested the Australian government immediately reconsider its position and the dispute will be escalated to COAG. We will not be short-changed on hospital funding. To give fair warning, we will make this the biggest issue in Queensland come the next federal election.

When it comes to education, the Palaszczuk government is ready to sign up to a fair five-year school funding agreement from 1 January 2019. However, the Morrison government continues to propose onerous and unaffordable conditions that represent a significant overreach into the state's role. Queensland believes that this is an unfair deal, leaving uncertainty and concerns for all school sectors. Without a deal with all states and territories, the Morrison government has announced significant additional funding for the non-state schooling sector. Unfairly, there has been no similar commitment for state schools. The federal government has not provided any certainty for early childhood education, with another one-year extension to the existing agreement. Our youngest kids need and deserve funding certainty.

When it comes to skills, Queensland is bucking the national trend, as the Minister for Training has outlined. We are bucking the national trend in the numbers of apprentice and trainee commencements despite in 2017-18 having a cut in federal funding of \$70 million. The Palaszczuk Labor government has rejected the latest national partnership offer from the Australian government because it did not deliver guaranteed funding for Queensland's apprentices and trainees.

The National Partnership on Remote Housing expired on 30 June this year and the Australian government has refused to commit to its continuation despite repeated requests. This ends a 50-year tradition of federal funding for remote Indigenous housing. The expired agreement helped provide critical housing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote communities to reduce overcrowding and improve living standards. Without adequate housing, we cannot hope to make significant progress in Closing the Gap.

We will keep fighting for every dollar in every agreement because Queenslanders expect nothing less. I call on every member of this House to do exactly the same. Now is the time for the Morrison government to live up to its responsibility to all Australians and to all Queenslanders. We only ask for a fair deal on national partnerships for Queensland. Queenslanders can only rely on the Palaszczuk Labor government to fight for our fair share out of the Morrison government.

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.53 am): As we have seen from the wild weather that struck the state last month, the disaster season is well and truly upon us. We have seen severe storms in the Scenic Rim, Fraser Coast, Gympie and South Burnett. Some farmers just recovering from Cyclone Debbie have had their crops destroyed again. As honourable members may be aware, there are four categories of disaster assistance available under the joint Commonwealth and state funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements which come into effect today: categories A, B, C and D.

The rules around NDRRA and the DRFA are controlled by the Morrison government. However, the Commonwealth has made the rules so complex and so unfair that many severely impacted individuals and communities must go without and recover on their own with no assistance at all from the federal government. In particular, the rules around the activation and eligibility of category C are so inflexible that some impacted primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit agencies cannot access assistance when they need it. Earlier this month communities in the South Burnett, Fraser Coast and Gympie were impacted by the 'hailnado' where farmers lost their crops and their income, but according to the federal government category C assistance is not even on the table.

On 28 May 2018, I wrote to the then federal minister responsible for natural disaster funding, Angus Taylor, asking for a review of the strict criteria for category C to make it more humane, flexible and less mathematical when determining need and eligibility. Unfortunately, the Morrison government does not share the Queensland government's sense of urgency. On 6 July the minister advised that the Commonwealth will be reviewing community recovery 'at some time after the implementation of the new DRFA from 1 November 2018'. That time is now!

Canberra does not get cyclones and it does not get flooded too often, so maybe that is why the federal government does not care about reviewing the inflexible rules around category C before some vague time in the never-never. Disaster assistance should be there to support community recovery and not hinder it. Now is the time for the Morrison coalition government to stand up for our vulnerable Queensland farmers and small businesses and make category C disaster assistance fairer, less complex and more readily available to those who need it most.

International Tourism

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.56 am): I have great news for Queensland!

Opposition members interjected.

Ms Trad: They hate great news.

Ms JONES: I know. It is sad. New data released today shows international tourists are spending more in Queensland than ever before. Queensland reached record highs in international visitation and expenditure in the past financial year. When we came into government international visitors were spending \$4.5 billion a year in Queensland. I am pleased to announce today that 2.7 million international tourists spent \$5.7 billion here in Queensland. That is a 25 per cent increase under our watch.

China continues to dominate as the state's largest international market. More than half a million Chinese visitors spent a record \$1.3 billion in Queensland in the year to June 2018. That is nearly 10 per cent growth in visitor numbers and a whopping 30 per cent growth in money spent here in our state. China is one of our most important trading partners, as the Premier has said, and international tourism markets and remains our largest source market. Consistently strong growth from China goes to show that our strategy to strengthen Queensland's \$25 billion tourism industry is working.

China is not the only region where we have seen significant growth in relation to visitor data. Visitation from Hong Kong grew 60 per cent to a record 73,000 and they spent \$208 million, which is up 26 per cent. We also saw a record 468,000 visitors from New Zealand and they spent more than \$560 million. The United States remains a strong market for Queensland, with 232,000 visitors spending \$379 million. Scandinavian visitors spent a record \$106 million, which is up 17 per cent. Queensland's share of international visitor expenditure has also grown over the last year, up from 18.8 per cent to 19.4. The data released today shows that the Palaszczuk government's commitment to growing this industry is working. We look forward to even more data into the future.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Warrego. Minister for Tourism.

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): Today is an exciting day for Queensland: Containers for Change is now here. From today, Queenslanders are able to get a 10 cent refund on their drink containers or they can donate their refund to a charity or community group. The recycling scheme has been years in the making and I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is initiating change to ensure a better future for our state.

Container Exchange or CoEx, the not-for-profit company implementing the scheme for Queensland, was set a target of ensuring that there are 232 refund points operational across the state from today. I am pleased to say that they have exceeded that target. Today Queenslanders can return their drink containers to 251 sites. For the benefit of the House, I table the list of those 251 sites. In addition, there are around 300 sites ready to open during normal opening hours.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, listing container refund point locations, types and opening hours [1789].

Across Queensland, more than 2,000 charities and community groups have submitted an expression of interest to become a donation point, which is great news for the community. Containers for Change is a recycling initiative that will help reduce litter in our environment. Every year in Queensland nearly three billion beverage containers are used and, sadly, those containers are the second most commonly littered item in our environment. That is despite the fact that they can be easily recycled. However, from today, each eligible container will have a financial value.

The scheme is contributing other benefits. This morning I visited a refund point at West End where the operator, which is managing 10 sites, told me they have employed 55 people because of Containers for Change. CoEx informs me that this is being repeated across the state, with hundreds of new jobs being created. People all across Queensland are excited about what this scheme means for our communities. The mayor of the Fraser Coast said—

Drink containers are a common form of litter on the Fraser Coast, we see them in our creeks, parks and footpaths. The container refund scheme gives everyone an incentive to collect containers.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Coomera, your interjections are completely unnecessary. You are warned under the standing orders. I have a short fuse today, members.

Ms ENOCH: The mayor of Gladstone said—

As a council we strongly believe in supporting our residents to recycle at every opportunity.

Councillor Alan Wilson from Cook Shire Council, who has lobbied for a scheme such as this in Queensland for more than 10 years, said—

The 10c refund is a real incentive for people to be more responsible dealing with litter.

Today is just the beginning of a new scheme that will grow as more Queenslanders participate. I encourage all members to get involved in and support Containers for Change.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Stage 2

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.02 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing heavily in more and better services for the people of the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service operates six hospitals and health facilities and they excel in providing high-quality health care to more than 400,000 people in an area spanning 10,000 square kilometres. Those services are getting even better, thanks to Labor's investment.

We have delivered record health funding each budget for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, including almost \$1.2 billion in 2018-19. That is in addition to the Labor commissioned \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital, which is the first completely new—not replacement—hospital in Queensland in 20 years. The construction and fit-out works for stage 2 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital were successfully completed by 30 June 2018, as planned.

Planning for the commencement of stage 2 clinical services is well underway, which means more complex tertiary services for the people of the Sunshine Coast, allowing them to be treated close to home—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections are designed to disrupt.

Dr MILES: I repeat: this means more complex tertiary services for the people of the Sunshine Coast, allowing them to be treated close to home, without long trips to Brisbane. At the beginning of the year, the Paediatric Critical Care Unit opened. In a first for the region, the unit is providing care for critically ill children aged up to 16 years. So far, the doctors and nurses there have cared for 255 seriously ill children who otherwise would have been transferred to Brisbane for treatment.

The Radiation Oncology Centre provides comprehensive oncology, clinical haematology and—for the first time on the Sunshine Coast—radiation oncology. Prior to this, residents of the coast had to go to a private provider or travel to Brisbane for this life-saving cancer treatment. Now, 60 people a week are getting all the treatment they need in the one facility.

There is plenty more to look forward to with the plastics and reconstructive surgery unit to open by the end of the year. That will mean that patients needing reconstructive surgery after suffering skin cancer, breast cancer or serious trauma can be treated locally. High melanoma diagnosis rates and road trauma accidents make the unit a must for the region and will make travelling to Brisbane for reconstructive plastic surgery a thing of the past for Sunshine Coast locals.

Cardiac surgery is scheduled to commence in 2019 and the hospital will provide increasing services to care for sicker and younger babies from January 2019. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more services for Queenslanders, close to their homes, no matter where in our great state they live.

Cost of Living

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government understands that Queenslanders are concerned about the cost of living. That is why we invested \$2 billion into our Affordable Energy Plan to drive down Queenslanders' energy bills and it is why we are acting to give motorists the information they need to get the best fuel price going.

From today, Queensland's 1,400 fuel retailers can sign up to our two-year fuel reporting trial, which starts next month. I encourage retailers to sign up online by mid-November to supply their up-to-date prices so they are ready for the trial. All Queensland fuel retailers have been sent an online link and, for most retailers, it will take only around five to 10 minutes to sign up.

This takes us one step closer to Queensland motorists being able to find the cheapest servo in town on their smartphones. Under the trial, all fuel retailers will have to supply their up-to-date prices via an online portal. These will be made available free to existing and new fuel price apps and websites such as MotorMouth, GasBuddy and the RACQ.

I welcome the support of Mr Shorten and federal LNP members such as Keith Pitt for the Palaszczuk government's calls for Prime Minister Morrison to give the ACCC stronger powers to investigate and prosecute fuel companies, which is something we have been asking for for over two years. Once again, I call on the Prime Minister and the opposition leader to back us in protecting Queensland motorists.

The trial complements the Palaszczuk government's what-you-see-is-what-you-pay laws, which came into effect on 31 January this year and require retailers to display on their fuel boards full prices rather than conditionally discounted offers.

The Palaszczuk government's actions on cost of living are also reflected in the latest Queensland Competition Authority advice, which found that power prices have continued to remain stable or fall for four consecutive quarters. That is in addition to the 1.3 per cent decrease for residents in regional Queensland. With Christmas around the corner, the Palaszczuk government is doing everything it can to provide some holiday respite for Queensland families.

Gold Coast, Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.07 am): Last night I spent some time with our police on the Gold Coast. I took the opportunity—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will wait for the House to come to order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was speaking then? Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de Brenni interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Public Works, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: Last night I spent some time with our police on the Gold Coast and took the opportunity to look at their cutting-edge District Tasking and Communications Centre. What I saw was impressive. While I was there, experienced police explained to me how, just that night, they used the centre's technology to help find and arrest two arsonists. What was the time lapse from the commission of that offence to the arsonists being apprehended by police? It was one hour.

Senior police told me that, without this centre and its network of cameras, monitors and computer linkages, it would have taken at least 10 times as long to apprehend those offenders. Let us think about that: police have solved a crime and caught the perpetrators in less than one-tenth of the time it would normally take.

The implications are enormous. Police spend less time on each crime. Police spend more time on the road. People in the community see more police, more often. Fewer police are needed on each job as those who are on the ground are being guided from location to location by the team monitoring the massive array of screens back at the centre. This is modern policing. This is the Gold Coast putting its more than 1,000 police officers where they are needed, when they are needed. This is the future.

We are going to see a lot more of this—combining the latest technology and the best police to keep the community safe. In the 12 months that the centre has been running, the centre has helped resolve nearly 4,000 cases. It has also helped assist with 5,000 other cases.

Our Gold Coast police are doing an outstanding job. They are investing in new technology. They are applying the best officers. They are putting the right police in the right place at the right time. I take this opportunity to thank them not only for embracing technology but also for their extraordinary commitment to community safety right across the Gold Coast and right across Queensland.

Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in Queensland infrastructure to create jobs and boost economic growth. Yesterday, the House heard about our record \$21.7 billion investment via QTRIP. Major roads and highways across Queensland are being upgraded, supporting thousands of jobs. It is not just our roads that benefit from this investment. Our rail lines are critical to moving freight over large distances of Queensland.

I am pleased to announce that we have recently awarded a \$1.5 million contract for the next phase of works as part of the \$100 million north coast line upgrade between Rockhampton and Townsville. The contract supports upgrades to the signalling and operational systems to accommodate a new track layout. The north coast line project is another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's efforts to strengthen our state's rail capacity.

The north coast line is a key freight corridor, supporting industries and supply chains for Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville and their surrounding communities. Local businesses, freight operators and industry have told us they want—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Glass House, you are warned for interjections which are designed to disrupt the speaker.

Mr BAILEY: The north coast line is a key freight corridor, supporting industries and supply chains for Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville and their surrounding communities. Local businesses, freight operators and industry have told us they want to increase the amount of goods they are able to carry on our rail lines, and we are doing that.

The line between Rockhampton and Townsville is mainly single track. The passing loops along its route are vital to supporting more efficient train movements. This project will extend the length of eight passing loops between Rockhampton and Townsville from 700 metres to more than one kilometre. These extensions will allow freight trains operating on the north coast line to increase in length by up to 45 per cent—from 650 metres to 950 metres.

Once completed, this extra rail capacity will support the viability of job-creating industries, including the meat, cement and gas industries, which call Central and North Queensland home. It will make rail freight more productive and cost effective. It will also make our rural and regional highways safer, make rail freight more competitive and take trucks off our roads. The project will also create jobs in local communities through the engagement of local suppliers.

The Palaszczuk government is continuing to invest in the Townsville to Mount Isa rail corridor as well. The Mount Isa line carries more than 70 weekly movements, split between passenger services and the transport of about 84,000 tonnes of freight. We have committed an additional \$50 million over two years for critical track improvements on this valuable piece of infrastructure, which this government kept in public hands. This builds on our \$43 million investment in 2017-18 along the line, bringing the total investment in the Mount Isa line up to \$380 million over the next five years.

On the central west line that supports local freight and the twice-weekly tourist favourite the *Spirit of the Outback*, more than \$90 million in upgrades are underway. The works involve the replacement of 109 timber rail bridges, as well as more than 240,000 timber sleepers between Emerald and Clermont and Emerald and Winton. The Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in Queensland's historic rail lines will ensure we continue to safely and reliably connect both freight and passenger services for our growing state.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 13 November 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That the following provisions, and parts of provisions, of the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation 2018, subordinate legislation No. 115 of 2018, tabled in the House on 21 August 2018, as described below be disallowed—

- (a) Section 1, Short title, the words 'Oxley and' only
- (b) Section 3, the words 'Map No. PDA 13—Oxley Priority Development Area Oxley'
- (c) Section 4, the words 'Oxley Priority Development Area interim land use plan Oxley'

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Birth Certificates

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the proposed Labor Party policy to remove gender from birth certificates and the Palaszczuk government's current review—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, please resume your seat. Members to my right, I will give one warning today about hearing questions in silence. It is a courtesy that should be afforded to all members asking questions during question time.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, you are warned under the standing orders. Leader of the Opposition, please restart your question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My first question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to proposed Labor Party policy to remove gender from birth certificates and the Palaszczuk government's current review of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. Will the Premier rule out removing gender from Queensland birth certificates?

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I question whether this goes to a private member's bill that is currently before the House in relation to gender use.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, when it comes to a bill which may sit on the table for a substantial period, particularly as is the case with private members' bills, the Speaker is allowed some discretion to ensure that not all debate with regard to a particular bill is ruled out. This relates to the anticipation rule. I will allow the question. I will give a bit of latitude in terms of how this question is answered.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. My understanding is that there are no plans to do that in Queensland. However, if a person has had a gender reassignment then they can apply to actually have that changed on their certificate.

This is the biggest issue facing the LNP at the moment. This is the politics of the vision. I honestly cannot believe that this is a question from the Leader of the Opposition about the state of Queensland.

Ms Jones: They've got nothing else.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. They have absolutely nothing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, repeated interjections with 'you' and 'your' will not be tolerated.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What I know is that there is internal turmoil opposite about the granting of a conscience vote in this House. There is complete and utter turmoil. I am on the side of the member for Clayfield. I am on the side of the member for Chatsworth.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, have you finished your contribution? Before I call the point of order, I would ask the Premier to come back to the core of the question. It is quite a specific question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: For once I am on the side of the member for Currumbin. On that side there is complete division. When is a conscience vote really a conscience vote?

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. In terms of standing order 118 and relevance, the question was about birth certificates and whether it is male or female noted on birth certificates.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Local Government, I will make the determinations in this House. Premier, I have asked that you come back to the core of the question. If you have anything further to add, I would be keen to hear it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition might want to phone the Premier of Tasmania, because apparently Tasmania is to be the first Aussie state to remove gender on birth certificates. There are no plans here; the plan is in Tasmania. How embarrassing!

Integrated Electronic Medical Record

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My next question without notice is also to the Premier. Last year Queensland Health's \$600 million integrated electronic Medical Record system, a system that the health minister called an 'incredible success', suffered a complete meltdown. An investigation found the meltdown had considerable clinical impact over seven Queensland Health hospitals and the vendor actively obstructed the investigators. Will the Premier ban Cerner from tendering for any other IT projects until the system is fixed?

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I caution you with regard to long preambles.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that there was a CCC inquiry into that.

Dr Miles: The incident itself the minister outlined to the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. I think we should put this on the public record. First of all, we are trying to move Queensland into the modern age. Other countries around the world are coming here to view the digital transformation.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, they are.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: The mayor of Berlin was here. I met them—a senior delegation.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members, particularly members to my left! I have called order. The House will come to order, otherwise I will name members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite should perhaps contact their own colleagues in Canberra to talk about the rollout of My Health Record before they start trying to attack a system here designed to—

Ms Jones: NAPLAN online.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—NAPLAN online. Let's keep going. Let me put some facts on the record for those opposite. I am advised that on 25 May 2017 the then minister for health and ambulance services, the member for Woodridge, conveyed to the House advice he had received from Queensland Health about problems that had been experienced by users of the integrated electronic Medical Record. This occurred around the same time as governments and corporations around the world grappled with ransomware attacks on information technology systems.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The former minister told the parliament that security patches had been applied to protect Queensland Health systems from attack. The former minister also said that he had 'received advice from the Chief Executive of eHealth Queensland, Dr Richard Ashby, that while those patches have protected the integrity of our systems and data it appears these protections may be making logging on and off the ieMR system difficult for some users'.

I understand subsequent investigations have delved further into the cause of the problems and a number of technical documents have been released from this process. The advice from the current health minister remains that it was Queensland Health's robust response to preventing any ransomware attack that led to a reduced capacity of the system. I do not think there is any discrepancy. If anything changes, the current health minister will update the House.

Mackay, Infrastructure Investment

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's infrastructure investment in the Mackay region?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for that enthusiastic question because we know how important infrastructure is for our regions. While the LNP want to talk about something that has been proposed by the Tasmanian Liberal Party, we will talk about what matters to Queensland. What matters to Queenslanders is jobs—growing jobs, especially in the regional economies.

I know how important the Vines Creek Bridges are for the Mackay residents, and I know what a strong advocate the member for Mackay has been about this project. In fact, the Minister for Transport and I have been there on numerous occasions to see the start of that construction and ongoing construction. I am very pleased to advise the House that this month—during the month of November—

the Vines Creek Bridges will be officially opened in Mackay. That is great news for the local economy. The \$28 million project created 42 jobs during construction—very much needed. I am looking forward to the opening.

On another matter, we know how important it is to keep getting new investment into Mackay. We have been pursuing biofuel options with Mackay Sugar. I had the opportunity just last week to join with the Treasurer, my Minister for State Development, my Minister for Tourism and my Minister for Transport when we met with the board of Qantas. As we know, the first stage of the training academy was announced at the Wellcamp airport in Toowoomba. From discussions with the Qantas board, I can advise the House that Mackay is clearly still in the running for the other pilot academy, and we wish Mackay all the very best. We want to do everything we possibly can to help secure that for Mackay. I have asked the Minister for State Development to keep liaising with Qantas to do everything he possibly can to try to get that academy for Mackay.

We will always continue to invest in the regions. There are other proposals in terms of the development of the cricket ground in Mackay that I know the member is very keen to see. We need to make sure that we have sporting grounds in Mackay to service the local community. I think the opening of the Vines Creek Bridges is going to be absolutely wonderful—opened ahead of schedule in the month of November.

Integrated electronic Medical Record

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Why has the minister not stood down Dr Richard Ashby from his \$615,000 per year role as the CEO and CIO of eHealth Queensland given his handling of what is shaping up to be the biggest IT bungle since Labor's Health payroll debacle, and he is the subject of an ongoing Crime and Corruption Commission investigation?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. As she is well aware, that matter is under active investigation by the CCC and it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further about the substance of the matter. Let me say a few things about the ieMR.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr Dick: You know about standing down.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development, you will put your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: The product for the ieMR throughout Queensland Health was selected prior to the election of the Newman government. It was kept in place throughout the entirety of the Newman government. The rollout schedule was set by the health minister in the Newman government. The program itself and the rollout schedule has remained exactly the same from when it was put in place by those opposite. The foresight shown by that Labor government in investing in digital hospitals is paying off.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Waterford!

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are under a warning. I ask you to leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 10.28 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, if you are on a warning, I give notice that the cover of large numbers of interjections will not help you today.

Dr MILES: The foresight shown by that Labor government and kept in place by Lawrence Springborg has meant that Queensland leads the country in digital hospitals. Metro South is the first fully integrated network of hospital and health services to have gone digital in the country, while other states still struggle to get their first hospital up and running.

What the Premier said is true. People are travelling from around the country—indeed, from around the world—to see how we have converted our hospitals to digital. The reason they are doing that is the results. Already in Metro South the rollout of ieMR has seen a 59 per cent increase in earlier identification of deteriorating patients; a 17 per cent decrease in emergency patient readmissions within 28 days of discharge—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Dr MILES: This might be funny to the Leader of the Opposition, but these are real people—a decrease in incidents linked to drug administration, monitoring, dispensing and supply; a 56 per cent decrease in the number of patients with stage 3 and 4 pressure injuries; and a 37 per cent decrease in infections across the Metro South Hospital and Health Service because of the rollout of ieMR. It is making a difference to the health care we are providing to Queenslanders.

For the member for Mudgeeraba to continue to use this to try to undermine public confidence in our hospitals is a real shame. Lawrence Springborg would never have done it and this opposition leader should not be doing it.

National Partnership Agreements

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of negotiations around national agreements and their effect on Queenslanders?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Ipswich for the question. I know that she, along with every member of the government, is deeply concerned about what has been a retraction in terms of commitment and funding from the Morrison federal government around national partnership agreements. I outlined in my ministerial statement some key issues that we have in relation to health funding, education funding, early childhood funding and remote Indigenous housing funding.

We stand united with a whole range of other jurisdictions in this nation which share very similar concerns about what the Commonwealth is doing in quite an aggressive way, which is reducing funding in the case of the health national partnership agreement, retrospectively changing the calculation of funding to leave states and territories short-changed. As a member of the Board of Treasurers, I am not alone and Queensland is not alone in our very deep concern over what has happened with the national partnership agreement and the health funding. This is not something that we are prepared to be silent on. As I said in my ministerial statement, we will make this the No. 1 issue at the next federal election if the federal Morrison LNP government does not reinstate the original calculation around health funding.

I would like to think that every single Queensland representative would be on the same page with us in relation to fighting for our fair share. I would like to think that. Unfortunately, I cannot say that. What have we heard from those opposite in relation to all of these partnership agreements? Nothing. Actually, let me correct the record. We have heard on two occasions the member for Mudgeeraba get up and crow about the health national partnership agreement and we have heard the member for Surfers Paradise claim credit for improvements in early childhood funding in his time as minister for education even though the national partnership was in place before he became the minister and it is the same national partnership agreement that we have sought to make permanent. The most important years of early education are being neglected by the federal government and those opposite remain silent.

This is a very critical issue for the state of Queensland—in fact, for all jurisdictions in our nation. National partnerships are incredibly important, and I would hope that those opposite one day find a passion for this state, find a commitment for this state and stand up to their federal counterparts at a national level.

(Time expired)

Stanwell Corporation

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Treasurer. I refer the Treasurer to Minister Lynham's ministerial statement late on Tuesday night. Will the Treasurer table the documents referred to in the whistleblower's letter supporting allegations of corrupt conduct, market manipulation, insider trading, excessive speculative risk taking and breaches of the Corporations Act all occurring at Stanwell Corporation, which is under the Treasurer's responsibility?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. It is a very important question. It is a very important issue. These allegations have been made and they are in the process of being reviewed, analysed and investigated, and they will go through their proper course. If the member for Everton wants to use the chamber to conduct inquiries or reviews into very serious allegations, then I would recommend that he acquaint himself with the Fitzgerald inquiry.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, I have just called the House to order and you have immediately interjected. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: There is an established and independent process by independent Treasury officials who will undertake the necessary requirements.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I believe that is the goal of question time. You are warned under the standing orders for frivolous interjection.

Ms TRAD: The process will go its course, and if there is anything of substance to the claims being made then they will be forwarded to the CCC for appropriate investigation. There is an independent and established process within Queensland statute that is being adhered to. I repeat: if there is any substantiation to any of the claims being made, the CCC will investigate and not the member for Everton.

South Rockhampton Levee

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the south Rockhampton levee, and is the minister aware of any other alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Rockhampton, along with the member for Keppel, for being great champions for the protection of the city of Rockhampton through the construction of the south Rockhampton flood levee. In June 2017—not 2018—the Palaszczuk Labor government committed \$25 million to the south Rockhampton flood levee. That is 18 months ago. Our government wants to deliver that project, which is why we have declared it a prescribed project. We are declaring it a prescribed project to get the project moving.

The Rockhampton Regional Council has put in \$10 million. The Palaszczuk Labor government has put in \$25 million, but all we have seen from the federal coalition is dithering and a lack of action. They put in money for a rail line to Melbourne. They complain that there is not a business case. We sent the federal government a business case in May 2017. They claim there is not a business case, but they funded a rail line to the Melbourne airport without a business case. So Melbourne gets a rail line and Rockhampton gets flooded. That is what the federal coalition does to Queensland. It is about time Scott Morrison, Matt Canavan and Michelle Landry stop the talk, stop the dithering and start to fund the protection of people, businesses and the economy of Central Queensland. It is entirely inappropriate that the federal government sits on its hands and does nothing.

Another person who does nothing for Queensland is the Leader of the Opposition—nothing on Morrison government health cuts; nothing on Indigenous housing health cuts; nothing on the environment. There is nothing but environmental vandalism when she sat around the CBRC table and proudly cut the waste levy, making Queensland the environmental and waste dumping ground of Australia. There she is laughing again at her legacy. This is not leadership. This is not leadership for Queensland. I commend the member for Rockhampton for fighting hard for his community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK: He is one person who will stand up for Rockhampton and he has distinguished himself by his contribution in this House.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, resume your seat. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Even amongst all of that I could still hear you.

Mr DICK: I commend again the member for Rockhampton for standing up for Rockhampton, because Labor will always stand up for that great city of Rockhampton. We will always fight for that community.

We get no leadership from the member for Nanango. We get nothing. We get no leadership on the outrageous slur put before the House on Tuesday by the deputy leader—no leadership on that. There is no leadership on standing up to those members of the LNP who were deselected because they are women. There is no leadership on those whose preselection is threatened because of their conscience vote. It is not leadership at all.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I remind all members that cross-chamber conversations and quarrels are not tolerated. That is the last warning I will give on that today.

Container Refund Scheme

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Environment. I refer to the minister's oversight of the Container Refund Scheme and point out that there are no collection points in high-growth areas such as Springfield or in large parts of the northern Gold Coast. What advice does the minister have for families living in these areas or to the manager of the Runaway Bay Centre, who has this morning had dozens of people turn up with bottles only to find that location has been struck off the map entirely?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. In this House, we have an incredible responsibility—a responsibility for the future of this state. When we consider that we use some three billion containers every year in this state and that they are the second most littered item in our environment, we have to as a parliament support programs that actually support recycling and of course support opportunities to see litter reduced in our environment. We established the Container Refund Scheme in this state, which had bipartisan support—absolutely bipartisan support.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members on my left, the minister is being responsive in answering the question. I ask you to hear the answer.

Ms ENOCH: In establishing the Container Refund Scheme in this state, we appointed CoEx, a not-for-profit organisation, to deliver the scheme in this state, similar to what is seen in every other state and territory. We set targets for what we wanted in each of the regions, and I can say today that every single region has had their target set. This morning I tabled the sites that have been opened today, and we have more than exceeded the 232 sites that we had targeted for the beginning of this scheme.

This is the very beginning of this scheme. We are in this for the long game. This is about the future of our state. We are in this for the long game. One would think the member for Broadwater would know all about the long game. He has been in the long game looking for the leadership opportunities on that side of the parliament—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to standing order 118 and relevance. The question was about the Runaway Bay shopping centre, which was on a map and is now not on a map.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, standing order 118(b) is in effect and I ask that you remain relevant to the question that has been asked. However, you meandered, although it was not much of a meander. We will see how much further you may wish to try to push that.

Ms ENOCH: Back to recycling and the long game, let me point out also that the former member for Broadwater supported this Container Refund Scheme in this House. Unfortunately, the new member for Broadwater, who recycled the poor former member for Broadwater out of her seat and put himself in there, is now even trashing her legacy. Every target that was set for CoEx to deliver the Container Refund Scheme in this state has been met and in some instances exceeded.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the minister.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that?

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, that was unwarranted. You are warned under the standing orders. I call the minister for the remaining 16 seconds.

Ms ENOCH: It is fantastic to hear that people are already so excited about recycling. As the scheme grows, we want more sites to be occurring across the state. I encourage those opposite to get behind the scheme.

Mr SPEAKER: I reiterate that those members who are under warnings will not be protected by the cover of mass interjections.

Electricity Prices

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House how Labor's electricity policies are benefiting Queensland families and small businesses? Is the minister aware of any alternative policies?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Redlands for the question. Electricity prices are falling in Queensland. If opposition members do not want to take my word for it, they can check it out in the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics CPI report, which is a trusted independent source for them, where they said that the rise in inflation—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Southern Downs will cease his interjections.

Dr LYNHAM: They said that the rise in inflation—

... is partially offset by falls in child care ... and electricity (-5.1%). The fall in electricity is due to the Affordable Energy Plan—

That is our Affordable Energy Plan. Here it is from another independent source, the Queensland Competition Authority. Its report this week confirms that since the Palaszczuk government introduced the Powering Queensland Plan in mid-2017 power prices have been on a continuing downward trend. How are we doing it?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, you may not agree with the minister's statements but it is no reason to be disorderly.

Dr LYNHAM: Mr Speaker, they have to agree with my statements. They are fact.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, it would be helpful for the House if you did not take advantage of a ruling that I have given.

Dr LYNHAM: How are we doing it? With consistent, effective policy. That is how we are doing it. We have a \$50 annual rebate and more to come. We have \$13.23 million worth of rebates for energy efficient appliances so Queensland families can cut their bills. We have interest-free loans for solar panels—cut your usage, cut your bills, cut emissions. We are doing it by reinvesting dividends from publicly owned assets—assets that we own. What is the alternative from those opposite? Sell our assets. That is their diabolical plan. How would it go if they had sold the assets? Could we say to people overseas—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, resume your seat. Member for Nicklin, you are already under a warning. I have warned members today that you cannot interject simply because others are. If you are on a warning, please remain silent. Member for Nicklin, you are going to leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nicklin withdrew from the chamber at 10.47 am.

Dr LYNHAM: There was 43 per cent in asset sales. Imagine if they had sold our assets to try to get power prices down. Imagine how they would go phoning up a CEO in Beijing or Europe saying, 'Madam, please, please, can you drop power prices for Queensland? We don't have control of it anymore.' That is the LNP. The LNP are pleading for the trust of Queenslanders on their power assets, on electricity prices. There are some times in life that we do not know who we can trust, but the people of Queensland have learnt that they cannot trust the LNP.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you had direct interjections and were not in any way attempting to hide those after I had earlier asked you to cease interjections during the same question. You are warned under the standing orders.

QBCC Board, Appointment

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Will the minister advise whether the proper Cabinet Handbook appointment process was followed when Labor mate Robert Schwarten was appointed to the QBCC board, or was Schwarten a last-minute additional walk-in to cabinet after backdoor lobbying from the Labor Party president and union heavy, John Battams, and the member for Cooper?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am going to give you some pretty clear instructions and I hope you can rephrase your question. The immediate last part of that question related to a member. I ask you to reconsider the tail of that question. I give you an opportunity to ask that question again.

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, the whole question?

Mr SPEAKER: You can ask the whole question again, but I ask you to heed my instructions.

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Will the minister advise whether the proper Cabinet Handbook appointment process was followed when Labor mate Robert Schwarten was appointed to the QBCC board, or was Schwarten a last-minute walk-in to cabinet after lobbying by the Labor president?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member of the opposition for the question. Let me first provide some context around the question that the member for Burleigh is asking. Throughout the course of the week—and honourable members may have read some of the newspapers in Central Queensland—we have seen the member for Burleigh try to assert that there was an agenda of senior members of the government to channel work to a company that has unfortunately become insolvent. We have heard nothing from the member for Burleigh about concern for the workers in Rockhampton; a bit of muckraking is all we have seen. The member for Burleigh has been wandering around making assertions—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr de BRENNI: In an attempt to sully the character of members of the board of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the member for Burleigh has been wandering around asserting that pressure has been put on government agencies to provide work to a particular company, JM Kelly. The super sleuth, the member for Burleigh, would have done—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Minister, you will refer to members by their correct titles and without additional adjectives.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr de BRENNI: This matter is, of course, of concern in the whole context of security of payments in the construction industry, which is really the core of the issue, and I will come to that in just a moment. The member for Burleigh's extraordinary little campaign asserting that senior members of the government channelled work to a company might have had some credit except for the fact that I am advised the owner of the company, Mr Murphy, himself has declared that it was not happening whatsoever. I will also address the core of the issue here.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr de BRENNI: I urge the member for Burleigh to check some of his facts before he makes statements in this House or in public. I would like to see the member for Burleigh make those assertions about members of the construction board outside of this House. If we are looking at an investigation into what jurisdictions are doing about the issue of security of payments and what happens when building companies collapse, we know that the member for Burleigh would be very interested in some jurisdictions that are taking measures to include a prompt payment regime, adjudication, accountability and reporting measures.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order. Please resume your seat. What is your point of order?

Mr HART: It is on relevance. The question was about a cabinet appointment.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have given some leeway because you said you would be coming back to that. You only have 30 seconds left. I would ask you to come to the core of that question.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Burleigh for returning me to that question. The answer is that all appointments go through the formal processes of cabinet. Every single appointment made by the Palaszczuk government has followed those practices. In relation to the question of security of payment—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh—and other members to my left—you sought a point of order on relevance. The minister is now attempting to answer the question and I cannot hear his answer. I ask that you please allow the question to be answered.

Mr de BRENNI: The jurisdictions that the member for Burleigh would know a lot about in terms of reform of security of payment are, in fact, New Brunswick, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on the continued success of transport investment on the Gold Coast?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Macalister, a very strong advocate for Gold Coast infrastructure under this government. We invest in transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast. We invest in infrastructure that supports Gold Coast residents. Two M1 upgrades are underway and there are two to follow. Of course, we opened stage 2 of the light rail; the new stations at Parkwood, Parkwood East and Helensvale are performing very well. It paid dividends during the Commonwealth Games with 1.1 million extra trips—a gold medal performance by the new stage 2 of the light rail built by this government.

Since the games, people have continued to use the light rail and the games record does not look like standing for long. The recent July to September quarter saw patronage climb to about 950,000, lifting from 879,000 trips in the quarter before the games. It is heading towards a million trips per quarter—just to adjust that figure from Tuesday that I outlined. In late September the stage 2 stations passed the one million trip mark. At the Gold Coast 600 earlier this month, more than 180,000 people hopped on light rail—10,000 more than the event's previous years—so we are now focused on light rail stage 3A. Consultation on the business case is close to finishing and the business case is due by the end of the year. Growing passenger numbers is further proof that we are moving in the right direction with light rail on the Gold Coast.

However, it appears that the member for Burleigh has a different direction in mind for light rail. All the member for Burleigh wants to do is talk about stage 3B, going west, a much more expensive and a much longer route to get from Burleigh to Coolangatta. Previously, we have seen a report in the *Courier-Mail* on 31 August that the member for Burleigh's western route heads near his pub in Burleigh, but it is no fun drinking alone. It appears that the member for Burleigh's Gold Coast LNP connections will get a free ride, too. The member for Burleigh has not been up-front with the people of the Gold Coast. He has not disclosed that going west would not just help the 'member for breweries'; it would also be a pretty good result for LNP donor John Hembrow. Mr Hembrow is the director of Rayjon Group, the owner of Treetops Plaza shopping centre on the corner of Burleigh Connection Road and Southport Burleigh Road, which just happens to be along the member for Burleigh's proposed light rail route, a route that if built would significantly boost the value of property that sits alongside it. Who can forget that the—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time—

Mr BAILEY: Mr—

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise, Minister. There was such a long pause I was not sure—

(Time expired)

JM Kelly Builders

Mr PURDIE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. I refer to the operation of JM Kelly Builders and I table an article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily* dated 24 October, along with a letter I sent to the minister dated 4 September 2018.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 24 October 2018, titled 'QBCC fails to address issue' [1790].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 September 2018, from the member for Ninderry, Mr Dan Purdie MP, to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, Hon. Mick de Brenni, regarding the operation of a Queensland based building company, JM Kelly Builders [1791].

Will the minister explain why significant Labor donor JM Kelly was given multiple Queensland government contracts after one of its companies was put into liquidation with serious concerns over its director's builders licence?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the minister, that was quite a lengthy preamble. Again, I caution you, member, about those questions in future.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the members of the opposition for inquiring into the particular issues in relation to insolvency in the construction industry. To answer the question about how this entity continued to hold a Queensland Building and Construction Commission licence, I have to take the House back to the root cause of the issue. If you want to talk about who is responsible for this, it is the same individual who has demonstrated economic incompetence—

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Moggill, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: It is the same member of this House who has demonstrated economic incompetence, who has demonstrated sexist attitudes and who has come into this place and demonstrated racist attitudes.

Mr MANDER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at both of those comments made by the minister and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member has taken offence. Will you withdraw those remarks?

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw. When the member for Everton—who clearly knows who we are talking about—was in government he made changes to laws that made it easier for companies that were failing. They watered down—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I appreciate there was a statement directed towards you. There was no call for those comments to be made loudly, disrespecting the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Everton is entirely responsible for watering down minimum financial requirements and introducing self-reporting, which put literally thousands of Queensland small business subcontractors at risk. He changed the laws so that licensed contractors did not have to provide financial information to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. The member for Everton made the commission blind to the financial circumstances of construction companies like JM Kelly and then it tied its arms behind its back so it could not investigate them. He also removed the requirement for larger licensed contractors to submit audited financial statements every year. The member for Everton described this as streamlining red tape. Small business subcontractors in this state call it negligence.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, your repeated interjections are not being taken. They are designed to be disruptive. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Glass House, I hope that I am not hearing any interjections from you.

Mr de BRENNI: In accordance with the Queensland Building Plan, the agreement reached between the Palaszczuk government and the construction industry that was spoken about many times in this House last year, we are methodically and progressively restoring confidence in the industry. From 1 January 2019 the Palaszczuk government will introduce a new set of minimum financial requirements. We will put them into a regulation. We will make them an artefact of this parliament, where they should be, so that governments can be held to account—which is completely opposite to the reckless conduct of the member for Everton when he was the minister.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Everton is solely responsible for the small businesses across this state that have been destroyed.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. The member's correct title is not being used again. I call the member for Keppel.

National Public Safety Mobile Broadband

Mrs LAUGA: My question is of the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the federal LNP's move to charge Queensland millions of dollars for a new communications system which our public safety agencies will not be able to access?

Mr CRAWFORD: Coming from Central Queensland, the member for Keppel certainly understands the importance of emergency communications. The Palaszczuk government and the federal LNP are certainly on a different wavelength when it comes to slugging Queenslanders millions of dollars for space on a new national public safety mobile broadband to be used by our emergency services agencies. When I say millions I am talking about up to \$52 million, which is a massive hit to the state's coffers. That means considerably fewer funds in the kitty for new equipment, stations and jobs.

Let me explain what this communications channel is and the potential fallout for our emergency services agencies. The federal government has come to us—and every other state and territory—asking us to support a national public safety mobile broadband capability. In other words, they want us to pay a hefty charge to secure a national eight-year licence for a dedicated spectrum in the 800 megahertz band. The federal LNP is trying to push through an offer of \$260 million for the licence, of which Queensland would be up for around about a fifth. But it gets better. Just like a set of steak knives, the price drops to \$215 million if all states and territories formally agree to the proposal ahead of COAG. This currently costs the federal government zero, so this is a 100 per cent profit for something that frankly should be free. It is a massive impost, considering that QFES currently pays about \$200,000 annually for licence fees for radio and data communication.

The federal government is seeking to make a massive profit out of the provision of emergency services telecommunications, and if we do not buy it it may be sold off to the private sector and lost forever. There is also the issue of agencies in Queensland that perform such a vital job not being able to access the new communications system because it is unlikely that we will be able to even use it for up to four years. It is like asking us to chip in for brand-new highway technology when we do not have the vehicles to use it.

It is not fair; it is not acceptable. Queensland has joined with most other states, Labor and Liberal, to tell the federal government that it is not on. This is being led by the New South Wales government—no surprise that is a Liberal National government—and Minister Troy Grant. We have told the federal government that it is not on, and we have been backed by most states. We want the current LNP opposition in Queensland to pick up the phone to Peter Dutton and Mitch Fifield and tell them that it is not on; it is inappropriate. The idea of using Australia's emergency services personnel to make a profit is not acceptable.

Ethanol

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. With the falling of the world sugar price, canefarmers are looking to value-add products like ethanol to add solidarity to our industry. With ethanol volumes less than half the mandated level of four per cent, will the minister assure the House that the government is committed to enforcing the four per cent mandate and consider phasing out low-quality regular unleaded for E10 across the state?

Dr LYNHAM: I agree. I think that world sugar prices hit a low of \$320 a tonne just a few months ago. It has made it difficult for our canegrowers. I think the price has rebounded now and I think it is at \$406 per metric tonne. The price has rebounded mainly because countries like Brazil are quite nimble, and they can move a lot of their bulk sugar into ethanol or bioplastics to diversify their industry. I think that India does the same: it moves a lot of its production into ethanol and other diversified sources. I would also note there is a drought in India, so sugar prices should remain above \$400 per metric tonne.

There is a lesson to be learned from how Brazil and India are nimble and can diversify their sugar production. It is really quite sad that in a technologically rich state like Queensland our sugar producers virtually rely—apart from the fuel mandate that we have—on a bulk sugar price. It is all determined by the bulk sugar price. To be quite frank, we do need diversification in our sugar industry. Reregulation has not helped this cause. It has not helped at all. We have to have a vision, and I know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has a vision for the sugar industry. I think this biofuels industry will be worth a trillion dollars by 2022, and I know that the Minister for Innovation shares my views as well as the whole of government.

Ms Jones: We met with industry.

Dr LYNHAM: We met with canegrowers. We all have to have a vision so that canegrowers can move forward with crops that can be diversified.

Mr Dick interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: Biofutures are everything. I take that interjection from the Minister for State Development. Reregulation has not helped.

Returning to the member for Hinchinbrook's question, we have 2.7 per cent, which is just over half the four per cent mandate, but in 2015, as we know, it was zero. I call those opposite the 'bulk sugar price LNP'. They have no vision for the future; they are always looking backwards. We have to hook into this biofuels industry, which will be worth a trillion dollars by 2022.

I am pleased to announce for the member for Hinchinbrook that 650 service stations in Queensland now sell E10, an increase of over 290 sites since 2016. That is an increase of 80 per cent from when the mandate commenced. We are kicking goals. We have a long way to go, but we have not lost the vision. I agree with the member for Hinchinbrook that we have to diversify our sugar industry, but I do disagree with him in that I think reregulation is the wrong way to go.

APEC Summit, Papua New Guinea

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, and I ask: with the upcoming APEC summit in Papua New Guinea in November and the possibility of world leaders and their families visiting beautiful Cairns and Brisbane, will the minister please advise of arrangements in place to ensure our international visitors have a safe and successful stay in our region?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. There will be some exciting times for her part of the world in the next few weeks. The APEC conference will be held in Papua New Guinea from 12 to 18 November. We have received advice that some world leaders will be coming to Queensland—some to Cairns and some to Brisbane. We know that they will be in safe hands, because the Queensland Police Service is world class. It has an international reputation for providing outstanding community safety and for ensuring major events run smoothly and are secure. We saw that in recent years with the successful G20, where international leaders visited Queensland. What a successful event that was. Well done to our police. We also saw it this year with the Commonwealth Games—the biggest event ever staged in Queensland. Again, our police helped deliver a secure, safe and successful Commonwealth Games.

Of course, in a few weeks time we will again see our Queensland Police Service step up and be recognised on the world stage for its efforts as a top-tier public safety agency. We will see over 300 police officers deployed specifically for security for the APEC conference. Many leaders and families will come to Queensland and will be staying in Cairns and Brisbane. They will come from nations such as Canada, New Zealand, Brunei, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand, amongst others. It is indeed a very big commitment from our Police Service, but we know that it is up for it.

Unfortunately, we know that when it comes to public safety there is a common theme from the LNP—that is, short-changing our public safety agencies. Let me give a great example. In this year's federal budget the then treasurer and now Prime Minister cut \$205 million from the Australian Federal Police. What did the Federal Police Commissioner say? He said that that budget cut would reduce the Federal Police's capability to fight terrorism. That is what the Federal Police Commissioner said about the federal LNP's budget cuts. While the LNP is cutting money for safety and security for all Australians, we are investing in safety and security.

(Time expired)

JM Kelly Builders

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Innovation, who has responsibility for entrepreneurship policy. I refer the minister to the multimillion dollar contract between Education Queensland and JM Kelly (Project Builders) Pty Ltd for Emu Park State School. Why did the Palaszczuk government approve a phoenix arrangement to transfer JM Kelly's contract to a new company to avoid paying creditors the debts they were owed in 2016? Was this entrepreneurial arrangement because JM Kelly's director is a lifelong friend of Robert Schwarten or because they were lucrative Labor donors?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the minister, I would like to take some advice. Member for Kawana, there are two reasons I have some concerns with the question. I am not convinced of the direct tie to the minister's portfolio responsibilities. Beyond that, the way I heard the question—I am happy to be corrected—was that it appeared to be two questions. One question was asked, followed by another question. If you can clarify that that is not the case, I will be happy to allow the question to be answered; however, at this stage I will be ruling the question out of order unless you can provide evidence to indicate that it should not be.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker. The question, as I indicated, was: why did the Palaszczuk government approve a phoenix arrangement to transfer the contract to a new company to avoid paying the debts in 2016, because of that entrepreneurial arrangement between the directors is a lifelong friend of Robert Schwarten or the Labor donations? The second element was not a second question.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: The question needs to be worded in such a way as to not allow for that. I rule the question out of order. The time for question time has expired.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Leave to Move Motion

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, earlier the Leader of the Opposition sought leave to move a general notice of motion. At the time of the division there was some confusion as to which notice of motion the Leader of the Opposition was referring to. When I sought clarification, the Leader of the Opposition confirmed that she intended to move general notice of motion No. 1. The early record indicates that the Leader of the Opposition actually sought leave to move general notice of motion No. 2. General notice of motion No. 2 is a notice of motion standing in the name of the member for Maiwar. The determination of the House was that the question for leave failed, but if leave had been given it would have been leave for the member for Maiwar's motion to be moved.

I also note that the Leader of the Opposition, in seeking leave, added words that were out of order under general rules and also offended standing order 271. I give all members very clear notice that I view attempts to breach standing order 271—by questions, offhand statements or additions to leave—highly disorderly. I draw the attention of members to standing order 266(22), which provides that it is a contempt to wilfully disobey an order of the House.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Merchandise Exports

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.16 am): I have more good news for Queensland. Queensland's merchandise exports are now \$77.6 billion over the year to September 2018—another record for Queensland. Queensland's merchandise exports are again larger than New South Wales and Victoria combined. I can confirm that Queensland's merchandise exports have now grown by 76 per cent under our government.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Standing Orders, Warnings

Mr SPEAKER: I want to advise of members who are under warnings. Those warnings will remain in effect until 1 pm. They are the members for Coomera, Kawana, Glass House, Springwood, Nicklin, Cooper, Woodridge, Maroochydore, Theodore, Buderim, Oodgeroo, Southern Downs, Moggill, Everton, Burleigh and Nanango.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 31 October (see p. 3258), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (11.18 am), continuing: The Labor Party's track record on corruption speaks for itself—from the early 2000s, when the party's leadership stood in unison strongly defending a certain health minister who was later convicted on five charges of official corruption and five charges of perjury, to just last year, when the Premier and Deputy Premier failed to heed the warnings of one of their own colleagues with regard to allegations of corruption within the Labor controlled Ipswich City Council.

As many would be aware, the government responded to the Crime and Corruption Committee's report, which formed the basis of this bill, on 27 February 2017. At this point the government stated that they would make it a priority of theirs to implement this legislation. That was over 20 months ago. Surely this time frame is not one befitting of a priority.

No Queenslander wants a government or public service riddled with corruption. That is why it was bad news for Queensland when the commission handed down a comment that the Labor Party's process of identifying and nominating candidates for board positions on government owned corporations shows a lack of transparency and good governance. That is right: the state's chief investigator of corrupt conduct has directly stated that the recruitment process of those opposite is in desperate need of revision. No wonder there is limited business confidence in Queensland.

For a government that champions itself as being leaders in transparency, integrity and accountability, the commission's finding is in direct conflict with those values and this comment must have come as a clear wake-up call for the people of Queensland. We now wait with bated breath to see if the government takes any action to rectify its recruitment processes and tries to restore the faith of Queenslanders. It is clear from the cases I have outlined that this government's propensity for total ignorance and avoidance leaves us with limited assurance that it may do what has been asked of it. Nonetheless, in supporting this bill we must call on the government to allow the commission to focus its powers on fighting serious corruption in Queensland.

In closing, I note the concern that amendments contained in clause 15 of this bill have raised a potential breach of the fundamental legislative principles, specifically that they may adversely affect the rights and liberties of individuals. Our community's expectations are very high when it comes to dealing with corruption and corrupt activities. As the original committee report outlines, the commission's overriding responsibility is to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector and be proactive to address corruption risks. This legislation will give the commission a greater ability to do just this. This onus is now on the government to stop the cover-ups and become the transparent and trustworthy government it claims to be. Should it fail to do so, it will rue that decision when the LNP under the leadership of Deb Frecklington wins the election and seizes those benches.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.21 am): When Tony Fitzgerald handed down his landmark report, he asked us to remain eternally vigilant when it came to safeguarding Public Service agencies from corruption and corruption risk and today I am very pleased to rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which takes the next step in ensuring that we deter corruption and we reduce corruption risk within Public Service agencies in Queensland. This bill before the House provides an important contribution to this government's commitment to continuously improve the integrity of those who work in our Public Service agencies and to deter the incidence of corruption in our public sector.

The Crime and Corruption Commission investigates reports of corrupt conduct and systemic corruption affecting Queensland public sector agencies, including the Queensland Police Service. The Queensland Police Service works closely with the Crime and Corruption Commission in the performance of many of the Crime and Corruption Commission's functions, noting that the commission is also responsible for monitoring how the Police Commissioner deals with police misconduct. Specifically, the complaint management and internal discipline of the Queensland Police Service is governed by many pieces of legislation including the Police Service Administration Act and the Police Service (Discipline) Regulations and the policies and procedures of the Queensland Police Service, with an investigative and oversight and monitoring function performed by the commission.

Extensive work has been undertaken in recent years by the Queensland Police Service and the Crime and Corruption Commission, including work with key stakeholders like the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees and the Queensland Police Union of Employees, to create a modern and efficient disciplinary process to ensure fairness for both the Police Service and members of the public. This bill contributes to making such improvements. The bill gives effect to the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and implements the recommendations from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97 and report No. 99. The monitoring and oversight provided by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee ensures that, through the committee, the commission is accountable to the parliament and, of course, the people of Queensland.

In respect of some of the amendments in this bill, I note that this bill refines the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person under section 15(1)(c) and modifies the list of additional matters, criminal offences or behaviours that could be corrupt conduct under section 15(2) of the act. The bill also implements

recommendation 25 from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97 to provide the commission's chief executive with legislative power to require another public sector official, including the Commissioner of Police, to provide details of a former employee's disciplinary history.

The bill also allows public sector officials the power to ask the commission's chief executive for disciplinary information. This could apply where a former employee is seeking employment or secondment with, or is currently employed at, the commission or the commission's chief executive is considering making a disciplinary finding or disciplinary declaration or taking disciplinary action against the person. The bill also implements recommendation 28 of that Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report to amend the Crime and Corruption Act and the Police Service Administration Act to align the existing civil liability protections for the commission, its officers and commissioners for Police Service reviews with the protections afforded state employees under section 26C of the Public Service Act.

To effect recommendation 28, clause 81 of the bill removes section 9.7 of the Police Service Administration Act and replaces it with a new section which mirrors the current provisions in the Public Service Act. Where a public official decides an allegation of corruption does not meet the threshold of a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct and would not be required to notify the commission, the official will be required to make a record of the decision in line with the new section 40A of the Crime and Corruption Act. The bill increases the time frame for lodging an application with the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal from 14 days in the Crime and Corruption Act to 28 days, which is in line with the QCAT Act 2009.

Following on from the 2009 report *Dangerous liaisons*, a report arising from the then CMC's investigation into allegations of police misconduct called Operation Capri, a complaint was received by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee from a Mr Hall, a former Queensland Police Service officer, indicating he had not been provided an opportunity to address allegations in that report. This bill gives effect to the recommendation from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 99 requiring the commission to provide procedural fairness to a person if they could be adversely affected by the public release of a commission report. The new section 71A of the Crime and Corruption Act will prohibit the commission from including adverse information about a person in a report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly or released publicly unless the commission provides the person with an opportunity to make a submission on the adverse information. These amendments will improve the operations of the commission, extend the commission's original and review jurisdiction, and prescribe record-keeping requirements on units of public administration when dealing with allegations of corrupt conduct.

In commanding this bill to the House, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the parliamentary committee in reviewing the bill and providing a report to the House and, of course, acknowledge all of the departmental officials who assisted with progressing the bill to this point. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON)** (11.27 am): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I wish to thank my committee colleagues of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the secretariat for all of the work in compiling a report on this amendment bill.

There are many recommendations that I command to the House within this bill including clause 5, which relates to an expansion of the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. I believe that it is imperative as elected representatives we take measures to restore public confidence by way of eliminating collusive tendering; fraud relating to an application for a licence, permit or other authority under an act; dishonestly obtaining, or helping someone to dishonestly obtain, a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or the disposal 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.

I also highlight the measures included in clause 30 covering disciplinary action against a relevant commission officer who was a relevant employee. It is obviously important that just because someone has moved on to another position, most especially still within the Public Service, their past misconduct or corrupt actions are not absolved. To identify past misconduct, the ability to share employment and disciplinary records between government departments and agencies is a necessary measure.

Another measure I command to the House is clause 80, which provides a range of improved civil liability measures for Public Service employees, most notably the Police Service. It very much replicates a similar intent across the other arms of the Public Service and its agencies.

One matter that may require future consideration is the limited scope of clause 84, which amends section 186A of the Public Service Act 2008 and, most notably, the definition there of 'employee' of the Public Service or other agency. The definition of 'employee' in that clause very likely does not capture entirely the volunteer aspect of many roles within the wider Public Service and, hence, may not provide the same protections to those roles within the Police Service and Fire and Emergency Services. For instance, the Police Service has Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. Likewise, the Fire and Emergency Services have rural fire brigade officers and many rural communities are serviced by volunteer first responders for the Ambulance Service. That volunteer role could even be extended to justices of the peace who represent the Crown via being community judicial officers but who must perform their role without any consideration of any reward. As such, their roles do not fit within the existing definition of 'employee' as they are not paid.

Overall, this amendment bill is worthy of being accepted. However, I strongly recommend further assessment of what defines an employee of the Public Service so as to establish a common expectation of conduct and, most importantly, a corruption-free Public Service. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.31 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill was considered by the previous legal affairs committee, which brought down the first report on this bill.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. Yes, it was a great committee. The work of that committee continued with the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of this parliament.

This is the third bill that Labor has introduced to strengthen the independence and integrity of the CCC. It builds on Labor's 2015 election promise. Who could forget the term of the Newman government? It has been glossed over by the members of the opposition. There was no corruption before 1989.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr BROWN: The member for Caloundra would know very well what happened before 1989.

Who could forget the damage that was caused by the LNP government's attack on the independence of the CCC and the weakening of the PCCC's powers of oversight when, in the dead of night, the entire PCCC was sacked without any real reason? Obviously, that was to interfere in the investigation that that oversight committee was conducting at that stage. It was doing very important work. At that time, the acting head of the CMC, as it was known then, was under investigation. That was that committee's role and, for doing that job, that committee was sacked.

Who could also forget the daily attacks on the legal institutions by the Newman government, which were spearheaded by the member for Kawana? There were also daily attacks on the credibility and the hard work of Tony Fitzgerald as he defended his fine work to bring this state away from the dark corruption that we saw in the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era.

We are here to fix up that mess with this bill. This bill expands the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing the requirement that corrupt conduct must be engaged in for the purpose of providing a benefit or causing a detriment to a person. That was an unnecessary barrier that impeded the independent commission. That clause added a layer of complexity to the definition of 'corrupt conduct'.

This bill also widens the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to include conduct that impairs, or could impair, public confidence in public administration. This amendment relates directly to circumstances of contractors and the tendering process. I note the contribution of the member for Toowoomba North. He also touched on this issue. I support what he said. Businesses need confidence to make sure that, when they tender for a project, there is not some side deal with the Public Service that will impede their tenders. Tenders can cost a lot of money. Businesses put a lot of work into the tendering process and they want to make sure they get a fair go. If they put up the best tender with the best price, with ethical and fair conditions around workplace practices, they want to know that they are in with a shot of getting their tender accepted. When that does not occur, business confidence goes down. As well, foreign investment also goes down.

We want to make sure that businesses have the confidence to invest. One way of doing that is by expanding the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in this bill to include the tendering process. Mr Speaker—

Mr McArdle: Madam.

Mr BROWN: I take that interjection from the member for Caloundra. Labor has upheld the integrity of the CCC and has extended the powers of the CCC. Labor's record speaks for itself. I want to compare what the LNP did it in its time in government to what Labor has done. When the LNP was in government, it increased the amount required for the disclosure of political donations from \$1,000 to over \$12,000. When Labor came into government, we brought down that disclosure limit to \$1,000. We also introduced real-time donations.

Mr KRAUSE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 118—relevance. I do not know how this member's contribution as it stands is relevant to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Thank you for your point of order. I have been listening very carefully to all of the contributions. I find that the member is being as relevant as was the member for Lockyer. I am sure all members would do well to stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr BROWN: It is great that, with this fantastic bill, the Labor Party has helped out the member for Lockyer's mate. Labor also restored the integrity of the estimates committee hearings process from having multiple estimates committee hearings on one day to one committee hearing per day spread across two weeks. That ensured that the media had access to our estimates committee processes. That ensured that ministers faced the full scrutiny of the opposition and the media had a chance to scrutinise the questions asked. I note that, in the four years since then, the opposition has not laid a glove on us in that process.

Labor also conducted an open merit selection for the chair of the CCC, which received bipartisan support. We have removed the requirement of complaints—

Mr Krause: Don't mislead the House.

Mr BROWN: I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. I did not hear any objections from the opposition at the time of the appointment of the CCC chair. I take that as bipartisan support. There was an opportunity through the PCCC process and through the media to discuss the appointment of the chair of the CCC. At that time, I did not hear any objection to that appointment.

Labor also made sure that adequate resources were provided to the CCC. I note that, when the opposition was in government, 30 jobs were cut from the Crime and Misconduct Commission. The former government weakened the CMC not only through funding cuts but also through introducing changes to its legislation in 2014.

This is a fine bill. It builds on Labor's track record of giving the CCC the powers it needs to make sure that it upholds the integrity of this state and that it has the independence it needs to conduct the vital work it does for our state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (11.39 am):** I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Every Queenslander wants a fair and just community. Every Queenslander wants a Queensland free of corruption, especially official corruption in the public sector. While I will be supporting the bill, I have issues with the timing of the bill and the almost hypocritical approach to expanding powers without focusing on some key issues.

Every Queenslander has the right to ask why such an important piece of legislation was not enacted sooner. After all, the reports by the PCCC were tabled in this place almost two years ago. One could be forgiven for asking if the delays may have something to do with CCC investigations into current members of the government and the government's lack of transparency when it comes to board appointments. Every Queenslander has the right to question whether this government is serious about fighting corruption and that is a question that should be answered.

Moving on to the legislation, I note that 'corrupt conduct' may now include things such as collusive tendering; fraud in relation to applications for a licence, permit or authority; dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or disposition of state assets; evading a state tax, levy or duty; or fraudulently obtaining or retaining a government appointment. I note the Queensland Law Society's concerns that this definition is exceptionally broad and I, too, share its concern and the potential impact on the Crime and Corruption Commission in the performance of its duties. This is supported through the 2017-18 CCC annual report, which shows a staggering rise in corruption complaints. References to the investigation of applications for licences, permits and clearances raise concerns about ulterior intentions. Surely environmental laws should deal with fraudulent applications for permits that have negative environmental effects. Surely resources legislation should have sufficient provisions for managing state owned resources.

Secondly, the QLS raised concerns with the proposed amendment contained in clause 18 of the bill regarding the derivative use of compelled evidence. There is no question this can be exceptionally complicated and we should be cognisant of the concerns expressed by the QLS with regard to this provision. This government cannot and should not be diverting the resources of the state's chief corruption fighting body to address holes in legislation.

The *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, referred to as Report 97, was tabled in June 2016. That report contained 29 important recommendations. Recommendation 13 of the review is centred on ensuring the Crime and Corruption Commission is able to monitor investigations conducted by government owned corporations and units of public administration. The basis of this recommendation was to ensure responsible use of the commission's finite resources and to ensure effective oversight. Regardless of name changes or corporate slogans, Queenslanders see government owned corporations as just that: government owned. They know that the buck stops with the government, both figuratively and literally. Why, therefore, should the same standards that apply to other sections of the government not apply to GOCs, especially when the PCCC made specific recommendations to the Federal Corporations Act, the act that is designed to protect consumers?

Put simply, Queensland's corruption watchdog should not have to rely on leveraging cooperative relationships when it comes to protecting Queenslanders from corrupt practices, regardless of whether the entity is a government department or a government owned corporation. Recommendation 22 of that report highlights the need for legislative reform, specifically around disclosure of complaints to the commission. This issue has been debated since 1992 and it is disappointing to see that the opportunity to address this issue once and for all was not taken.

There are missed opportunities in these amendments. The prevention of corruption must be at the forefront of any government's actions. Good government must balance this with the rights of the citizens and good legal practice. As a former police officer I have also looked at the concerns raised by the Queensland Police Union of Employees. The process for the issuing of a search warrant is subject to protections to ensure Queenslanders can have faith in the justice system. Concerns surrounding the use of a search warrant issued for the investigation of criminal offences being effectively re-used to further complaints of misconduct are concerning.

The power to enter someone's property, whether it be their home or business, is enormous. There are strict protocols and legislative provisions in place regarding the use of search warrants and the last thing we need is an abuse of this power as a consequence of these amendments. I ask the Attorney-General to clarify this amendment during her summing-up so that the concerns raised by the QPUE are fully addressed.

The bill further implements the 2016 PCCC review by, among other things, lengthening the time frame for parties to seek a QCAT review of a reviewable decision, streamlining the process that must be undertaken when the commission commences disciplinary proceedings against public sector employees and requiring the unit of public administration to keep appropriate records in relation to any decision not to notify the commission of an allegation of corrupt conduct.

I thank the PCCC for its efforts to ensure a corruption-free Queensland and I note that the vast majority of these amendments stem from the PCCC's recommendations. For that reason, I will be supporting the amendments, but I look forward to the Attorney-General clarifying the issues that I, and others on this side of the House, have raised during the course of this debate.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.47 am): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As the Attorney-General said in her first reading speech on 15 February 2018, prior to the election on 31 January 2015 the Palaszczuk government committed to making a number of changes to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to restore the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission and ensure that Queensland has a government that lives up to the highest standards of integrity.

The Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 replicates the content of the lapsed Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 has two core objectives. Firstly, the bill delivers on the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. The bill widens the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to capture the conduct of people outside the public sector that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. Under the Crime and Corruption Act 'corruption' is defined to mean corrupt conduct or police misconduct. The definition of 'corrupt conduct' is contained in section 15 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and the definition of 'police misconduct' is contained in schedule 2 of the Crime and Corruption Act.

Police misconduct is not corrupt conduct for the purposes of the Crime and Corruption Act, but is included within the definition of 'corruption' in the Crime and Corruption Act because it forms part of the commission's corruption functions, including the commission's responsibility to oversee how police misconduct is dealt with by the Commissioner of Police.

In 2014 the Crime and Misconduct Act 2001 was substantially amended by the Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. This legislation was in response to the findings of the *Review of the Crime and Misconduct Act and related matters: report of the independent advisory panel 2013* that the commission's operational focus should be on investigating serious cases of corrupt conduct and that there should be a reduction in the number of trivial complaints handled by the commission.

Prior to the 2015 election, the government made a number of commitments relating to the commission. The government has implemented the majority of these through the passage of the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015 and the Crime and Corruption Amendment Act 2016.

The second core objective of the bill is to implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. In June 2016 the PCCC tabled report No. 97 in the Legislative Assembly. The review was undertaken pursuant to section 292(f) of the Crime and Corruption Act. The act requires the PCCC to review the activities of the commission and report on any action required in relation to the act or the functions, powers and operations of the commission. The PCCC's review involved consideration of 30 submissions, four public hearings and a public meeting with the commission.

The *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall* concerned a complaint by Mr Hall, a former QPS officer, concerning a report of the Crime and Conduct Commission in which Mr Hall was referred to by a pseudonym. Mr Hall strongly refuted allegations made against him in the CMC report. He stated that he was unaware of the allegations made against him in the report until its publication. Mr Hall maintained that in failing to provide him with the opportunity to address the allegations made against him in the report, either prior to its publication or subsequently, the CMC had failed to afford him procedural fairness. Subsequent to the publication of the report, Mr Hall raised his concerns about the lack of procedural fairness in a number of forums, including the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, with the Queensland Police Service and during a meeting with the then acting chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission, Mr Ken Levy RFD.

On 31 October 2014, Mr Hall wrote to the then Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Fiona Simpson MP, in relation to his concerns about the lack of procedural fairness provided to him by the CMC and other issues. On 11 November 2014, the Speaker forwarded Mr Hall's correspondence to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee for the committee's consideration. The committee subsequently requested that the Crime and Corruption Commission provide a report on the matter. The commission provided a response to the committee by a letter dated 30 June 2015 and the committee tabled its report in November 2016. Unfortunately, the 2017 election was called before this bill could be debated, but the 2018 bill replicates the contents of the lapsed Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

The 2018 bill will increase the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigative powers to investigate conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct. This bill will enable the commission to investigate and proactively address corruption risks. The bill makes a number of amendments that will improve the operation of the commission. These include 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. It also allows the commission and public sector entities to share information relating to the disciplinary history of current and former commission officers in prescribed circumstances.

The Palaszczuk government never takes for granted the important role of the commission and all public sector bodies in the fight against corruption in Queensland. This bill marks yet another milestone for the Palaszczuk government in delivering on its commitment to greater transparency, accountability and integrity in public administration and our political system. This bill shows the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission and to ensuring that, as a government, we live up to the highest possible standards of integrity.

The bill was reviewed by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and its report No. 4 of the 56th Parliament was presented to the parliament with one recommendation, which was that the bill be passed. I thank the committee, the committee secretariat, Hansard and the submitters. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the contribution of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of the 55th Parliament, which was chaired by the member for Stretton, Mr Duncan Pegg. I commend the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (11.54 am): I note that the opposition will not be opposing the bill. I want to make some brief comments as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in the 55th Parliament, which reviewed this bill in the first half of 2017. That committee recommended that the bill be passed, with the support of the non-government members of the committee at that time.

I want to focus on the 2017 submission made by the Queensland Law Society on this bill, which goes directly to the amendment of the meaning of 'corrupt conduct'. The QLS outlined their very specific concerns that the definition, as drafted, could be seen to be too wide. In their submission, they stated—

We understand the need for the Commission to have access to extensive powers in order to effect its functions. However, we do not consider that these powers should be open-ended and limitless. The definition as drafted is exceptionally broad and may be open to being construed too broadly.

The QLS went on to outline the areas that the jurisdiction of the commission should be restricted to, which was where corruption—

- 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.

The Queensland Law Society submission very clearly indicates their concerns with the definition in the present bill. Whilst we are not opposing the bill, I believe that the definition requires the government and the CCC to be very mindful of the complaints that they decide to investigate, because in all of these things there is a range of severity when it comes to possible offences.

In the 54th Parliament, there was an inquiry into the CMC. In that inquiry, a lot of the evidence adduced indicated that a considerable amount of time and resources was expended by the then CMC in dealing with matters that, from recollection, it was found should have been—and would have more appropriately been—dealt with by ethical services units within government departments. Those matters did not reach the level of severity to justify being dealt with by the CMC at that time, now the CCC. Noting those comments and the submission of the QLS, the government and the CCC should be mindful that the resources and time expended by the CCC in dealing with particular matters are appropriately prioritised. Obviously, the limited resources available to the commission should be directed at serious crime, organised crime, and very serious corruption and public malfeasance in public office.

I want to touch on the earlier comments of the member for Capalaba about the appointment process for the chair of the CCC and other officers of the CCC. He indicated that there was a bipartisan agreement for the appointment of the chair. I note that at the time he was speaking of, the CCC chair's appointment was confirmed by the PCCC government members and the member for Traeger, who was then the member for Mount Isa and is a member of the crossbench. That was contrary to the spirit of the CCC Act, which indicates that there should be bipartisan support from members of the parliamentary committee for the appointment of the chair of the CCC and other officers.

There is certainly a loophole in the legislation as it stands at the moment, which allowed the government to substitute one of its own members out of the parliamentary committee, put the member for Mount Isa, as he then was, into the committee and have the appointment of the chair ratified with those four members constituting a majority of the parliamentary committee. However, that is not bipartisan support in the general sense that we all understand it. It was the support of the government members and one crossbench member. I think most members of the community would say that that is not actually bipartisan support. There is an easy solution to this. The government could amend the act today to fix this problem and ensure that bipartisan support actually means members of the government and members of the opposition and not members of the crossbench.

I would be interested to know if that subbing in by the member of Mount Isa coincided with the time the Katter's Australian Party was provided with some additional resources around the parliament. It was a very curious situation. No member of the opposition on that committee at the time was supportive of that motion. I say this without reflecting on the chair of the CCC in any way at all. I reflect on the conduct of the government in abusing that confirmation process through the parliamentary committee. That is exactly what they did.

I table a document that may be of some assistance to the government if it wants to fix this problem that has been identified over a number of years by me and other members and members of the legal profession and others who have contributed to various committee inquiries—that being the need for this lacuna in the legislation to be fixed.

Tabled paper: Proposed amendment to clause 45 of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [1792].

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am pleased to support this bill, which delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to restore the independence and strength of the Crime and Corruption Commission and to ensure high standards of integrity throughout all levels of government.

This bill will deliver on two core objectives that will help build robust systems of integrity and accountability in Queensland's public institutions. First, the bill will expand the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to capture private citizens' conduct that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. This acknowledges that a greater degree of government services and projects are now being outsourced to the private sector. This outsourcing has led to the potential for private citizens who deliver government services to engage in corrupt conduct. The commission's primary responsibility to Queenslanders is that it promote public confidence in the integrity of our public sector. It is crucial then that the commission sets high standards of integrity and accountability and that these standards are maintained when government services are outsourced to private entities.

Corruption, or even conduct that puts integrity at risk, not only weakens the community's confidence in the Queensland Public Service but also lowers people's overall trust in our government. If we want to strengthen public confidence then accountability and integrity should not stop at the point where government services are outsourced. We expect the private sector to be held to equally high standards of integrity and accountability, as are government departments.

The bill also expands the commission's investigative jurisdiction to allow the commission to investigate conduct that is liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct to occur or even conduct that is connected with corrupt conduct. Broadening the investigative jurisdiction will ensure that the CCC has full capacity to investigate corrupt conduct that may have happened in the past, may be happening now or may happen in the future. It puts the CCC on a proactive footing to address corruption risks and reduces opportunities and incentives for individuals and organisations to engage in corrupt conduct.

To assist units of public administration in interpreting the definition of 'corrupt conduct', the bill simplifies the definition by removing the requirement that conduct is carried out for the benefit of or detriment to a person. The bill also omits the list of offences in section 15(2), which are not conclusive of corrupt conduct but could constitute that.

The bill's second core objective implements recommendations of the CCC reports titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and the *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. I give my full support to the amendments in this bill because, as members are aware and as we have heard from other members in this House, my electorate of Ipswich has seen public confidence in local government severely undermined by the actions of certain councillors and council officers who tolerated and enabled a culture of governance failure to flourish for far too long.

The CCC's investigation of the Ipswich City Council, otherwise known as Operation Windage, uncovered a vast array of improper behaviour and activities, such as inappropriate relationships between council and the private sector, failure to report suspicions of corruption by council executives, breaches of council policy and evidence of serious criminal offences, including official corruption. The investigation led to multiple criminal charges and resignations, and it was amplified by sustained negative media coverage lasting several months. This consequently led to a serious degradation in the community's trust and confidence in their local council—something which is only now being restored with the installation of the interim administrator, Greg Chemello.

If the CCC is given wider jurisdiction to investigate conduct that is likely to allow, encourage or cause corruption, as this bill provides, then we should see less of the major endemic corruption that was uncovered by Operation Windage. This will allow the CCC to remove the rot before it corrupts the wider system of our public administration. It may result in more people likely coming forward to report to the CCC any behaviour and activities that they believe undermine the good governance and integrity of our public sector.

In March this year the CCC advised the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that they supported the amendments in this bill because, in order for them to be an effective anti-corruption agency, they should have the ability to examine the corruption risks that, while not the subject of a specific claim, nevertheless warrant examination. Anything that upholds integrity and accountability in our public administration and prevents the undermining of trust and confidence in all levels of government is to be applauded. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.05 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. In opening, I would like to say that the people of Queensland certainly hold high expectations of all elected and appointed officials. It is a great honour to represent one's peers. Our peers certainly place a high level of trust in us. I thank the members of the committee and the secretariat staff and those who made submissions on this bill.

Unfortunately, throughout history there have been those who abused their positions of power. The electorate of Theodore is named after one such individual. In 1922 the then premier of Queensland, 'Red' Ted Theodore, and Speaker, William McCormack, were involved in the alleged sale of mining properties in North Queensland to the Queensland government at inflated prices. Both Theodore and McCormack each secretly held 25 per cent ownership in the properties. The scandal forced those individuals to resign from their positions back in 1930. Ted Theodore happened to be the treasurer of Australia at the time. On an interesting note, the Queensland government at the time did not charge either man with an offence. I understand where the committee and the government are going with this bill. Hopefully, this bill would have enveloped what they were doing and held them accountable.

There were seven submissions to the committee. They were from the Queensland Ombudsman, the Australia Institute, the LGAQ, QUT, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Law Society and the Environmental Defenders Office. The policy objective of the bill is to widen the definition of 'corruption' and implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 97 and report No. 99. I find it interesting reading that the Queensland Law Society expressed concerns about the expanded definition of 'corrupt conduct'. It stated—

We understand the need for the Commission to have access to extensive powers in order to effect its functions. However, we do not consider that these powers should be open ended and limitless. The definition as drafted is exceptionally broad and may be open to being construed too broadly.

It should also be noted that the non-government members recorded their concerns about this matter. The bill proposes that corrupt conduct may now include a broader spectrum such as dishonestly obtaining a benefit from payment or application of public funds or deposition of state assets, fraudulently obtaining government appointments or retaining government appointments.

The non-government members also highlighted the concerns that the CCC may be overwhelmed with vexatious complaints that are far removed from normal CCC investigations. Furthermore, in dealing with this treasure trove of complaints, the CCC would need additional resources to sift through them. I understand the concerns by the non-government members on this matter.

Many times throughout my parliamentary terms in this great place, many of my constituents have expressed that government must be open and transparent, that corruption at the highest levels must be weeded out, especially in recent times with what has transpired in some councils in Queensland. It has certainly tarnished and put a black mark against democracy in this state. One of my residents David Chan is very vocal when it comes to public officials misappropriating. He constantly rings me up and stops at my roadside offices to express his dismay at these individuals who hold high office. I agree with him. We must as parliamentarians ensure high standards and openness and transparency in government. One thing that the opposition does in this state is hold the government to account to being open and transparent to ensure that we weed out any potential wrongdoings in this state.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bill before the House. I start by acknowledging the committee and the great work that they have done in relation to the report and note recommendation 1 that the bill be approved. I also want to pass on my congratulations to the secretariat of the committee because these men and women do a great job in ordering the documentation, the public hearings and the like, and then drafting the final report that comes before the parliament.

The one thing I want to quickly touch upon is the enlarged definition of 'corrupt conduct'. I note that members opposite have traversed back to the Fitzgerald inquiry. In particular, the member for Capalaba made a comment or two in relation to that matter. He made a comment that I can remember that time—and I do. I can recall very clearly that the commission of inquiry was set up by a government member when Sir Joh was absent overseas at that relevant point in time.

Mr Costigan: Bill Gunn.

Mr McARDLE: Bill Gunn set up the inquiry. It was in fact the National Party government that started the Fitzgerald inquiry. The unravelling of what took place thereafter is both common knowledge and a history lesson for all concerned. It would appear that the government members tend to want to whitewash their history in relation to their ministers.

Mr Minnikin: What about the Shepherdson inquiry?

Mr McARDLE: We will come to that, member for Chatsworth. That is a very salient lesson as well. I want to point to the speech given yesterday by the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South, who outlined the very sad and sorry history of the Labor Party with regard to corruption over many years of many politicians, some who served jail time.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr McARDLE: We will detail those, member for Logan. We will make certain that the people of Queensland understand that the ALP are steeped in corruption.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Caloundra.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take your guidance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Address your comments through the chair. I ask the member for Logan to cease interjecting.

Mr McARDLE: I recall Gordon Nuttall very well. I was in the parliament during the time he sat on the government front bench as health minister, as was my colleague the member for Currumbin and also the member for Maroochydore. We were both here in 2005 when Stuart Copeland at the health estimates committee hearing in the red chamber posed a number of questions to the minister. The minister was flanked by two officials. He made a comment regarding overseas trained doctors and one of his officers did not back him up—in fact, refuted the claim made by the minister at that point in time. That triggered section 57 of the Criminal Code, which is giving false evidence before parliament.

A CMC inquiry found that there was evidence to substantiate that there had been a breach of section 57 of the Criminal Code. That was the first time that section of the Criminal Code had ever been used in this state. I can remember in December 2005 sitting on the opposition front bench and across the chamber was Peter Beattie and his good mate Anna Bligh and his good mate Gordon Nuttall. There was bleating from a number of members of the ALP and cabinet ministers including Anna Bligh, who praised Gordon Nuttall—what a great man he was, how much he had suffered, how much he had gone through and now he was going to be demoted to the back bench and lose his status.

What we did not realise, of course, is that he was rotten to the core, corrupt to the core. It then got worse because the government of the day then moved to remove section 57 of the Criminal Code to no longer make it an offence to mislead a parliamentary committee. We on this side of the House fought that tooth and nail. We called for a division on the second reading, the third reading and the long title of the bill, and we put it back in the Criminal Code when we came into government in 2012.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I will remind you of something you just said—the long title of the bill. Bear that in mind in your contribution. We are ranging a little bit.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, again, I bow to your guidance and wisdom. When Labor members stand in this House and try to point the stick at this side of the chamber and say our history is bad, I say to them to read history and understand that their history is appalling. The hypocrisy runs down the walls and seeps across the chamber floor.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I could talk about Keith Wright. I could talk about the paedophilia. I could talk about the sexual abuse allegations. I will read a quote from July 2009 by Tony Fitzgerald in relation to the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. This is about access to cash. He says—

Access can now be purchased, patronage is dispensed, mates and supporters—

Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the member to remain relevant to the bill and the clauses in the bill.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, my colleague the member for Scenic Rim raised the exact same point before the prior Deputy Speaker and the ruling was given by that Deputy Speaker that this is a wideranging debate and the debate has been allowed to range wide accordingly. I take your advice on that. Back in July 2009 Tony Fitzgerald made this comment about the 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.

Members opposite should not stand here and try to point the finger at us and point Fitzgerald at us when he condemned them in 2009 for what he called buying people by way of success fees. I support the bill, but I make the point again that Labor is steeped in the history of corruption and steeped in the history of criminal activity in this chamber and outside as well.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, keep your comments to yourself.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.19 pm): I rise to speak today in favour of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to start by thanking the Attorney-General for introducing the bill and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill. The objectives of the bill are to deliver on the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and to implement recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 97 titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. This bill reinforces the ongoing commitment by this government to ensure that Queensland has a robust system that serves the people of this state and lives up to the highest standards of integrity. It recognises the important role of the commission in the fight against corruption in Queensland.

This bill will achieve its first objective by simplifying the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person under section 15(1)(c) and the list of additional matters, criminal offences or behaviours that could be corrupt conduct under section 15(2). This will assist public sector agencies in their interpretation and understanding of the requirements under the bill. The bill also widens the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by including certain conduct that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. This amendment is consistent with the commission's overriding responsibility to ensure public confidence and integrity in the Queensland public sector.

Yesterday we saw confusion amongst those opposite, as the member for Toowoomba South felt the definition was now too broad and yet the member for Toowoomba South felt it was not broad enough.

A government member interjected.

Ms PEASE: That is right. I take that interjection. I note that the new definition's requirement is an appropriate limitation to ensure the CCC's jurisdiction and coercive powers are only enlivened in appropriate circumstances.

The bill also includes amendments that will expand the commission's investigatory jurisdiction. The commission's corruption functions will be widened to allow the commission to investigate and deal with conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct and conduct connected with corrupt conduct. These amendments are consistent with other jurisdictions and are similar to recent changes in both New South Wales and Victoria. They will ensure that the commission can continue to improve integrity and reduce the incidence of corruption in the public sector in Queensland.

The second objective of the bill is to implement recommendations of report No. 97 and report No. 99. In relation to report No. 97, the bill will implement the recommendations by lengthening the time frame to seek a review, streamlining disciplinary proceedings, improving disclosure provisions, widening information-sharing provisions and expressly authorising the derivative use of compelled evidence, among others.

Report No. 99 arises from a complaint made by Mr Hall, a former Queensland police officer, to the PCCC for investigation. To ensure procedural fairness and give effect to the recommendations of this report, the bill requires that the commission must not include adverse information about a person in a report which is to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly or published to the public under the CC Act unless before the report is prepared the commission gives the person an opportunity to make submissions about that information.

This is a robust bill that improves the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission, which this government values so highly. We have engaged in wide consultation on this bill, which will once again deliver on the government's election commitment. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.23 pm): On 23 March 2017 the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of which I was a member at the time. Whilst the committee recommended that the bill be passed, non-government members of the committee

provided a statement of reservation with recommendations that further amendments be considered in accordance with concerns raised by some of the submitters. This bill lapsed when the election was called and has been replicated and reintroduced. I note that the current committee has recognised the work done by the previous committee and has endorsed its 2017 report within its subsequent report No. 4 of the 56th Parliament tabled in March this year.

The 2017 committee received seven submissions, held a public briefing and public hearing including an address from the Queensland Police Union of Employees, the QPUE. Both this organisation and the QLS commented on the short time frame allowed for submissions, which was two weeks over the Easter school holidays, making it difficult for them to prepare as thoroughly as they would have liked. This is a common complaint—and one I have mentioned before—and needs to be observed in future legislation to make sure that a reasonable time is being granted for potential submitters to prepare their papers especially when debate on the bill is delayed for months.

The bill before us implements recommendations from a bipartisan Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee review of the act undertaken in 2016 and stems from an election promise made by the government prior to the 2015 election to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

An issues paper titled *Corrupt conduct* under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 was released by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in February 2017 to enable the broader public to provide feedback on the current definition. Amendments were last made in 2014 by the LNP government when the term 'official misconduct' was changed to 'corrupt conduct' as a result of the Callinan-Aroney report, which recommended the change to ensure the commission's operational focus was investigating serious cases of corrupt conduct rather than more trivial complaints that at the time would fall under the much broader definition of 'official misconduct'.

As stated in the explanatory notes, the bill also 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. The proposed new definition of 'corrupt conduct' raised concerns amongst non-government committee members, concerns shared by the Queensland Law Society, which stated in its submission—

We understand the need for the Commission to have access to extensive powers in order to effect its functions. However, we do not consider that these powers should be open-ended and limitless.

The definition as drafted is exceptionally broad and may be open to being construed too broadly.

To mitigate potential misinterpretation, the Law Society recommended that the jurisdiction of the commission be limited 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. The open-ended definition reflected in this bill risks the commission ending up back where it was before the Callinan-Aroney report of 2014—overwhelmed with complaints that fall well outside the scope of where its investigative focus should lie.

As noted in the statement of reservation, 'considerable resources may be utilised and effectively wasted in determining what needs to be investigated'. While we do not doubt the effectiveness of the commission's operational processes, an influx of vexatious complaints will undoubtedly add unnecessary pressure on the commission and its functions. The QUT similarly cautioned against amending section 15(1)(c) of the definition based on perceived confusion amongst public sector agencies. Its submission states—

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.

Of course, Labor members of parliament are all too familiar with having the term 'corrupt conduct' levelled at them and their union mates. There are way too many to mention here, but let us take Labor's current Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, as an example. He continues to be under a shroud of controversy over his prolific use of a private email for work matters, even though the Crime and Corruption Commission branded the minister as very foolish in an earlier investigation. It begs the question why the government waited until after the CCC investigation into Minister Bailey had concluded before widening the definition of 'corrupt conduct', considering the amendment was first introduced in the last parliament on 23 March 2017.

Last year, Labor's member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller, accused the Premier and Deputy Premier of turning a blind eye to corruption allegations in Ipswich. It was a bit more than one blind eye, was it not? In the union controlled Palaszczuk Labor government, corruption and criminality are tolerated at the highest levels. The CFMEU's cosy relationship with the Queensland Labor Party cannot go unnoticed.

While Annastacia Palaszczuk pushes the integrity and accountability line, the reality is totally different—an ingrained culture of cover-up and secrecy. I remember vividly having to attend a special parliamentary sitting in 2005 by Labor to exonerate health minister Gordon Nuttall. I could not believe what I heard and saw as minister after minister stood up in parliament, including Peter Beattie, and gave glowing testimonials of support for Gordon Nuttall, who was subsequently convicted—

Government members interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: They are all mumbling away here because they do not like what I am saying, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): There is a lot of chatter in the chamber. The member has the call.

Mrs STUCKEY: I will repeat. Minister after minister stood up in parliament, including Peter Beattie, and gave glowing testimonials of support for Gordon Nuttall, who was subsequently convicted in 2010 of five charges of official corruption and five charges of perjury. Labor members do not like hearing the truth. It was Robert Schwarten's praise that was particularly sickening. Disturbingly, the 2017-18 CCC annual report shows a staggering rise in corruption complaints. Under-resourced to deal with this increase, the CCC will be stretched and cases will suffer delays.

Further concerns were raised by the Queensland Law Society about the potential for 'unintended and adverse consequences' as a result of the proposed amendment to clause 18 of the bill regarding the derivative use of compelled evidence. The Queensland Law Society stated—

... the provision might enable the Commission to provide information and bypass the protections offered by section 197 of the Act.

In addition to the concerns raised by the Queensland Law Society, it is important to note that the amendments to clause 18 were also identified as possible breaches of fundamental legislative principles, which is why the LNP is calling on the Attorney-General to clarify the intent of this provision and address the concerns raised by the QLS. I hope she will do that.

Another amendment identified as a potential breach of fundamental legislative principles is clause 15 of the bill relating to the use of search warrants for the investigation of criminal offences being used to further complaints of misconduct. Mr Troy Schmidt appeared before the committee at our public hearing on behalf of the Queensland Police Union of Employees and presented concerns that there could be a misuse of the search warrant powers in the process of the investigation. Mr Schmidt advised that the QPUE wanted to see stricter limitations applied by amending the proposed section to allow the CCC to use all information it obtains—only for the purpose of performing its research and advisory functions. I therefore ask the Attorney-General to consider this request and clarify this aspect of clause 15.

The Technical Scrutiny Secretariat supplied a detailed 17-page report that found that 15 clauses raised potential issues of FLPs. Their report makes reference to the former scrutiny of legislation committee, of which I was a member for several years. In 2010, after a review of Queensland's parliamentary committee system, the SLC was abolished and replaced with the current system that has its foundations laid on a series of portfolio based committees. I remember it being recognised as a big change to the way our committee systems operated, and I recall my trip to the New Zealand parliament with other MPs to see their committees in action and to learn how the new system functioned. This new system commenced in the Queensland parliament in mid-2011.

The former SLC examined bills before the parliament. However, now it is the role of each portfolio committee to consider any FLP issues contained in the bills and subordinate legislation within its portfolio area. I would like to take a moment to thank the Technical Scrutiny Secretariat for their assistance and recognise the truly important work that they do within the new system.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Our collective communities across Queensland have an expectation of our Public Service that, no matter what the person's position or department, the systems of the state will be robust and delivered with integrity, honesty and probity with high standards of principles when delivering a service of dealing with public moneys and administration.

This bill being debated today will give the community confidence that there is a transparent system in place. It also gives those working within the Public Service the confidence of a defined process and definitions. This bill delivers an election commitment to widen the legislative definition of 'corrupt conduct' and also captures the conduct of people outside the public sector. There are arrangements with government and public-private partnerships. There must be confidence that there is no room for fraud on tendering or in relation to licensing.

The new definition of 'corrupt conduct' in new section 15(2) operates in the following way. The bill expands the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to capture the specific conduct of a person, regardless of whether the person holds or held an appointment in a unit of public administration. The requirements in new section 15(2) are cumulative, meaning that all elements need to be satisfied to establish the definition.

This bill responds to the increased outsourcing in the delivery of government services and the potential for private citizens participating in these service delivery arrangements to engage in corrupt conduct. The changes also align with the commission's overriding responsibility to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector.

In this age of instant and constant information, the community is aware of government projects. Questions are continually asked within the media and by contractors competing for work about process, fairness and transparency. The Mackay Ring Road, for example, is a \$500 million project that was scrutinised by the community when tenders were called. The community wanted to know that their taxes were being spent with quality, ethical companies that would deliver the project and that local businesses were treated fairly in the process. People in my community also show interest in the awarding of smaller contracts—for instance, maintenance on schools and other public buildings.

The types of conduct that may be captured by the new 'corrupt conduct' definition include the inclusion of the private sector engaging with government or the commission monitoring and investigating specific conduct that impairs public confidence in public administration, even where it does not involve a lack of propriety by a public sector employee. For example, the new definition would enable the commission to investigate the conduct of an employee of a private training company who accepted bribes from individuals with links to organised crime to provide qualifications to unqualified people so that they could obtain government issued licences.

The new definition proposed in the bill will provide the commission with the power to investigate, expose, prevent or educate about serious endemic collusion about tenders for government contracts or serious and systemic fraud in the making of applications for licences, permits or other authorities issued under Queensland legislation. This bill will give confidence to the community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill amends the definition of 'corruption'. I wish to reflect on some matters that are very relevant to the discussion we are having in the House. There have been discussions about some former members of this House who were convicted then jailed for the misuse of ministerial expenses, which is the offence of misappropriation of public funds.

My reflection is that there would be 23 Labor members of the Victorian parliament in jail if they were to apply the same standard that is applied here in Queensland. It is a serious issue to misuse ministerial expenses. I know Labor members like to think it was about receiving brown paper bags, but in fact the offences committed by the former ministers of this House that resulted in convictions and jailing related to the misappropriation of ministerial expenses.

If that same standard were applied to the Victorian Andrews government—where an ombudsman's report found that Labor members misappropriated \$388 million of funds in campaigning—then those members would be facing jail terms. That is what would happen if the same standard were applied. The public do view these issues very seriously, but apparently there is one rule here in Queensland and a different one in respect to Labor MPs elsewhere.

I want to refer also to the Labor members in this place who were found to be corrupt, such as Gordon Nuttall. I was in this place when the Labor government changed the legislation to try to let Mr Nuttall off the hook in regard to the criminal offence of lying to parliament. Subsequently, that particular member was, in fact, charged and convicted of corruption and receiving secret commissions. These matters must be put on the public record. They are all serious matters, but let's get the matters we are actually discussing correct.

Interestingly, this bill broadens the definition in terms of the corruption matters that the CCC can look at and pursue. Stakeholders have had conflicting views about whether this is necessary. This bill removes the requirement that the conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person. That will no longer be in the definition. When it comes to the administration of law regarding corruption in other areas of public administration, corruption should never be tolerated, but maladministration also should never be tolerated. Whether someone—a minister or a premier—intends to do harm through their gross incompetence or maladministration is irrelevant when it comes to the outcomes that affect people's lives.

It is an understood principle that corruption is unacceptable for ethical reasons, particularly because it undermines public administration—the ability of people to ensure that their funds, jurisdictions and institutions are being appropriately governed. The same principle applies to maladministration. We should talk about them in the same sentence and the same ethical context because the outcomes are the same, regardless of whether people intend to do harm. Both affect members of the public in the same way. Both should be equally condemned because of their impact upon people's lives.

I wish now to refer to a number of other aspects of the bill. The bill defines 'corrupt conduct' as conduct that—

(a) impairs, or could impair, public confidence in public administration; and—

it outlines these as being—

- (i) collusive tendering;
- (ii) fraud relating to an application for a licence, permit or other authority ...
 - (A) protecting health or safety of persons;
 - (B) protecting the environment;
 - (C) protecting or managing the use of the State's natural, cultural, mining or energy resources;
- (iii) dishonestly obtaining, or helping someone to dishonestly obtain, a benefit from the payment ... of public funds or the disposition of State assets;
- (iv) evading a State tax, levy or duty or otherwise fraudulently causing a loss of State revenue;
- (v) fraudulently obtaining or retaining an appointment;

Once again, we heard some different views from stakeholders who commented on these matters.

It is important that there is not only the resources for forensic accounting and the identification of these types of offences but also a greater awareness of how damaging these offices can be and the impact they have on people's lives. These are not academic issues. Collusive tendering, for example, which results in a higher cost of products purchased by government, impacts the amount of money that is available to be used elsewhere on behalf of the citizens of the state. It can also mean that different people are chosen to undertake that work. These things have an impact on everyday citizens.

In drawing my comments to a close, I once again make the strong point that corruption should never be tolerated and neither should maladministration as it has an equal damaging impact on people's lives. I feel very strongly about these things. We want to see the citizens of this state respected in terms of the words that people use. The institutions that govern their lives can impact them in ways that can sometimes make them feel powerless. Those institutions and systems of government must operate in accordance with the rule of law. They must also operate within a culture of integrity and honesty which must be upheld by all associated agencies tasked with ensuring compliance with the law.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.45 pm): It is great to follow a contribution from the member for Maroochydore for the second time this week. I know she has spent a long time in this place as the member for Maroochydore—more time than anyone else, in fact. She was rattling off her list, the same list we have heard time and again from various opposition members. For the benefit of the environment, hopefully they have been passing around the notes and have not been printing them out individually.

It is amazing how quickly the member for Maroochydore forgets. She forgot a few names from her list. I will give her a few names. What about Leisha Harvey? We did not hear the member for Maroochydore or any other of those members opposite mention Leisha Harvey, did we? There is another name that the member for Maroochydore might remember. What about Brian Austin? We did not hear about him from the member for Maroochydore or any other of those opposite. Who could forget Don Lane? The member for Maroochydore seems to have forgotten.

Mr Madden: 'Shady Lane'.

Mr PEGG: We will never forget ‘Shady Lane’. What about Geoff Muntz? When was the member for Maroochydore talking about him? They were all National Party MPs. Maybe that is the reason the longest serving member of this House failed to mention them. The member for Maroochydore has followed the member for Toowoomba South—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Stretton, you have not mentioned the bill or which clause you are talking to. I know we range very broadly, but at least mention which legislation you are speaking to.

Mr PEGG: I am of course speaking to this important bill. I was very pleased to chair the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of the 55th Parliament. I must say to the member for Toohey—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Lytton. I thank the member for Toohey very much for endorsing our report. Indeed, I thank all the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and all the members of the 55th Parliament. I was responding to issues raised in this debate. A lot of members have sought to put this debate in context, which I think is really important. I could go on. The member for Toowoomba South kicked it all off for the opposition as justice spokesman. He clasped his hands together, he looked one way, he listed something, he squinted his eyes and then he looked the other way and listed something else. I could respond. I could list all those National Party members—and more than I just listed. I could talk about how the LNP changed the estimates committee hearings so that all seven committees sat at the same time over only two days. I could talk about how the LNP bypassed the requirement for bipartisan support for the CCC chair by—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, are you speaking to the bill? You have not even mentioned the name of the bill yet.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am really responding to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, that is my call. Speak to the bill, please.

Mr PEGG: I am well aware of the long title of the bill. As I said, it is important to put these debates in context. In fact, many of those opposite, including the member for Maroochydore, talked about a whole lot of historical events. When we look at the history of the crime and corruption body in this state, when we put it in context, it is important to remember that it was created due to National Party corruption. The Australian Labor Party has always supported a strong, independent anti-corruption body in this state.

In fact, I know that the federal Labor Party now supports a federal anti-corruption body, which is something I commend. I note that the federal coalition government has not given it their support. After hearing the contributions of those opposite, it has been hard for me to work out what they think, because they have read out their shopping list time and time again. I listened to the member for Maroochydore and the member for Toowoomba South. The member for Moggill and the member for Gregory are coming up. If we want to find out what those opposite really think, the person to look at is the member for Kawana.

We have not heard from the member for Kawana yet, and he is not on the speaking list. Let us see what they really think and let us see what the member for Kawana thinks about the importance of having a strong, independent anti-corruption body in this state, because that is what this bill is all about. It was not Halloween—it was not 31 October; it was 7 May 2014 during the debate in relation to the Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill when the member for Kawana, who was then attorney-general and minister for justice, said—

The simple fact is that, if things had been allowed to go along as they had been, the CMC would have driven itself into the ground. It was an organisation crippled by irrelevance, warped priorities and a lack of direction.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take those interjections from the member for Logan, because if we read *Hansard* we will see what they really think. The member for Kawana went on, as he always does, and said, ‘It was leaderless.’ The CMC ‘oozed incompetence’. He further stated—

The CMC had become an organisation with no accountability, no integrity and no transparency, and it undermined the integrity of the process. The CMC would have us believe that over the last few years it has been the virtuous bastion of democracy. I think from everything we have seen over the last two years it has been anything but that.

These are extraordinary statements from the member for Kawana, and it is extraordinary that he has not made a contribution to this particular debate. He went on—the member for Kawana always does—and he said—

When I have been watching the debates in relation to the amendments to the CMC over the last six to seven weeks, I have been concerned with some of the commentary out there that holds the CMC up as this last bastion of democracy. If anything, we have to be reminded that this bastion of democracy failed Queenslanders. It let Queenslanders down because of its incompetence and its maladministration. The most unaccountable body potentially in the nation—but certainly in Queensland—let Queenslanders down.

These are extraordinary statements from the then attorney-general and minister for justice, so it does not surprise me that he does not want to get up and speak to this bill. But wait, there's more! As I said, with the member for Kawana there is always more. He went on to say—

I reject completely the assertion that the CMC is (1), doing its job; (2), fulfilling the obligations that are required of it; and (3) fulfilling its functions and purposes under the legislation; and I reject the assertion that Queenslanders have confidence in the current administration in terms of how the CMC operates under its current legislative framework.

That is an absolutely extraordinary contribution from the first law officer of the state. He went on to say—

For years the CMC has sat outside as an unelectable, unaccountable body answerable to no-one.

This is an extraordinary statement from the member for Kawana. I could go on and on. The member for Kawana always goes on and on, but I will leave it there. I think the point has clearly been made about what those opposite really think about having an independent anti-corruption body in this state.

I am particularly pleased to see this bill implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*. I was the deputy chair of the PCCC when this report was undertaken, and I want to place on record my thanks to the Attorney-General for implementing these important recommendations. This bill reinforces the ongoing commitment of this government to ensure that Queensland has a robust system that serves the people of this state and lives up to the highest standards of integrity.

The first objective of the bill delivers on the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. This is where it gets interesting, because I think those opposite support this bill but they have concerns about the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. They want further clarification from the Attorney-General. I am not sure how much the member for Southern Downs has read of the bill. I am not sure whether he was asking for further clarification and, to be frank, I am not sure whether the Attorney-General could help the member for Southern Downs. I am not sure that anyone could.

Those opposite say that they have concerns about definitions, and they read statements from stakeholders. If we try to work out what they really think, or if anyone who is listening to this debate wants to know what those opposite really think, we have to go back to what the member for Kawana said on 7 May 2014. He set out the modern manifesto of the LNP in relation to the CCC. It was not Halloween, it was not 31 October, and there were no ghouls and gremlins running around. It may have been a full moon—I am not quite sure. I will have to look it up.

Those opposite can come in here, pass the member for Toowoomba South's list around and try to throw as much mud as they like but, as other members of the government and I have demonstrated during this debate, if you try to throw mud you will end up with it all over your face. Some of those opposite might like that. Some of those opposite might enjoy that, but it is important that we have a strong, independent anti-corruption body in this state. The Labor Party has strongly supported it. I commend this bill to the House and I thank everyone. I hope that everyone in this House supports this bill. I look forward to hearing what those opposite really think.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Logan, if I have to mention your name again you will be warned.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.55 pm): The member for Stretton may like following the member for Maroochydore, but nothing gives this side of the House more satisfaction than following the member for Stretton. The member for Stretton wants to talk about Halloween and a house of horrors, but perhaps he should get out of the costume he is still wearing from last night.

The member for Stretton needs a history lesson about why the LNP implemented the changes that we did. It was a bill that we introduced, and I know that the member was not here and he needs a history lesson. The bill was the CCC negligence rectification bill, for the member's information, because the CCC—the CMC at the time—released witness details from the Fitzgerald inquiry. They conducted

their own internal investigation as to how the CCC—the CMC at the time—came to release private witness testimony. Not only that, but they released witness details from the Fitzgerald inquiry. There was an almighty mess at the CCC. By their own admission they absolutely stuffed it up and they had to fix it. That was the first bill we introduced, the CMC negligence rectification bill, in relation to those who gave out private details and witness testimony from the Fitzgerald inquiry. The CMC admitted the mistakes they had made. Former respected High Court judge Ian Callinan conducted a thorough investigation into that issue.

By the CMC's own admission they were getting over 5,000 complaints a year, and most of them were not even looked at or followed through because they were complaints of things like missing pencils from departments. There were bulldog clips missing from departments. Do we really expect a crime and corruption body to conduct months and months of investigations into a missing bulldog clip? I think not; but under the new definition, yes, it will. What happens when you put police into the CCC to investigate missing bulldog clips is that they are not going after real criminals like organised crime, paedophile rings and drug traffickers. That is what the member for Stretton does not understand. Under the definition of 'corrupt conduct', the member for Stretton may think it is the CCC's intention to go looking for missing bulldog clips. If that is what the member for Stretton thinks the CCC should spend its time on, then his priorities are all wrong. That is what the definition of 'corrupt conduct' will do, and it puts it down to the level where the CCC will get thousands and thousands of complaints. I think that the CCC's resources—paid for by the Queensland taxpayer, of course—are better spent elsewhere.

If the member for Stretton wants to know what we think about the CCC: yes, we want it. We think it should be strengthened, and that is why we increased its funding. If the Labor Party wants to speak about the politicisation of the CCC they should look at what they did to Paul Favell, who was the parliamentary crime commissioner. He applied for the position as the chair of the CCC but no, they could not have him, the independent parliamentary crime commissioner. Then they dodged up the committee system by getting the now member for Traeger in through a loophole. They did not have opposition support for the chairman's appointment, so they got it through by subbing one of their own members out and putting the member for the then seat of Mount Isa in. Is that accountability and integrity?

I am not going to be lectured by the member for Stretton on this issue. What absolute hypocrisy! We do not have to mention section 57 of the Criminal Code and Gordon Nuttall. The Labor mob recalled parliament to cover up the corruption of Gordon Nuttall. Which party brought back section 57 of the Criminal Code? It was the LNP. The Labor Party has had more of its former ministers in jail on corruption charges than the LNP. There is a history lesson for the member for Stretton. If he wants to come into this place, he should make sure he gets his facts straight.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Old Cleveland Road, Tramway Tracks

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak about an iconic piece of history right in the heart of the Chatsworth electorate. Many people know that I love my history—so much so that the Old Cleveland Road tram tracks, a beautiful piece of history in my electorate, are featured on the front of the birthday card that I send to all my constituents on their milestone birthdays. I take great pride in it. As members can see, it is a lovely image that shows the then and now of this iconic piece of infrastructure.

The original tracks, which we see on Old Cleveland Road today, were laid in 1948 by the Brisbane City Council to become part of the electric tram route from Belmont to the valley. This replaced earlier tracks constructed by the Belmont shire council back in 1912 on which steam trains ran to the now Norman Park train station, ending at the famous Belmont terminus, which we now call the Carina shops.

It is ironic to think that then Belmont, now Carina, was a sparsely populated outer suburb that was not even classified in the Brisbane City Council network. How times have changed! Now a thriving and developed metropolitan suburb, Carina is home to the last remaining double-track stretch of Brisbane's tramway system, which began in 1885 and ended in 1969, when Brisbane's tramway system was closed to make way for a bus conversion program. Today they lie as the only reminder of an era when public transport ruled, before the mass ownership of private vehicles.

The date of 13 April next year marks 50 years since the last tram service. Mr Paul Campbell, a Brisbane Tramway Museum member, put forward the suggestion to have an old restored tram run along the only remaining stretch of tracks to celebrate and commemorate the milestone. I fully endorse Mr Campbell's idea to bring the heritage listed tracks back to life; however, there has been one hiccup, with the discovery of a removed section of the steel tram tracks not far from the last stop.

I would like to thank the constituents who brought to my attention what looked to be a very freshly cut service trench across the tracks. As these tracks have been heritage listed by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection since 2000, I became quite concerned and reached out to my constituents and the department to clarify that someone had not tampered with the track post heritage listing. Although it took almost two months for the department to respond to my urgent inquiry, I am pleased to be able to report that it confirmed this trench did in fact exist before it was heritage listed and acknowledged the number of valid complaints due to the visually contrasting bitumen. A shout-out must go to all the constituents who responded to my request for further information.

As a lover of history and all things transport, I am looking forward to next year commemorating the 50th anniversary of the last tram service and, indeed, supporting the celebration of this fantastic part of Brisbane's history.

Aspley Electorate, Grants

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.03 pm): In the most recent round of Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants some of the hardworking and incredibly deserving community groups across the electorate of Aspley managed to secure almost \$100,000 in funding towards new improvements and projects. This includes \$20,000 to help Geebung Bowls Club purchase new furniture. Richard, Linda and the team at Geebung Bowls Club are going from strength to strength at the moment. I was very pleased earlier this year to announce funding of \$550,000 for upgrades to the club. The club is very active with regular bowls and several groups utilising the indoor hall. The club is also home to the Brisbane Blind Bowlers. Their two natural grass greens are also very highly regarded. The \$550,000 facility projects are being planned to look at improving their toilets, locker rooms, kitchen, bar area and clubhouse entrance and the replacement of shade adjacent to bowls greens, for example. I very much look forward to attending the Geebung Bowls Club's president's day this Saturday.

The latest round of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants also includes over \$34,000 to the Northern Suburbs Pony Club in Bridgeman Downs to upgrade their clubhouse and \$1,900 for the Aspley Uniting Church and Aspley Classes for Seniors, which both do fantastic work in our community, getting people active and acting as a real community hub for people to come together. I say well done to Aspley Uniting Church on a great church market stall last Saturday, which I was very happy to help promote. I myself picked up a great new chilli plant for the bargain price of \$1.50. I hope it fares better than most plants I buy.

Mr Pegg: You could have paid more.

Mr MELLISH: I take that interjection: you could pay more for a chilli plant. I also picked up some very delicious beetroot relish. This round of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund also includes \$7,000 to Multicap Carseldine respite centre to purchase equipment and \$35,000 to assist Aspley Special School P&C purchase a new motor vehicle. Aspley Special School has around a hundred students. I am constantly in awe of the work it does. I look forward to welcoming the education minister to the school tomorrow, in fact.

I am so appreciative of the opportunity I have to get to know the incredible people who make up these groups and many others in the community who put countless amounts of time and effort into making our part of the world a much more inclusive, vibrant, supportive and connected community. These groups are the backbone of our area, and I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to supporting them to the fullest extent possible. This funding is indicative of the range and calibre of great organisations doing great things in our area. The funding will go towards helping these organisations fund projects that otherwise would have been out of reach. Round 99 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund is now open and closes on 30 November. I encourage any other groups in the area with upcoming projects to consider applying.

JM Kelly Builders

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise to speak on the serious matter I referred to earlier this week involving the failed Central Queensland based company JM Kelly builders. I foreshadowed that this was a murky matter and there was still more to come. Since I spoke on Tuesday, further information has been received from multiple sources that deserves to be raised here today. I urge

anybody with information about this issue to contact me. I raised these issues on Tuesday. The minister and the members for Keppel and Rockhampton have had an opportunity to rebut in this House what I had to say but they have not. That tells me that we are on the money.

The people who have contacted me have raised some very concerning issues in addition to the ones I raised on Tuesday. What action was taken by HPW to inform other state and local government agencies about the issues with JM Kelly builders? Why did state government agencies such as the Department of Education and Training choose to ignore the risk and award this company major projects while Housing and Public Works was investigating it? What financial assurances were given by JM Kelly builders during the tender process? Were these thoroughly checked before it was awarded government contracts? What role did members like the member for Keppel play in this sorry saga? I table an email showing that she knew all about this issue.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 16 August 2018, from the Keppel electorate office, regarding JM Kelly [1793].

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Maryborough.

Mr HART: What were the circumstances surrounding Rob Schwarten's involvement with JM Kelly and his subsequent appointment to the board of the industry regulator, the QBCC?

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough!

Mr HART: Of real concern is the allegation that Rob Schwarten had major renovations done to his Rockhampton houses by JM Kelly in 2009 and 2011—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! One moment, member for Burleigh. Could I ask you to take your seat, please? Member for Maryborough, I have given you several early warnings. I now warn you under the standing orders.

Mr HART: Of real concern is the allegation that Rob Schwarten had major renovations done to his Rockhampton houses by JM Kelly in 2009 and 2011. In particular, I am told that a JM Kelly contractor painted his Kinka Beach house, known around Rockhampton as the beach hospital, and the cost of that contracting work—about \$26,000—was not paid by Schwarten but was added as a variation to a government contract. I have heard this from a number of credible people in Central Queensland and both the government and Mr Schwarten have some very serious questions to answer about this. These questions are deserving of a thorough and rigorous examination to get to the bottom of things.

Nudgee Electorate, Caravan and Camping Industry

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.09 pm): I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Ron Chapman, Chief Executive, and Jason Plant, General Manager, of Caravanning Queensland to discuss the rapidly growing caravanning and camping industry in Queensland. With over 170,000 registered caravans and campers, Queensland has the largest fleet in Australia and growing. Registrations in Queensland have increased by over 30 per cent since 2017 alone, the highest growth of any road use vehicle. Nationally, eight of the top 10 postcodes by registration density are located in Queensland and over 2.3 million domestic trips were taken in recreational vehicles in Queensland in 2017. Overall, consumer spend on caravanning and camping nationally is in excess of \$8.6 billion.

Of course, it is not just the caravan and campervan trade that makes this such a dynamic industry. It is also the approximately 284 recreational vehicle service and repair businesses and manufacturers that call Queensland home and, proudly, my electorate of Nudgee is home to significant contributors in this space. Cruisemaster in Geebung engineers premium caravan and camper trailer independent arm suspension systems. It is an industry leader and is rightly proud of its reputation and product, and give a warm shout-out to Managing Director Chris Goddard. Nudgee is also home to Apollo, Queensland's largest manufacturer of motorhomes, campervans and caravans and one of Australia's largest. Currently manufacturing Winnebago and Talvor, its production output will increase in 2019 when it starts also manufacturing Coromal and Windsor products from its Northgate base. I am proud that it has chosen the Nudgee electorate to call home and I would like to give the team at Apollo a warm shout-out.

Caravanning has become synonymous with grey nomads and as being largely the pursuit of the retired, but this is far from true. While the 55-plus market accounts for a significant component of domestic caravan and camping trips, or approximately 32 per cent of trips, and almost half of nights, the majority of caravan and camping trips in Queensland are taken by 30- to 54-year-olds and

Queensland families, and this number is growing. We all know that Queensland is an incredibly beautiful state—from the coast to the bush and everything in between. Queensland has over 500 caravan parks, and many only a stone's throw away from our state's most captivating destinations. Importantly, 92 per cent of travellers stay in regional locations when travelling, making this industry a significant economic contributor to our regional towns as well as cities.

On a personal note, my husband and I and our young boys have recently joined this cohort, having just purchased a camper trailer from Brisbane Camperland at Tingalpa. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jim Carnavas at Brisbane Camperland for his kind generosity and his team, particularly Jon Kaufman, John, Brad and Rod Tobler—himself a Nudgee resident—who took such good care of our family during purchase and handover.

University of Queensland, Draft Site Development Plan

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.12 pm): Today I rise to address some goings-on at the St Lucia University of Queensland campus and in particular with regard to the Schonell Theatre and the Union Complex. Anyone who studied at UQ, like me, will have fond memories of the Schonell—sharing that pizza amongst four people so you can afford to see what it is that is screening that night. An open letter from the UQ Law Revue recently described it as the beating heart of UQ's creative community, and I think it speaks for many Brisbane locals and UQ alumni with that description.

Concerns about the Schonell were recently expressed in a change.org petition which garnered 7,500 signatures in quite quick time. I want to give a quick shout-out to Nick Comino, Georgia Millroy, Paige Howard and Hannah Dawe who were on to this very quickly and put the petition together. The concern is that the draft UQ site development plan proposes the demolition of the Schonell and the Union Complex. This would mean the loss of UQ's professional class theatre, and my conversations with UQ administration suggest that there is no clear time line for replacement of this theatre and certainly no committed funding at this stage. The petitioners are concerned—and I share their concern—that UQ would lose its only professional theatre space without any real plan for a satisfactory alternative.

At a minimum I would have thought that the demolition should not go ahead without a replacement venue in place or at least funding for that to occur in the future. We need to bear in mind as well the very real heritage values of the Schonell. They should not be overlooked, but I am the first to accept that it is a little dated and could potentially use a revamp. I take this opportunity to table a report that I have been given, which I think was prepared for a subcommittee of the UQ Senate and which addresses the possibilities for a refurbishment of the Schonell Theatre.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled 'Schonell Theatre Refurbishment Consideration Item 8.2 TLSC meeting 2/15' [1794].

I have recently written to the UQ Vice-Chancellor, Peter Hoj, about this and I am very keen to discuss these options with him and I will raise some of the various options that are addressed in that report and also other issues that have been raised by students and the broader community about the site development plan. I want to reiterate that I am happy to take views from anyone in the community who has concerns or issues they would like me to raise in that forum. I want to acknowledge the organisers who are holding their first meeting tonight to look at defending the broader heritage values of the UQ Union Complex. These kinds of collective decommodified spaces like the Schonell and parts of the complex give us all so much and they are really integral to the fabric of campus life. These are the places between the cracks of officialdom and outside bureaucracy and the authority of campus and political hierarchy and they are so rich. We see this in iconic Brisbane bands like the Go-Betweens and the Saints that emerged from this space and our longest running community radio station 4ZZZ, which has its roots there. In closing, submissions on the draft site development plan close tomorrow, Friday, 2 November. I encourage everyone locally to have their say.

Queensland Drought Appeal, Chinese Community

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.15 pm): I rise to talk about a fantastic event that happened on Sunday afternoon at City Hall. I refer to a Chinese acrobatic, singing and dancing gala. The performances were of a really high calibre. There was singing, there was dancing, there were acrobatics and all kinds of tricks and fantastic performances happening. The great thing is that it was a capacity crowd with all tickets sold. I would say there was standing room only, but I do not think the fire regulations allow standing room at City Hall. However, all tickets were sold and the fantastic thing was that the gala raised money for the Queensland Drought Appeal. It raised \$18,000 for the Queensland Drought Appeal and also another \$18,000—so that is \$36,000 in total—for the Drought Angels. It was a fantastic effort from the Chinese community in Queensland. Not only did they put on a great gala

performance; they also raised money for an important cause. I want to thank the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. He has a very busy schedule, but he was there and he was very impressed by some of the performances and also impressed by the amount of funds raised.

Mr Furner: Better performance than those opposite.

Mr PEGG: He thinks it was a better performance than those opposite. I take that interjection, although I note that all levels of government were represented. The member for Moreton was there as were members of the Brisbane City Council, so there were members from both sides of politics present, which is great to see. This adds to the \$3-plus million already raised by other donors to the Queensland Drought Appeal and I congratulate the Queensland Country Women's Association for its efforts in distributing these funds on behalf of families.

I want to recognise the organisers—the Queensland Chinese United Council and the Dongbei association. I also want to recognise Mr Michael Ma, Mr David Huang, Mrs Mary Zhong, Mrs Yan Hong, my good friend Mrs Rachel Zheng—she was the emcee who, despite a bad cold, still did a sterling job—Mrs Silvia Liu, Mr Haiyang Wang, Mr Johnny Chen, Ms Sybil Zheng and also Yuanming Zheng. Of course, the Deputy Consul-General and the Consul-General of China were there, as were many Chinese community leaders. It was a fantastic performance and gala and I look forward to more in the future. Members of the Chinese community are very giving. They are always willing to help those in need and they were definitely all willing to put their hands in their pocket to support our farmers for drought relief.

In closing, I say to the Chinese community in Queensland and in particular in my local area, which is the most multicultural electorate in the state: xiexie, xiexie ni, xiexie nimen, hen hao. They did a fantastic job and I look forward to working with the Chinese community into the future.

Pumicestone Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.18 pm): Here I go again about the neglect of state roads in my electorate, and I am going to keep banging on about this until someone on the other side of the House listens and acts. Both Bribie Island and Beachmere roads in my electorate remain two of the most overlooked state controlled roads in need of urgent upgrades where parts of these two roads are putting motorists at risk.

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads admits that Bribie Island Road is more congested and that more crashes are occurring. Yet he continues to delay the urgent upgrades to make it safer. Hundreds of kids are transported to St Michael's school and their safety does not seem to be a factor as this incompetent Labor government drags the chain in making vital safety improvements at the Old Toorbul Point Road intersection. All this Labor government has done is cut funding and push completion times back on planning projects. Clearly, the safety of people in my electorate does not rate for this government.

Parts of Beachmere Road have no sealed shoulders and narrow lanes, which increases the risk of accidents and potential fatalities. I table the signatures of 625 people who, like me, want Beachmere Road upgraded.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding upgrade to Beachmere Road [\[1795\]](#).

The Premier and minister consider this project a low priority, but these people do not and nor do I.

This year, during the estimates hearing, the director-general of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Neil Scales, offered to visit members' electorates if they had any concerns about state controlled roads. He had been to the Bundamba electorate and he offered to do the same for all other members. I invited Mr Scales to Pumicestone but, instead of Mr Scales replying to my invitation, the minister wrote to me asking me to explain my road issues. He cannot be serious. I have written countless times to the minister, asked questions on notice and even made direct public appeals for him to look at upgrading the road. I also suggest to the minister that he look at the media monitors, because Beachmere Road is again mentioned in an article titled, 'Fear over a death trap road'. Bribie Island Road is mentioned in another article titled 'Upgrades needed fast'. I table those.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Caboolture Shire Herald*, dated 1 November 2018, titled 'Upgrades needed—fast' [\[1796\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from the *Caboolture Shire Herald*, dated 1 November 2018, titled 'Fear over "death trap" road' [\[1797\]](#).

What more evidence does the minister need? How else can I better communicate with him? Would he prefer that I submit my concerns to mangocube6 @ yahoo.co.uk.? I hope the minister allows Mr Scales to stand true to his word and visit my electorate as he said he would.

Ipswich, Defence Summit

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is always a great pleasure to talk in parliament about Ipswich and the investment in the region that will create more local jobs. As the member for Ipswich, I support projects and investments that create more jobs for people in Ipswich and put more money into my local community. The defence industry sector is loaded with such opportunities for Ipswich.

The recent announcement by the state government that Ipswich will be one of the two defence hubs in Queensland, along with Townsville, is a catalyst for driving momentum in defence industry investment. I am pleased that Ipswich will host the inaugural Queensland Defence Summit to be held on 20 November. This premier event will focus on defence manufacturing, integrated logistics and sustainment and will encourage local businesses to engage with industry experts and develop connections that will support success in the industry.

Some excellent speakers will be at the event representing the Defence Force, global defence industry companies, the state government and local government. They will provide valuable insights into the defence industry and share knowledge about how local businesses can build capabilities to be successful in the sector. The Queensland government will partner with the Ipswich City Council to host the event and they will be supported by the Australian Industry and Defence Network.

If we want to build Queensland's capabilities in the defence industry sector, events like the Queensland Defence Summit are vital for getting all the key players in the same room to network, exchange knowledge and build connections. Small to medium sized businesses in Ipswich are already benefiting from the defence industry investment in the area. Ipswich is fortunate to have the Amberley RAAF base, which is the site for air defence projects contracted to Boeing Defence, Northrop Grumman and TAE. There are new defence projects on the horizon, including the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank, where Rheinmetall will build its Land 400 military combat vehicles.

The defence industry in Ipswich is already worth about \$800 million in sales and \$600 million in exports. The defence industry sector is also a driver of advanced manufacturing jobs and that is especially favourable for Ipswich. Currently, manufacturing provides full-time employment to 14.2 per cent of the Ipswich workforce, making it the largest employer of full-time workers in Ipswich. We all know that underemployment is a growing problem, with too many casual or part-time jobs not providing the financial security that families need. More manufacturing jobs in Ipswich will mean more full-time jobs available for Ipswich people.

I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that is driving investment in jobs in the Ipswich region. It is part of Annastacia Palaszczuk's promise to put Queenslanders first, which means building on our plans to deliver jobs, quality services for Queenslanders and providing opportunities for businesses to invest in Queensland. As part of that overall plan, I am pleased to see Ipswich playing a major role by hosting the Queensland Defence Summit on 20 November.

Gold Coast, Broadwater

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.24 pm): I rise to once again speak about the beautiful Broadwater on the eastern edge of the Bonney electorate. I am lucky to live just a couple of streets back from it. Many people in my area enjoy the calm waters, the skyline views of what is, in my opinion, the inferior electorate of Surfers Paradise, and the slower pace that the Broadwater brings compared to its southern counterparts. I probably get the most feedback on this part of my electorate.

Last week, I held a public forum on Broadwater issues. I thank Hal and Peter from the Gold Coast Waterways Authority for attending the forum and taking feedback and Jason and Carmen from the Grand Hotel for hosting us. With over 100 turning up, that was a clear display of the passion that the locals have for their Broadwater. I thank each and every one of them for giving their time to raise these issues.

I want to bring to the attention of the House the three major themes that I have had feedback on. Regular dredging of the Broadwater is needed to make sure that navigation channels are maintained and allow for a greater number of larger boats to use the Broadwater more freely. There needs to be more funds put towards this dredging, because we will reap the return on that investment. On Saturday, in an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the minister in charge said that he did not think that any changes were needed. I think that shows that the minister knows as much about boats as he does about four-wheel drives. I would like to see that dredging go beyond the navigation channels. For that to occur, the GCWA needs to be given the budget and authority. The resources the GCWA gets from the government are too low, especially in the context of how much revenue is generated for the state by the Broadwater.

There are also too many boats overstaying their mooring times on the water. As well, many are of an unsightly nature and their waste and effluent pollute the water. Once again, the minister has oversimplified the issue and not listened to the people who live by the Broadwater. These boats are more than just 'average-looking houses'; they are unseaworthy vessels that are an eyesore and they are being allowed to put their waste into the waters that people swim in. The GCWA investigates 80 to 100 boats per month. Often, those investigations take years and the GCWA struggles with its limited budget. Every local knows that this is an issue and so does the GCWA. We need this government to give the GCWA the right resources and authority to resolve the issue. For example, in the past five financial years the GCWA has issued just 46 cautions and given one removal direction against a buoy mooring.

Over the past few weeks we have also heard a lot about police numbers on the Gold Coast. One of my particular concerns is the number of water police in my area. We simply do not have enough and their numbers do not reflect the growing number of people who are on the water. Since 2000, there has been an increase in water police numbers of just two and that happened way back in 2006. How can this government not see that more police are needed on our waterways?

We need a government that shows care and responsibility for one of our greatest assets in South-East Queensland. I am going to keep standing up until we get that.

Transport Infrastructure, Federal Funding

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.27 pm): Weeks ago I wrote to the federal member for Dickson, Peter Dutton, asking him to explain his recent social media commentary on state and local infrastructure projects. For 17 years Peter Dutton has failed to fix Youngs Crossing Road, duplicate Linkfield Road, create more parking at Ferny Grove Railway Station and contribute to other vital transport infrastructure projects in my community. For two decades, Peter Dutton has failed the electorate of Dickson. He has brought no significant federally funded projects to the Dickson electorate. Now, six months before an election that he is likely to lose, we hear him making a lot of noise, but we still see no federal projects, no federal commitments; just Peter's porkies.

Porky No. 1: Peter Dutton has committed at the last two elections to federally fund an on ramp at Dohles Rocks Road. However, he has no plans to do this on ramp. He does not tell us how it is going to be built. There are no costings and no time frames. Peter Dutton first committed to it when Tony Abbott was prime minister. Every time it is raised, everyone is miffed about how Peter Dutton will deliver this commitment, including experts in TMR and the council.

Porky No. 2: Peter Dutton is claiming that hundreds of additional car parks at Ferny Grove Railway Station to be provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government is insufficient. Despite his LNP Brisbane City Council colleagues disrupting the project, he goes further and is advocating for the facility to be built on a flood plain—despite this option being ruled out as a possibility by the department. This is evidence of how out of touch Peter Dutton is with the local community.

Porky No. 3: alleging that the state government has a plan sitting on its desk in relation to upgrading—

Ms LEAHY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think that is very unparliamentary language and I would ask you to rule.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Actually, member for Pine Rivers, I agree. I think you need to not use that language anymore and I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BOYD: I withdraw. He is alleging that the state government has a plan sitting on its desk in relation to upgrading Youngs Crossing. Both the council and the state Department of Transport and Main Roads have confirmed that there is no such plan. In fact, the last plan received by the department was received under the former Newman LNP government. At that time council also set the plan onto the federal LNP government that Mr Dutton was a part of, both of whom refused to fund the plan. What proposal is sitting on the state government's desk? Which proposal does he support to upgrade Youngs Crossing and why six years after being asked for the funding is Peter Dutton finally speaking out about this issue yet blaming someone else?

The final one is while running an active campaign calling on someone else to fund and upgrade, we have no idea what proposed upgrade Peter Dutton supports in relation to Linkfield Road. While state and federal Labor is supporting the duplication of an overpass and have money on the table to fund it, there is not a single dollar coming from the federal LNP government despite leaked federal funding published in the *Guardian* claiming the money was available under Malcolm Turnbull. Peter Dutton talks a big game and tries to be a contender in Canberra, but he has left the people of Dixon behind. We deserve better.

Container Refund Scheme; Surf Life Saving Clubs

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.31 pm): My home 31 years ago was Adelaide where a container deposit scheme has operated successfully for decades. New South Wales has one. One would think that Queensland could make a smooth transition, especially as the commencement date was pushed back four months. Today, 1 November, was the big day. The offices of members of parliament are often the first port of call for information about new schemes so you would think we would be kept up to date but, no, my electorate officers and I had to chase down information. The secrecy was overkill; unless, of course, the real reason was that the government was not ready—again. People were being hired at the last minute. Who knows how detailed any training was. However, I would like to thank Narelle from Envirobank for trying so hard to get information for me.

The minister tabled a document this morning boasting of the number of container refund locations. Two hundred and fifty-one sites were listed. With considerable anticipation I read the document, but to my dismay there was not one single site operating in the entire Currumbin electorate, the nearest being in Palm Beach. Today we found out we do not get any permanent sites, just pop-ups and guess where they are—at five of our surf clubs dotted along the coastline. These pop-up locations are operating only on Sundays. Two of them are from 8 am until midday; for the others no time is even mentioned. I want this scheme to work, but for goodness sake, weekends, especially mornings, along our beachfronts are the busiest time. It is chaos trying to get a park, let alone lugging a big bag of waste. The Palaszczuk Labor government and this minister are causing major confusion to residents with deceptive and misleading information. They do not have their act together and will no doubt blame the organisations trying to implement the scheme.

On another matter, I am incredibly proud of all the surf life saving clubs in my electorate. I believe I have the most in Queensland, including the oldest, the Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Surf Life Saving Club, established in 1911. It is the smallest one I want to talk about today. Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club celebrated its 80th birthday on 20 November and, like many clubs in their formative years, it was heavily supported by members from Brisbane. We were told by president John Hamrey that Bilinga has struggled with a wide range of issues, from the noted false starts in 1922 and failed attempts in 1934. In the summer of 1937 tragedy occurred on the beach at Bilinga where a man drowned, igniting public support to reform the club and in 1938 Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club was formed. I acknowledge the amazing efforts by so many over the years: the members, the life members, the organising committee, the Point Danger branch and, of course, the lifers. Thank you so much for the safe patrolling of this little stretch of sand north of Coolangatta for the past 80 years. As John Hamrey fittingly said—

The tides at Bilinga have come and gone over the past 80 years and undoubtedly our past club founders and guardians would be very proud of where Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club is today. Our club still inspires and will continue to promote that spirit of vigilance and service.

Endeavour Foundation

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.34 pm): Everyone wants to be able to contribute to their community and experience the dignity of sustainable work. In my electorate 72 adults with a wide range of disabilities are doing just that thanks to the Endeavour Foundation's supported work program at its Slade Point workshop. The workshop is celebrating 50 successful years of disability support for adults. The adults are matched to their disability. The jobs performed range from putting strings on safety tags for the mines, forklift driving, warehouse stock control and packing PPE kits for mine sites. These are just some of the modern employment opportunities. They also produce pallets, crates, PVC guideposts for mine haul roads, timber sprags for Mackay Sugar tram lines, sleepers and dunnage.

The motto at the workshop is there is a job for everyone. They match up the skill set of the person to the work. They support employees to develop new skills in a supportive environment. Some supported employees have gained forklift licences, MR truck and car licences. The pine products for pallets were introduced in 2002 and they now produce well over 400 a month. They make and sell an average of 1,000 PVC posts. Over the years the employees have made fishing sinkers, leather goods—wallets, belts, bridles—metal frames for wash truck equipment, timber outdoor furniture, wood framed rubbish bins and bookshelves. Some lucky Mackay residents may still have one of their proudly made garden gnomes, concrete pavers or blast weights.

Monthly the workshop generates about \$280,000 worth of products sold into the local community. The workshop and facilities continue to grow with upgrades, including an extended larger warehouse, a hardstand site, new modern lunch rooms and plans for an industrial kitchen. The Endeavour

volunteers, paid support workers and the enthusiastic employees engage with local businesses. They fundraise together with regular sausage sizzles and are engaged in a development program with Mackay's rugby league team, the Mackay Cutters.

To give members some history on how this workshop came to be, in the early years the Endeavour Foundation was set up by an association of parents primarily focused on providing education for their children, but the children grew up and they needed to have employment.

Warrego Highway, Upgrade

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.37 pm): As many in the House may know, last week my electorate was rocked by another fatal crash on the outdated and unfunded Warrego Highway. I would like to pass on my sincere condolences to the family. They can rest assured that I will continue to fight so that other families do not have to go through what they have. To put it simply, according to data gathered by Transport and Main Roads, over the last seven years we have seen traffic on the Warrego Highway grow by 25.6 per cent—that is 3.65 per cent per year, well above the growth of population. In this time, however, funding to improve this crucial piece of infrastructure, which has already been stretched to the limit and certainly overrepresented in terms of fatal and serious injury crashes, has been virtually non-existent.

I recognise the works completed recently at Minden on the Warrego Highway, but that work will not stop the crashes. There was a major upgrade funded by the LNP federal government to the Plainland overpass in 2006. This is just not good enough. Every day thousands of my constituents put their lives at risk to travel across and along the Warrego Highway which is a road well beyond its capabilities. Recently, thanks to Jennifer Haslam, the secretary of the Hatton Vale District Progress Association, I unearthed the minutes of a meeting of 18 October 1995. At that meeting representatives of the Queensland department of transport stated that the Warrego Highway between Withcott and Haigslea was in serious need of improvement and they had planned construction of 12 interchanges along this stretch of the highway which would see six overpasses.

That meeting took place 23 years ago and since then only two of the planned interchanges have been constructed. The people of Lockyer were given the promise of a safer Warrego Highway for the future, but that future has never eventuated. This is a major growth corridor and, for the safety of our community, we need the upgrades.

Interruption.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*, Apology

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.40 pm): On 19 September 2018, I asked a question without notice of the Premier in which I stated that the Palaszczuk Labor government was suing a private company to the benefit of the CFMEU. At the time, I tabled documents supporting my question. I now understand that that action was commenced by the independent regulator and relates to a right of entry and failure to comply with a direction by the regulator. I concede that my question could be seen as a misinterpretation of the documents I tabled during my question and I correct the record accordingly. I apologise and assure the House that I had no intention to mislead the House.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Banking Royal Commission, Extension

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.40 pm): Jodie and Nathan Busch are a local Yeppoon mum and dad doing their best to put food on their table for their two young girls, Charlie and Maci, through their local business ATM2GO, which makes it easy for people to withdraw money at community events. Jodie and Nathan are both ex-military, having served a combined 17 years for the Australian Army and the Australian Air Force. Recently, they have had their lives turned upside down when the NAB suddenly and without any forewarning or due process closed all of their personal and business bank accounts. Over the following months, Jodie and Nathan have been continually stuffed around by the NAB. First the bank accused them of money laundering; then the bank said it was their business's risk; then the bank said it was all fine and business as usual; and then apparently their business is again too risky.

To this day, Jodie and Nathan have no idea exactly why their accounts have been closed and their lives turned upside down without any opportunity to prove their innocence or provide information about how they manage risk in their business. It is shocking and beyond belief that a bank, without any rhyme or reason and without any evidence, logic or due process, completely froze that couple's personal and business banking. Deputy Speaker, if that happened to you or I, it would completely cripple our lives.

Jodie and Nathan are fully prepared to cooperate with any requests from the bank for more information about their business and are determined to prove their innocence. However, the NAB has flat-out refused to answer any questions about why it has done this to those two hardworking and honest people. One has to wonder if it is because Jodie's and Nathan's business is horning in on NAB's revenue from ATM transaction fees.

This has been going on for months now and, in that time, Jodie and Nathan have lost thousands of dollars of income. They are bearing the financial and emotional burden of this insidious, underhanded and disgraceful decision by the NAB. They are incredibly stressed and worried that they will lose everything, including their house, through no fault of their own.

That is why we need the royal commission into banking extended and for the commission to hold hearings around the country to give a voice to regional and rural customers such as Jodie and Nathan. So far, all of the commission's hearings have been held in just three capital cities. Regional and rural customers have not had a sufficient chance to have their say in this process.

Misconduct in the financial services sector is a national issue and Australians across the country deserve their chance to be heard, including people in Central Queensland. The banking royal commission's February 2019 deadline, set by the federal LNP government, is simply too short-sighted and too shallow to get to the bottom of misconduct in the banking and financial services sector. Members of the federal LNP government, including the Prime Minister, have voted against a banking royal commission more than 25 times. We know that the LNP wants nothing more than to sink any accusations of banking misconduct faster than Scott Morrison can sink a schooner. I call on Scott Morrison and the federal LNP government to extend the royal commission, to afford regional Queenslanders such as Jodie and Nathan the opportunity to have their say and highlight the very dark side of Australia's banking sector.

Headspace; Holoverse

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise to speak about a number of things happening in my electorate. I am immensely proud of the state seat of Southport. Without a doubt, it is one of the best places in the country to be. Over the past few years, we have enjoyed an incredible uplift of activity in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games and with the declaration of the PDA.

Today I draw the attention of the House to an organisation that a couple of years ago consolidated a number of locations into Southport, and that is headspace. Headspace is one of the largest providers of mental health and support services to our young people. Just a few weeks ago, I was very pleased to go along to the local headspace centre as the Gold Coast organisation celebrated its 10th birthday. Apart from the incredible hospitality provided by Steve Hackett and the team, I had the pleasure of meeting Jymbilung, their therapy dog. What an absolute delight that was. More importantly, it highlighted the innovative approach that they are taking to working with young people.

I know many young people and families who have benefited from the service. Sadly, the service is under enormous pressure. For the past three years, they have seen a 20 to 30 per cent increase in demand for their services. One of the greater concerns—and I am sure the member for Coomera and the member for Theodore will be particularly concerned about this—is that as the city continues to grow north there is an incredible demand and need for an extension of those services moving forward. Aside from providing mental health support, headspace also works with young people on drug and alcohol related issues. They provide employment support around education. I am pleased to note that there has been a commitment to a youth foyer in Southport, which no doubt will work very closely with headspace.

At the other end of the spectrum, I had the pleasure of visiting an incredible Southport business that turned out to be a real surprise to me. Holoverse is a 3D indoor theme park where people can engage in all manner of exciting 3D adventures using special goggles. What most surprised me is that Bruce Dell, the originator, is one of the largest technology developers in Queensland. We went upstairs where there was a whole team of people assembling electronic componentry. I had thought that all that

sort of work had moved offshore, but this local company is committed to creating local jobs and is at the absolute leading edge of 3D technology. I congratulate Bruce, Tamaryn Osborne and the team for their innovation.

Mansfield State High School

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.46 pm): On 20 September, I rose in this place to inform the House of the excellent achievements being made at Mansfield State High School. Before politics, like you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I was a proud principal in public education. I have spent my life dedicated to the principle that every child should be able to access the best education for free in their local community. That is the case at Mansfield.

We have seen an emerging trend of an increasing proportion of enrolments in public schools and the Mansfield electorate is being seen as an educational hub of excellence. There is a good reason for that: parents are realising that our local schools are as good as or better than fee-charging private schools. Many parents have such confidence in their local public school that access to local school catchments is a key part in deciding where to purchase their homes.

Recently I met with locals from Rochedale, many of whom have moved into the area and have committed to sending their children to Mansfield State High School. Frankly, why wouldn't they, as it is providing such an outstanding education. Those parents had applied for the 2019 school year only to find out that the catchment area had been changed without their knowledge. While local population and school enrolments mean boundaries need to be changed from time to time, there had been a lack of consultation with the school community and with me as the local member. Catchment changes need to include the local community as a part of the decision-making process.

Since discovering this change, I have engaged with the local community by holding a community meeting last Friday and hearing directly from many concerned parents. Alongside Rochedale residents I am fighting hard to get those boundary changes reconsidered, to ensure that the long-term planning of parents can be continued. Through my petition, over 300 residents have joined my call for the changes to be reversed. I will be presenting it to the Minister for Education.

In my discussions with the minister to date, I am grateful for her support for my community and her commitment to listening to locals to find a solution to ensure a fair and sustainable catchment zone for Mansfield State High School. I thank the department, the minister and her staff for their understanding of this complex issue of enrolment management. We have another community meeting later this week and I have invited the department to come along and work with us to ensure that we get this right.

Queensland Health, Integrated electronic Medical Record

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.49 pm): The rollout of Queensland Health's \$600 million integrated electronic Medical Record system is unravelling before the health minister's eyes. Let us not forget that the former health minister heralded this project as a key part of the government's 20-year strategy to bring our hospitals into the digital age and then he cut and ran from the portfolio. The current health minister has labelled the rollout an incredible success. Doctors have lost confidence, there are regular system outages and the man responsible, Dr Richard Ashby, is currently under an active investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Despite issues being raised, it seems that the concerns of clinicians from right across the state have fallen on deaf ears. The minister knows there are issues which is why he shut down the line of questioning in estimates as soon as I raised the matter. This week it was revealed on Channel 9 that a secret Queensland Health report obtained through right to information detailed shocking findings of the major failures of the ieMR system last year. The secret report debunks the notion that the system failure was a result of cyberattack and was instead a software malfunction. It said—

This had considerable clinical impact on seven Queensland Hospitals utilising the Cerner managed services with Princess Alexandra Hospital and other moving to a hospital emergency state of 'Code Yellow' and reverting from digital clinical services to manual paper-based processes for the duration of the event and for several days beyond. The impacted hospitals were PA, Gold Coast University Hospital, Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital as well as Mackay, Townsville and Cairns hospitals.

The report also outlined that Cerner actively obstructed the investigation into the software errors and then disengaged from the investigation. Cerner did not provide logs from the relevant systems and worse provided incorrect logs for incorrect dates and no explanation of what went wrong. It appears the report was buried because it did not paint Cerner in a favourable light. Others can draw their own conclusions.

Despite all of these issues, elements of the program were brought forward and fast-tracked. Queenslanders deserve answers about the rollout of this program and the buck stops with the minister. He needs to front up and start answering the tough questions and stop hiding behind CCC investigations. What did he know about the issues in this program and the investigation? When did he know it? Why did he not do anything about it?

Queenslanders have had an absolute belly full of his 'dog ate my homework' excuses. The rollout needs to be immediately halted until all technical issues are ironed out and Dr Richard Ashby should be stood down immediately. This program has all the hallmarks of another Health payroll debacle. However, this time the program has an impact on patient care.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Lytton, I point out that there was far too much audible conversation during the last speech.

Lytton Electorate, Health Services

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.52 pm): I am sure that I do not need to remind everyone in this place of my passion and commitment to baysiders. I am so proud to represent the wonderful community of Lytton in this place. I have committed to work hard to ensure that we baysiders have access to services, including decent, free public health services and a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week GP service. When I stood for election in 2015 I made a commitment to baysiders to ensure that decent, local public health services would be retained and that front-line services, including a 24-hour GP service, would be retained in the bayside.

I have spoken often in this place about how proud I am to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government—a government that listens and a government that delivers, unlike those opposite. Our community lost so much under the hands of the former LNP government, including, but sadly not limited to, important health services, including the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit which was home to 85 resident who all lost their homes due to the cut, sack and sell mentality of the former LNP government. Baysiders sent a strong message at that election—a message that was listened to—that baysiders deserve free, local public health. That is why I am standing here today.

I love having the opportunity to talk about the bayside community. Today, I am particularly delighted to be wishing Gundu Pa, the Wynnum Manly Community Health Centre, a very happy first birthday. It seems just yesterday that the Premier, the former minister for health, Cameron Dick, Aunty Merle Dipple and I opened our fabulous new health centre. How time has flown. It is hard to believe that our fantastic health centre has been providing important health services to baysiders for 12 months now, cementing itself as a provider of important and outstanding health services to locals. In fact, up to the end of September the 24-hour GP style clinic has had more than 13,330 presentations through the doors. The specialist clinics combined with BreastScreen have seen over 31,000 local baysiders.

I was fortunate to visit Gundu Pa last week and to see the outstanding clinics and the work that happens each and every day in this modern, state-of-the-art public health facility. To the staff I say: each of you do unbelievable work; you are committed to caring for the health and wellbeing of baysiders. This is clear from the positive feedback that I have received from the community about BreastScreen, the oral health service, the many specialist clinics and the 24-hour primary care clinic. We did deliver these. I say to these services: thank you for your professionalism. Thank you for your commitment to the health of baysiders. Your contribution has ensured the success of Gundu Pa.

Broadwater Electorate

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.55 pm): I am delighted to follow on this side the member for Bonney. He quite rightly made an excellent contribution about the Broadwater, as the neighbouring seat that he likes. I might say that it was an excellent event that he staged the other night. The three key points he articulated are the ones that have continually come through my electorate as well. They are the more frequent and more engaged dredging of the Broadwater, doing something about the houseboats that are not collecting their effluent and are sullying a beautiful part of our city and dealing with the speed issues and the variations both ways. I commend him for that contribution.

The comments I want to make today are around the great and dynamic community of Broadwater that I represent. I have had some significant events occur in recent times in the schools that I have the pleasure of representing. I only have three schools in my electorate, but they are great schools.

Both the Biggera Waters State School and the Coombabah State School have staged excellent fetes in recent months. I place on record my heartfelt thanks to the respective presidents of the P&Cs, Mr Christian Hansen and Ms Bek Welsh. I had the great pleasure of meeting Ms Welsh's family the other day. She put both her mother and sister to work in the kitchen to prepare for the fete. The way the community came through to prepare for the fetes was nothing short of significant.

I also thank the members of the St Francis Xavier school community. The other day they engaged Dr Kristy Goodwin to speak to the parents about the need to make kids aware of social media, aware of their posture when dealing with it and aware of the things they are being exposed to. It is there and it is real. We must learn to engage with it. It was an excellent presentation. I was delighted to be part of it. I would recommend members of this House share with their schools the need to deal with something that is prevalent, is part of society and is of benefit to society. We need to educate our kids about it.

Finally, can I say how proud I was of the Runway Bay Seagulls the other night. The senior team won their first premiership in well over a decade. That is not the reason I am most proud of president, Graham Gleeson. I am proud of them because of the relationship they have with the community. The RSL, under the stewardship of Bruce Main, use that venue as their spiritual home. The relationship with Nathan Antonik and his juniors is like nothing I have seen before.

The other night they made someone a life member. The name of that person is Terry Shannon. I had the great pleasure of meeting Terry's parents, Nola and William. They told the story that as a young boy Terry was told that he would not live very long at all. He had some major complications. At 64 years of age, Terry has been made a life member of the Runaway Bay Seagulls. The entire community salute him. He is a fantastic man.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Small Business Awards

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.58 pm): I rise to provide the House with an update on the Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards that are happening in my community on 20 November. The response from the community has been nothing short of overwhelming. Next week I will be attending the Centenary & Districts Chamber of Commerce meeting to provide members with an update on the long-awaited and much anticipated Sumner Road upgrade.

I will be taking a few new members with me to the meeting. I will be taking Michael from Thistle Financial Services. I will be taking Susie Q from Susie Q Painting. She is our very own lady tradie in Mount Ommaney. I will be taking Josh from Reclaim Physiotherapy. Member for Bonney, I understand that you were school mates. He told me a few stories, but I will keep those to myself.

We have been absolutely blown away, as I said, by the community support for these awards. We have had over 2,000 votes logged online, and that number is climbing every day. It was such a pleasure for me to be able to call and personally inform some of these small businesses that they have been nominated as finalists in their respective categories. I was able to call Shane Brown from Brown's Delivery Service; Paul from Knock on Wood Toys; Madders Brothers Patisserie, which has now opened its third patisserie right here in the Brisbane CBD—a fantastic local business kicking goals all over Brisbane; Nick from Robson's Pool Safety Inspections with his awesome Kiwi accent that I crudely tried to imitate being half Kiwi myself; Lou and Gareth from SewMasters; and Jindalee Fresh fruit and vegetable—to name just a few of the businesses that I was able to call personally and inform them that they are finalists and to encourage their loyal customers to keep on voting.

Our local community is 110 per cent behind these local businesses. Our community vote with their feet and they put their money where their mouth is. Mount Ommaney locals know that local small businesses that are healthy and thriving mean local jobs and that boosts our local economy. These awards are just the start of my campaign to promote small business in Mount Ommaney. After the awards on 20 November, we launch into our 12 days of Christmas social media campaign to highlight even more of the wonderful local businesses. In the last week alone I have met with four small businesses and next week I will be meeting with four more—Peter Butler from Prompt Maintenance Services, Nicole from Holistic Business Life and Girl Shaped Flames—to discuss their grant opportunities.

I remind the Mount Ommaney community, because I know that they are really excited about these awards, that voting closes on Sunday, 4 November. There are just a few days left. I urge all residents who have not yet done so to get online and make sure you support your local small businesses. It is going to be a great night and we look forward to having the minister, Shannon Fentiman, there on 20 November.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (3.01 pm): I move—

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

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 30 October (see p. 3153).

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I call the member for McConnel for her third go.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.01 pm), continuing: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker—third time lucky!

I am looking forward to the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf project, which is a very exciting project for the inner city of Brisbane. That project is going to revolutionise, in my view, the way our city looks and interacts. It is going to be an incredible delivery of world-class hotels and facilities for public visitors and, of course, the residents to enjoy. We are going to open up public space that has not been opened up before. It is going to be a very exciting project, creating 10,000 local jobs. When you have a look at what that is going to deliver in a few years time, it certainly ticks all the boxes.

I am very proud to have been appointed Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. I am very much looking forward to working with my colleagues—in particular, the member for Mansfield and the member for Townsville who are ex-principals. I often talk to them about issues surrounding education and I always get very sound advice.

I look forward to employing 3,700 new teachers, putting downward pressure on our class sizes and ensuring that all Queensland children have access to a world-class education. We have committed to \$10 million to employ additional full-time instrumental music teachers and \$1 million to purchase new musical instruments. In every school I go to around Queensland their arts programs are second to none, and I am constantly entertained by some fantastic kids who I know are in all of our electorates. I acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition who is nodding. We were at Kingaroy State High School for the opening of the hall there—and how fantastic was that band that played for us that day! Everywhere I go I see some great programs and it is great to be able to work with them.

We are rolling out our new approach for senior secondary and tertiary entrants, moving Queensland to an ATAR. We are improving literacy and numeracy for every child including introducing the Ready Reading program. I was delighted to see that the Grattan Institute recently gave Queensland a shining star when it came to the growth of our students in numeracy and literacy. I am sure that other states can learn from the great work that we are doing right here in our education department in Queensland.

We have committed over \$100 million to the regional and remote strategy and \$31 million to provide four innovative centres for professional learning and wellbeing for teachers and students, opening first in Roma, Mount Isa, Emerald and Atherton next year. Inspiring more students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, is also one of the goals of this government. I look forward to delivering our nearly \$82 million program over the next four years, making sure that we can deliver the opportunities that we want to give all students throughout Queensland to study STEM and to excel on the world stage.

We are also engaging students at risk. We cannot leave behind those students who may not be as advantaged as some of our other students. I am looking to re-engaging disengaged or at-risk youth in their school communities. We have alternative education programs through our pathway colleges that do an excellent job at Mount Gravatt, Bundamba, Goodna, Bracken Ridge and Townsville. For our children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, we will continue to work with the Clontarf Foundation, the Stars Foundation, Role Models and Leaders Australia, the Brisbane Broncos and Netball Queensland to deliver programs that not only improve attendance but also improve the quality of education outcomes for those children throughout Queensland. We are hoping to expand those programs and work with those organisations.

We want to ensure that we have the best teachers. Our Teaching Queensland's Future strategy will recruit, train and retain quality teachers right across the state. It involves making sure that our teachers get the training, the education, the support and the experience that they need to deliver quality teaching through mentoring programs, through training programs and through a number of other programs that will assist them to do a great job in our classrooms every day.

I am very pleased to have been able to build upon the great work that we have been delivering in our schools. I have been absolutely blown away by the openings of our new halls and our new schools. We have committed to opening seven new secondary schools over this period and beyond. I am looking forward to working with local members to deliver those. Our Renewing Our Schools policy will deliver \$235 million over the next four years, substantially refurbishing 17 state high schools including nine schools in regional Queensland, and a \$750 million rolling fund over four years to ensure that we maintain our 25,000 school buildings in 1,240 schools.

Our infrastructure program is well over a billion dollars this year. I know that a lot of schools are benefiting from that infrastructure. We have to make sure that our schools are 2020 ready. Members of parliament on both sides of the House will gain substantially from improvements to their schools in that program—2019 is going to be a big year for us to be 2020 ready for the full cohort of students in 2020.

I am looking forward to implementing our solar energy future schools program, with schools benefiting from an investment of nearly \$100 million. This program will help our schools not only to become greener and teach children about the advantages of doing that but also to deliver savings in energy use. It will also deliver jobs. Eight hundred schools across all electorates will be receiving solar panels that will deliver energy efficiency measures. I am looking forward to rolling out that program over the next three years.

In the industrial relations agenda I look forward to continuing to improve health and safety in our workplace and implement the findings of the best practice review. In regard to our labour hire licensing laws, already 3,000 labour hire companies are seeking licensing. We are delivering in an area that for far too long had been unregulated. I take the opportunity to call on the federal government to implement a national scheme so that those workers can be closely monitored and those labour hire companies which do the right thing are not undercut by those who do the wrong thing. I note that the member for Lockyer is in the chamber. I know that there have been great benefits in that area for those businesses and farmers who use labour hire.

I want to commend the good work in finding and addressing those new health and safety issues that we need to address. I commend the department for the recent work with regard to manufactured benchtops and for alerting the industry about the dangerous disease of silicosis. We are working through that and I look forward to implementing that as well.

I was very happy to change the policy to allow girls at school to wear shorts and pants as part of their uniform. Schools are working through that now. They have spent the last few months bringing that in and ensuring they will be fully equipped to implement that from 2019. We have settled our agreement on highly accomplished and lead teachers, and that has gone down very well. We have implemented the findings of the Water Safety Roundtable to make sure that our kids understand the issue of water safety and that they are safe around water. I look forward to working with schools to implement our nearly \$4 million program in relation to that.

There are many more things that we have been doing in relation to industrial relations, and I am once again proud to be the minister in this space. I look forward to our bilateral agreements with the federal government on education for long-term funding not only for the school sector but also for the early childhood education sector. I plead with them to please give us the funds that we need to deliver a world-class education system. I do not begrudge one extra dollar going into education, but state schools need their fair share as well. I call on the federal government to settle long-term funding bilateral agreements not only in our schooling and education sector but also in the early childhood sector.

I think members on both sides of this House know that to get elected we do not do it alone. There are a lot of people who support us to get elected and I want to pay tribute to some of those people. My campaign manager, Linda Whatman, for over 12 months ran an incredibly tight and focused campaign. I want to thank my electorate officers who also worked tirelessly every day in the electorate office—Judi Jabour and Sam Jones. My volunteer coordinator, Hamish Greenop-Roberts, did an incredible job. He is one of the young stars of Labor coming through the ranks. I think in the not-too-distant future he may be a member of this House.

I have so many wonderful volunteers to thank. In particular, I would like to mention the hard work of Elizabeth and Peter Fraser, Stella Donatini, Maree Ainsworth, Jen Litchfield, Tristan Lockwood, Molly Hammond, Wayne McLeod, Peter Casey and Lyn Kennedy. I wish Lyn a speedy recovery. She has

had a bout of unfortunate illness of late that saw her in the intensive care unit for quite a few weeks, and I wish her all the best. I also thank Richard Burke, Sean Kelly and all the other wonderful Labor Party members, union members and community supporters. I want to pay particular tribute to Ron Brault, who unfortunately passed away during the campaign. Rod was an incredible worker. He lived across the road from my electorate office in Spring Hill, and he has been sorely missed by the Labor family.

I want to save the best until last, and of course that would have to be my family. I know how important our families are, and none more so than my daughter, my husband, my sisters and their partners. They are an incredible support for me. I could never do this job without my husband, Michael. He is my rock and such a supportive partner. I think anyone who has met Michael loves him as much as I do. He is an incredible support for me and I can never thank him enough. My daughter, Ally, is amazing. She is my strength. She is such a support. In every way, shape or form if I am a bit down she is the one who lifts my spirits and makes me feel better.

Of my sisters, I am the quiet one of the family, in case members want to know. There are five sisters, and I can honestly say hand on heart I am the quiet one of the family. When the six of us get together, you have no idea what it is like! They are fantastic, and their husbands and partners do a wonderful job in assisting me as well. Unfortunately, I will never, ever be able to thank them enough, but from the bottom of my heart I thank them all.

In particular, as a last word I want to say, Michael, thank you for everything, my darling husband. It has been 33 years of bliss and I could not do this without you.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.15 pm): The election was almost a year ago, but I would still like to use this opportunity to welcome new members and returned members to the House and wish those new members in the 56th Parliament luck. I am extremely proud and honoured to have represented the people of the Nanango electorate since 2012. I would like to thank them for putting their faith in me to continue as their representative in this parliament. Like everyone in the chamber, we are all incredibly humbled to be elected by our community. My passion and commitment to keep working hard for our community is as strong as ever, and I will continue to fight for our fair share of the region. As so many of my team have heard me say, all politics is local.

With the recent state electorate boundary realignments—which are not that recent now—the Nanango electorate continues to include Somerset and South Burnett but also includes additional areas, which may not have been mentioned by me in the House, of the Gympie regional area. I am proud to represent people from Tingoora, Wondai, Murgon, Proston, Wheatlands, Durong, Cherbourg, Cloyne, Windera, Tansey, Boobyan, Kilkivan, Woolooga and Goomeri. I welcome these areas into the Nanango electorate. I have travelled extensively across these areas and met with as many members of the community as possible, and I want to thank them for their warm welcome. I know that some, particularly those around Tansey, have had real trouble because of the recent supercells that went through, as have the good people around Kumbia and Coolabunia.

I want to take a moment to highlight some of the key priorities across the Nanango electorate. We have an urgent need for funding across our regional road network, especially in the Brisbane Valley Highway and the D'Aguilar Highway in the Somerset region and the Mundubbera Durong Road in the South Burnett. I am fighting to improve access to health services including securing a community health nurse for the areas of Goomeri and Kilkivan. I am absolutely determined to hold this Labor government to account when it comes to the ongoing lengthy wait times for patient travel subsidy refunds, wait times to see specialists and, in particular, the blowout in wait times to see a dentist in the South Burnett hospital in Kingaroy.

I commit to continuing to work with my community groups to further the need for extra funding for mental health and drug related problems in the South Burnett, Somerset and other regions. Sadly, crime and, in particular, juvenile crime have escalated across the electorate. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, and I will continue to work for better resourcing for our police not only in my electorate but across Queensland.

I will continue to fight for primary producers in the Nanango electorate, especially when it comes to key issues affecting them including Labor's abhorrent native vegetation laws and better access to water. I will continue to work with my federal colleagues Llew O'Brien and David Littleproud to improve the economic development of our region which includes access to more water and more tourism funding.

I want to take this opportunity to give my thanks to my predecessor, Tim Nicholls. Tim always remained positive during last year's election campaign, despite the hostile and incredibly personal and negative campaign against him. I hope now that Labor will focus on their record and end the negative politicking.

An opposition member: They won't.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They will not, and I take that interjection. We see it day in, day out. When a Labor government has to rest on their own record they have nothing, so what do they do? They use personal attacks, they start blaming the previous governments, they blame the federal government—anything to back away from their record. It is always everyone's fault but their own. Labor love to blame, even though, unfortunately, Labor have been in power in this state for most of the last 25 years. Nothing has been clearer over the past year than the fact that Labor has no plan and no vision for Queensland. It was the previous Labor governments which sold the assets, yet they continue to blame.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The minister over there laughs because she knows how difficult she found the child safety department. That was terrible; it was a disaster.

An opposition member: They sacked her.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. They did sack her. They are not governing; they are bumbling along from crisis to crisis and Queenslanders simply deserve better.

To my deputy, Tim Mander, thank you for your continued support. As a team, we lead a party of hardworking members with many new faces in our party room and shadow cabinet. I would like to acknowledge those 10 new members of the LNP: Sam O'Connor from Bonney; Brent Mickelberg from Buderim; Simone Wilson from Bribie Island; David Batt from Bundaberg; David Crisafulli from Broadwater; Dan Purdie from Ninderry; Marty Hunt from Nicklin; Jim McDonald from Lockyer, my neighbour; Col Boyce from Callide, my other neighbour; and James Lister from the Southern Downs. I have to correct the record because Simone Wilson is from Pumicestone which includes Bribie Island. It is wonderful to see all of these new faces as part of the LNP team because we are dedicated to the cause and we know that the LNP is a party for all of Queensland.

We come from many varied backgrounds, unlike those opposite. Before politics, I obviously had a varied career, be it as a small business owner, farming with my husband or as a lawyer, and of course I am a mum to three amazing, beautiful daughters. Sitting on these benches on this side with me, we have many former police officers, members who have served overseas in our armed forces, nurses, builders, farmers, doctors, small business owners, teachers and of course NRL referees. We all share—

An opposition member: We have some lawyers.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I said lawyers. We share a common goal, and that common goal is to work hard for our electorates and work hard for all of Queensland. My priority in this 56th Parliament has been to unite Queensland with a team that represents all of Queensland. We need to end Labor's division between South-East Queensland and the rest of the state. We unite for State of Origin; we come together time and time again to defeat those in the south in the best contest of the year. As leaders in this place, we need to bring Queenslanders together, working for a better community and a better Queensland for our kids. I will always fight for Queensland because I care about this state. We live in a great state full of hardworking and passionate people, so I will always stand up for Queensland, for those hardworking Queenslanders—people, mums and dads, who make our state—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The minister will cease interjecting with obviously inflammatory interjections or the minister will be warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I warn the minister under the standing orders. Those contributions are unacceptable and the minister knows better.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: As a mother of three daughters, I actually know what it is like to be a mother and to work hard for my community, for my daughters, for everyone across Queensland. I will not be lectured by a Labor minister who is so clueless that she let children fall through the cracks in this great state. I am a mother and I am proud to be one. I will continue to fight for all of Queensland.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Logan will cease interjecting or I will warn him under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: As opposition leader, I will not just keep this government and their incompetent ministers to account; I will offer solutions. We have already seen the Labor Party hand in our homework on many policies, such as the tolling inquiry, taking action on ice, compulsory swimming lessons for kids, matching the LNP's commitment to fix the M1 and matching our commitment about real-time fuel price monitoring, and I do urge the government to stop the delays in this process so we can deliver fairer fuel prices for all Queenslanders. I am under no illusion about the work we need to do to rebuild faith with Queenslanders. I am in politics to help make people's lives better, and nothing else. Queenslanders have spoken at the last two elections and as a party—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition has the call, but I am listening carefully to where interjections come from.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We must listen, regroup and rebuild faith in the LNP as the only party that can deliver for Queensland.

The minister constantly interjects over there, and it is disappointing that the difference between them on that side of the chamber and us could not be starker. I was raised in a family where you did not just sit back and complain from the sidelines and expect others to create opportunities for you and solve your problems for you. I was raised to roll up my sleeves, get out and do something about it. I can assure all Queenslanders that I will take that no-frills attitude to politics and with me what you see is what you get. That is why earlier this year I announced the LNP's economic plan for Queensland—a plan that will bust congestion, ensure better health and education services, provide cheaper electricity, deliver water security and guarantee no new taxes. Our economic plan is focused on creating more jobs and more opportunities for Queenslanders, with a plan to grow our economy now and into the future. This is just the start of the LNP's plan for Queensland's future.

The need for a dramatic change of political direction in Queensland is growing day by day. As we approach the end of 2018, our economy is stagnating while vital public services are in decline and crime continues to go through the roof, yet the Palaszczuk government's only answer to this is to inflict five new taxes which will rip \$2.2 billion out of the economy.

While the Premier has spent the last few months scurrying away from public scrutiny it was the Liberal National Party that has been putting forward our plan for a more prosperous Queensland. The economic plan that the LNP has put forward will make it easier for Queenslanders to get a job and to get ahead no matter what corner of this great state they live in. Our plan contains major investments in infrastructure to bust congestion in the south-east, commitments to improve the Bruce Highway and regional roads as well as new transport infrastructure to unleash the potential of our economy.

A future LNP government would also invest in a new generation of dams to drive jobs growth in our regions. Our policies will give agriculture and industry the water they need to create those jobs. As well as providing water security, we will also supply the regions with cheaper electricity. We will achieve this by extending competition in the electricity retail market to the whole of Queensland, breaking Ergon's stranglehold on consumers north of Gympie and west of Toowoomba.

Mr Lister: Hear, hear!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Why should residents in regional Queensland be treated as second-class consumers? We will also drive down power prices by creating more competition among electricity generators. Our plan will also turn around our most important public services.

I believe it is unacceptable that we air-condition almost every state owned building including hospitals, prisons and the parliament, but we let our students suffer and swelter in summer. I want our kids to be cool kids, and a future LNP government will ensure every state school classroom is air-conditioned. We will also empower our principals and our parents—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members will cease interjecting.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—by saving the successful independent public schools initiative.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister will cease interjecting.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In Health, every indicator of patient care is going backwards. Every indicator of patient care is going backwards once again, just like it did under Anna Bligh.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat. The minister will withdraw the statement. It is unparliamentary to say the member is lying.

Dr MILES: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the minister that the Leader of the Opposition has not been taking interjections. If something provocative is said, the minister can respond appropriately. However, the minister is continuing to interject without any purpose.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My plan will make patients a priority again by introducing financial incentives within Queensland Health to improve care. We will also work with doctors in the private sector to ensure patients are treated on time.

One thing we will not be doing is introducing more taxes. Under this government we have seen the highest unemployment in the nation, flatlining business confidence and an economy that is in the doldrums, hence, that is why those opposite are always looking for personal attacks: they have nothing else in their playbook. We need a government that makes it easier for people to get ahead, not harder, and the LNP's economic plan will do just that. I have a great team alongside me and a great party behind me. Together we will unite this state and ensure that Queensland's best days are ahead of us.

It is no secret that I am passionate about regional Queensland. I have no doubt that many on the government front bench think that regional Queensland is just the other side of the river. Nothing demonstrates that more than when this health minister shuts down regional maternity centres in the areas of Callide and Chinchilla. It is an absolute disgrace to regional Queensland. I was born in Miles, raised on a beef cattle property and attended the tiny Guluguba State School. I have a passion for all of Queensland, but regional Queensland will always hold a special place in my heart. The LNP has always—and will always—stood up for the rights of regional Queenslanders, particularly when those opposite have put their own agenda ahead of everyone else in the regions.

There are so many more failures that I do not have the time to cover, be it rail fail or the increase in crime. There is so much. I want to finish by acknowledging the volunteers, the friends and the family who did so much before, during and after last year's election to support both me and the LNP. Behind every campaign there are always men and women who work tirelessly towards a cause they believe in passionately. The LNP has members across Queensland who do just that time and time again. I am sure I speak for all members on this side of the House when I say we are grateful for their support. There are many, many people but I personally would like to thank my family, my friends and, very importantly, my campaign manager, Chris Andersen. I know his wife has had many health problems in the last little while. I really do want to thank Chris for the time he takes away from his family.

Of course, I want to thank my booth coordinator Col Kiem—an absolute stalwart of our party; he is a superstar—and treasurer Susan Mortimer and the entire Nanango local team. I want to thank my hardworking electorate office staff: Lenny, Kate and Belinda—and I know that Kate is working extraordinarily hard where she ended up: in the Ninderry electorate—and their families. These ladies continue to work tirelessly to help me but, more importantly, to serve the people of the Nanango and for that I am extraordinary grateful. They are wonderful, wonderful people.

I really want to put on record my heartfelt thanks to my mum and dad and my siblings, who just do so much for Jason and me and for Isabella, Lucy and Elke. I could not be in this House and I could not be the Leader of the Liberal National Party without the support of my husband, Jason, and my three daughters, Isabella, Lucy and Elke. They are champions. I have brought them up to believe that nothing can ever stop them. We know the toll that political life can take on our families—the long hours and the travel—but I am so lucky to have these amazing people at my side. I will continue to work for Queensland. I could not think of a better group of people to have on our side whilst we do just that than this group in the LNP on this side of the chamber.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.36 pm): I stand here today and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which my electorate stands, the land on which this parliament stands as well as the generations of elders, past, present and future. I stand here to pledge my loyalty to Queensland and her people. I stand here today as the first ever member for Bancroft in this parliament.

How fitting is it that in a Queensland moving to a knowledge-based economy under the Palaszczuk government we have an electorate named after some of Queensland's most outstanding medical researchers and scientists? Joseph Bancroft, his son, Thomas, and his granddaughter, Josephine, were founders of medical research here in Queensland. Joseph brought his family to Queensland in 1864 from Manchester. They were doctors and scientists and they conducted many of their experiments from their weekend homestead in Deception Bay.

It was at Deception Bay that Joseph Bancroft discovered how mosquitos transmitted the parasite that causes elephantiasis. He was amongst the first in the world to show how disease could be spread by insects. He was the first to demonstrate how hookworms enter the human body through the skin and the first to establish the life cycle of the Queensland lungfish. He was the first doctor to use the Queensland corkwood tree for its medicinal properties. The Bancrofts even set up a commercial meat-canning factory in Deception Bay. They were truly innovative Queenslanders.

If they were alive today, I know they would be strong supporters of our Advance Queensland program. I use the Bancrofts as examples when talking to the young people in Bancroft. I say to them, 'They did all this from Deception Bay. You can do world-leading work from Deception Bay or North Lakes.' Local kids need that encouragement to believe in what may be possible. They face too many barriers in their lives—the poverty and disadvantage I have seen in my own community, the lack of belief in themselves, and that is distressing. Too many in my community live in an Australia where there are too many working poor and an Australia where the wages for working people are stagnating while those at the top get an increasing share of the nation's hard-earned wealth.

The Chifley Research Centre found that since the mid-2000s wages for Australians have failed to keep pace with productivity improvements. Andrew Leigh MP said that in percentage terms those at the bottom have seen their wages rise by 23 per cent, but in that time those at the top have seen their wages rise 72 per cent. That is nearly a threefold increase. If Australian cleaners and checkout workers had received the same proportionate wage rise they would be \$16,000 a year better off.

As the member for Bancroft, how can I help local people counter such disadvantage? I can help build the skills and learning capacity of my local residents. As their representative here in this House, I want to ensure the long-term professional and personal development of the members of my community. That means that we focus on education, training and skills. Training and education are the key to giving my local residents a secure life. It gives them the ability and the confidence they need to look after their kids and their families. As the member for Bancroft I will push for training programs that deliver the education and training they need; the facilities and resources to deliver that education and training; and fair federal funding for education—the full Gonski.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering opportunities for education, training and skills development. I acknowledge the great work done by the member for Waterford in this space and all of our ministers. I also want to pay tribute to Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which will support up to 54,000 Queenslanders into work. Under Skilling Queenslanders for Work over \$5 million has been invested into 25 community driven programs in the electorate of Bancroft, and over 500 locals have gained jobs as a direct result of participating in Skilling Queenslanders for Work. In addition, there is the Palaszczuk government initiative to extend free TAFE to all year 12 graduates in Queensland. This is life-changing for all of those young Queenslanders who are finishing or have finished high school. It is a signal to these young people—a prompt—for them to aspire to further higher education or more training.

We are backing these training programs with job-creating programs. Under the \$600 million Works for Queensland program we have approved 1,350 vital infrastructure projects. As a result of the first two rounds of Works for Queensland, local councils estimate the works will support, sustain or create more than 12,000 jobs for Queenslanders. The \$650 million Advance Queensland program is one of the most important economic initiatives that we have here in Queensland. It will set up our economy for the future. Advance Queensland is building up our entrepreneurs, helping small and medium businesses innovate and grow, and it is supporting 11,000 Queensland jobs. I want to acknowledge the good work of the member for Algester in bringing this program back after it was cut by the former government. The Buy Queensland program is a great program which will ensure that local companies who employ local people win government contracts and government work. It tilts the field in favour of Queensland workers and Queensland businesses.

It is only Labor who opens up these pathways for people to get the skills and training they need to prosper and pathways for local businesses to grow and employ more Queenslanders. Labor has never been afraid to use the strength and advantage of government to sway the system in favour of working Queenslanders, to put the financial resources of our great state to work for the benefit of all who live in Queensland. We are not afraid to do these things because of the solid foundation of common values that we share: a fair go, equality of opportunity, a decent day's pay for a decent day's work, freedom from hunger, freedom from want and freedom from war.

The last point is not talked about much these days, but the centenary of the end of the Great War is upon us. I am acutely aware of the sheer waste and cost of war, and that is a cost borne disproportionately by men and women. During my research I discovered that on the home front there

was not much celebration on 11 November 1918. In many houses mothers and fathers quietly closed the curtains and wept. If there are values we should share across both sides of this parliament, it is a rejection of warfare as the solution to any modern problem.

Another value I would like to see shared across the aisle is the importance of combating climate change. We have to develop a common determination to reduce our emissions and counter the effects of climate change. We are going to see a warmer and dryer Queensland in our lifetime and our children's lifetimes due to climate change. The average annual temperature will go up two degrees by 2050 and our rainfall could decrease by an average of 21 per cent by 2050 if we do not drastically alter our emissions. Sea surface temperatures around Queensland could go up by 3.6 degrees Celsius if we do not turn things around. We need to protect the Great Barrier Reef. There is \$6 billion worth of reef-based tourism in our state and 60,000 Queensland jobs rely on the reef.

Queenslanders have shown that we can take action and make a real difference regarding climate change. We have adopted new fair and balanced vegetation management laws. These are absolutely crucial to combat climate change, which is why UNESCO placed such faith in us to get these laws passed. By 2015 we were responsible for 80 per cent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions arising from land clearing. There were 19 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, but with the Palaszczuk government's fair and balanced vegetation management laws we can wind that back.

We are also transitioning into a renewable, low-emissions energy industry. We now have a renewable energy sector, and that sector simply did not exist under the former LNP government. Now we have a nation-leading renewable energy industry with an estimated \$4.2 billion worth of projects underway or financially committed. We have created CleanCo, Queensland's new renewable energy publicly-only electricity generator. CleanCo will build, construct, own and maintain our own renewable energy assets. Queensland is now on track to deliver our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, which will massively help us reduce the greenhouse gases we emit.

As I did in my inaugural speech, I want to pay tribute to my family. My mother, Margaret, gave me a card when I was elected that I still have on my desk. It says, 'Dear Chris, you too can be anything you want, but please don't stuff up the world.' That is very sage advice. I pay tribute to my adored sisters Liz and Jillian and their beautiful daughters Meaghan, Harper, Charlotte and Josie; Greg Crocombe, Ben Broad, Jeff Hopkins-Weise, Elspeth McKenzie and Pat and Joy O'Callaghan. I pay very special tribute to my beautiful and smart-as-a-whip wife, Sian, who is with us today, and our adored and beautiful children Guy, Rebecca and Arabella. They are here in the chamber today, and this is the first time we have all been together in this place. They know that I disappear for days on end, and today I want to them to see what their father does.

Lastly, I want to thank those people who have helped return me to this House as the very first member for Bancroft. I seek leave to have their names and the rest of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Thank you to my campaign manager the indomitable Jan Sheppard.

Thank you to my campaign field organiser Ged Kearny, now Ged Kunkel, and my blessings to her first born Sebastian and husband Andrew.

Thank you to Brendan Waite and his wife Diane.

Thank you to:

Jenny Foster and Frank Foster

Finn and Kaylene Scott

Marx and Julia Smith, and Richard

Our ever loyal and hard working local Labor members Mick O'Brien, Jan Macintyre, Colin Ellicombe and Barbara Williams, Vern Feeney and Jennifer Whitlock, Mick Denton.

Thank you to Together Union—Alex Scott, Vivienne Doogan and Irene Monro.

Special thank you to Geoff and Dennis from the Miners Unions, and Stephen Smyth

Thanks to Neil Henderson and The Services Union.

And a big thank you to Eddie Bland and my local CFMMEU members.

I want to pay tribute to our local construction workers—I think there are more steel fixers in Deception Bay than probably anywhere else in Queensland.

I know every day they go into workplaces where an instance of neglect or inattention can lead to a fatality.

Once again, I want to assure them that I want to see more workplace protections that makes sure they come home safely at the end of their working day.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.48 pm): Maybe I will be like the Minister for Education, who had to make her speech in three parts. She got three goes; I might need two goes. I have always said that Hervey Bay is one of the best electorates in Queensland. I am humbled by the support I continue to enjoy from everyone who lives there. Prince Harry and Meghan proved that Fraser Island is the best place in Queensland.

Mr Crandon: The centre of the world.

Mr SORENSEN: The centre of the world! I would like to thank them for coming to Hervey Bay and Fraser Island. They gave us a real boost. I did not get to meet them, because the Premier more or less told me to bugger off.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those comments are unparliamentary. Please withdraw them.

Mr SORENSEN: I withdraw. Channel 7 did a great job of following the prince, who went to River Heads while Meghan went to the boat harbour. It was fantastic to see them in Hervey Bay and on Fraser Island. It just goes to show how important Fraser Island is to the tourism industry in Queensland. I say to the minister that I would like to see a bit more maintenance on Fraser Island. I would also like to see recycling on Fraser Island because there are a lot of containers there. Once I had the minister visit the island to see the amount of rubbish on Fraser Island.

Mr Krause: There is no recycling there.

Mr SORENSEN: There is no recycling on Fraser Island anymore. It is a shame that we do not have that. I would like to see that happen.

I thank my lovely wife, Jenny, for everything she has done for me. We have always been together. We have been through eight elections. Sometimes it is all go. She has been a miracle worker. She is held in high regard for everything she does in Hervey Bay. She is still on the Meals on Wheels committee and so on. She has always done a lot of work in the community. I give her credit for being my partner. I love her very much. She has done a lot of work. She has sat up until midnight sometimes, doing things for polling and everything that is needed. She just takes control of everything and tells me to 'be here' and 'do that'. She has been absolutely fantastic.

I also thank the Hervey Bay LNP team of volunteers. I absolutely adore them, because they are there when you need them. They are there on polling day and on pre-polling days. In Hervey Bay about 14,000 people vote before election day. This means that volunteering requires an amazing amount of time nowadays. You do not just turn up on a Saturday, like you used to. Now, you have to make sure there are people there every day for two weeks before election day. I thank each and every one of the volunteers in the Hervey Bay LNP team for the support they have given me.

I also thank the voters in Hervey Bay who have supported me over the years. Without them I would not be here. It takes a lot to get the respect of your community. I thank all those people who have voted for me over the years and supported me. It is truly a privilege to be able to represent them in this parliament.

I mention the recent sad passing of Norma Hannant, who always ran the polling booths. Norma was one of the real heroes of the tourism industry on Fraser Island. When she was a young girl of 11 her father asked her what she wanted to do. She said, 'I want to go to Fraser Island.' She had the dream to start a business on Fraser Island. She had that business, which has lasted for 37 years. Norma knew that island from one end to the other. She knew all about the brumbies. She joined Save Fraser Island Dingoes. She knew all about the dingoes—how they behaved in the whelping season and to stay away from them. She has a fantastic amount of knowledge about Fraser Island. She knew the names of all of the fauna, down to the grasshoppers. She could tell you the history of Fraser Island—what year the cyclones came through and took all the sand away. There was one big cyclone that ruined the Orchid beach resort and took hundreds of tonnes of sand away. I thank Norma for everything she did for me. The day of her funeral was a sad day.

As I said before, with pre-polling and postal votes about 14,000 Hervey Bay residents vote before election day. I thank the ECQ officers for the way they have handled the volume of people who vote that way.

I would like to thank Steve, David, Eddie, John, Carl, Theresa, Joanne and Craig. I also acknowledge the support I got from Warren Truss, who was deputy prime minister at one stage. He stood on the polling booths nearly every day as well. It was a privilege for me to have his support. There are so many others who assisted me in my campaign. If I named every one, I would be here all day. I thank each and every one of them.

I also thank the staff in my electorate office. Paula has been there since the first day and she is still with me. I also thank Debbie, who has been there for a number of years now. They do a great job. It is not always easy, especially in an electorate like Hervey Bay. Every day I get a lot of people coming into the office and a lot of phone calls. My staff do a fantastic job. I appreciate everything they have done over many years. They have been really great staff.

I am 100 per cent committed to improving the lives of the people who choose to live in the great electorate of Hervey Bay. It is a great place that has a lot of natural beauty—the sandy straits and whales. There is a lot to see in Hervey Bay and on Fraser Island. It is a beautiful place. People tell me that when they come to the area. Even some of my colleagues think my office is in a very good spot, because the beach is just across the road.

The LNP is not yet in government, but it is worthwhile for the opposition to demand transparency and accountability. When I was the mayor of Hervey Bay we always used to open tenders publicly, but that is not done anymore. If you want to be seen to be accountable and credible, you have to be that way. In letters from the minister I am told that certain matters are commercial-in-confidence and I cannot be told what has been spent. That is not right. I think we have to be open and accountable to everybody for where we spend money and why. It is so important in order to have credibility. I think sometimes politicians get a bad name because we do not tell the people what is really going on.

I continue to advocate strongly for essential services that Hervey Bay needs to be a safe, vibrant town. We also need to restore things like the North Bluff lighthouse on Woody Island. It is a part of history in that a set of lighthouses were built on the rocky outcrop of Woody Island to direct the shipping going up to Maryborough. It was built over 150 years ago and many people still want to see it. If anyone wants some exercise they should walk up to the southern bluff lighthouse because the steepness to get up there will really try them out. The VMR also needs a new boat, and it is good to see that the minister is having an inquiry as to how we are going to pay for new boats for VMR and Coast Guard up and down the coast. This is so important in Hervey Bay because it is used by the medical profession to do medivacs to get people off Fraser Island, and that is an extra burden on the VMR in Hervey Bay.

The *Tobruk* is resting on its side on a site between Hervey Bay and Bundaberg. This was an LNP initiative with the federal government, and I want to thank Keith Pitt for all of the energy he put into getting that done as well as former member Paul Neville. I do give credit where credit is due, so I thank Kate Jones for working with the federal government. Doing this went against some of the beliefs of her own colleagues in our area, but I give Kate Jones, the Minister for Tourism, the honour of saying that she worked for it and give credit where credit is due. This will complement tourism and bolster our World Heritage Fraser Island, as will swimming with the humpback whales—that was something I pushed for—and it is a great success. One gentleman told me that he argued about what it was going to cost to jump in the water with the whales and when he hopped into the water the whale swam under him and used its blowhole. He was so excited that he got back on the boat, handed over the next lot of money and jumped back in again. I pushed hard to get that.

Mr Powell: That was a great initiative. That was an LNP initiative.

Mr SORENSEN: That is right; I pushed hard to get that.

Our schools need air conditioning and I will keep talking about it and advocating for this until we get the job done. Why do we not put air conditioning in, put the solar panels on the roofs to run them and in the afternoon when all the schoolkids go home when there is peak demand for electricity the schools could make an income out of the excess electricity from the solar panels? Why can we not do something like that?

Government members: We are!

Mr SORENSEN: Yes, but those opposite are not putting the air conditioning in the schools. We should be doing that.

A government member: We are.

Mr SORENSEN: You are not putting the air conditioning in the schools. Many teachers have approached me about the heat. The schools in my area have been built to have air conditioning, and that makes them hotter still in that the buildings are not off the ground but are on the ground and were built to have air conditioning in them, but it was never put in those buildings.

I support the Girl Guides in an effort to get a new hall. Girl Guides has done a wonderful job in our community and today Girl Guides Queensland is one of the largest youth organisations for girls and young women in Queensland, with about 6,000 youth members and more than 1,100 volunteers, leaders and adult members. It really needs a new clubhouse in Hervey Bay because a growing city like Hervey Bay does not have the older buildings and things like that which are available in other areas.

Also, an extension to the current police station is greatly needed to the existing premises to meet the demands for the next 30 years—that is, forward infrastructure, not catch-up infrastructure. That is what we are doing all of the time—catching up—especially in areas like Hervey Bay, which is growing quickly. The Hervey Bay Police Station is unique in that it is right beside the courthouse and there is an opportunity at the moment to buy the allotments next to the police station. The opportunity is there now and the government should be looking at purchasing that land to ensure that we are able to expand the police station in Hervey Bay.

One of the issues I find difficult is the health department. I come in here and it should be easy to help people, but I want to read from a letter that I received on 24 July 2018. It states—

Twelve months ago I had two tumours removed after nearly 5½ years on a waiting list. I am currently on the waiting list for Queensland Oral Health and have been for 12 months and was told I would have to wait for another 2½ years, even to receive basic services. In the meantime, if one of my failing teeth ...

What is going to happen to this guy? We come in here and the minister tells us that the waiting times and everything is hunky-dory, but it is not.

Dr Miles: No, no. The feds cut it from the funding.

Mr SORENSEN: Always the blame game. In closing, one of the things that upsets me most of all is the fact that most of the ministers over there say 'South-East Queensland' or the 'south-east corner'. Looking at the ministry, how many ministers are outside the Brisbane area? There are only two of them.

Mr Ryan: I'm in Caboolture.

Mr SORENSEN: Yes, but that is still in South-East Queensland. There are not even any ministers from Ipswich. There are no ministers west of Ipswich.

A government member: Ipswich West.

Mr SORENSEN: He is not a minister, and there are some capable people in Ipswich.

Ms Boyd: There's only, like, two seats out there.

Mr SORENSEN: There are three. I take that interjection that there are only two seats out there, so it does not matter—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order!

An opposition member: Only two out there!

Mr SORENSEN: Only two out there! Those two are just as important as any other seat—

Mrs Miller: There's four.

Mr SORENSEN: Four? Yes, there are four out there. It astonishes me that most ministers are from Brisbane alone and yet other areas do not get the services or treated the same way as Brisbane and I think that is terrible. A tornado went through a little place by the name of Yengarie and the lady is still living in a tent. Why has somebody not helped her? She is looking for help. They are the things that we should be looking after. We should be looking after the people of Queensland by ensuring that people are not on a waiting list for years. The ministers—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.09 pm): It is always difficult to follow the member for Hervey Bay in any speech in this House. We on this side all know that, shortly, his leadership aspirations will be achieved.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): If I heard right, member for Scenic Rim, that might have been a bit unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr KRAUSE: I withdraw.

Dr LYNHAM: Before I begin, as we stand in footsteps millennia old, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land on which this parliament and my electorate are. I would also like to welcome the member for Cook to the Queensland parliament—the first Torres Strait Islander elected to any Australian parliament. I look forward to continuing to work with someone who I know is a passionate advocate for the good people of Far North Queensland.

I would like to thank the Stafford electorate for the faith and trust that they have again afforded me. Representing my community is a true honour and I pay tribute to the people of the Stafford electorate who elected me in my third term as their representative in the Queensland parliament.

Winning the seat of Stafford last November was a collective effort. It was a hard-fought battle in the best spirit of the Queensland Labor Party. Labor is the party of the people and achieving success is always through the planning and commitment of grassroots volunteers throughout my electorate—the true believers—and those who supported me again to be their representative.

We set about building a visible presence across my electorate and engaging in a discussion of the successes of the Palaszczuk government and our plans for a stronger and brighter Queensland. We embarked on engaging with constituents across my electorate—from Stafford Heights to Newmarket. Across my electorate, I was involved in meeting with the community, actively listening and hearing the hopes and dreams of the people of the Stafford electorate. I enjoyed getting into the new suburbs after the redistribution, visiting new constituents and being chased away by new neighbourhood dogs.

We respected the two candidates who stood against me. We ran a positive campaign. There was no negativity at all. Our message was simple: only the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to deliver for the people of Queensland. Our efforts paid off. For the very first time the ALP won every booth in the Stafford electorate and we increased our margin.

It is my honour to again represent the people of the Stafford electorate. It is also an honour to have the support of the extraordinary volunteers who believed in me and leveraged their time and effort in favour of this cause. I pay tribute to my wonderful wife, Pam, who never wavers, and to my family for their belief in me and their hard work. I especially mention my parents, Clarrie and Marie, who, despite their advancing years, continue to work hard for the cause. Mum and dad entrenched in me their strong Labor values and they showed me the true value of education. Time and time again those opposite have shown that they are intent on making further good education accessible to only those who can afford it. That is why I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor team who believe in a fair go and an equal start for all.

In 2018-19, schools in the Stafford electorate will benefit from infrastructure upgrades and refurbishment, including \$188,000 to Stafford State School for classroom refurbishments, \$150,000 for the construction of an outdoor learning area at Wilston State School, \$3.1 million for upgrades to classrooms and administration buildings at Kedron State School and, at Wavell State High School, the final \$811,000 to complete the \$6.9 million performing arts centre.

Before I move on, I must thank every volunteer who made this possible by giving up their time and juggling their own commitments to campaign with me. I thank all of those who stood in the sun and the rain outside shopping centres, on the roadside and at railway stations. I thank those who had signs in their front yards, who staffed the phones, who managed the booths and handed out how-to-vote cards. I thank everyone who helped in every other way.

In particular, I should mention and thank my core team of committee members and volunteers. My campaign manager, Dan Keating, is organised, dedicated and tireless in his efforts. I would also like to thank Wayne Swan, Terry and Jimmy Sullivan, Trish Sullivan, Jim Fouras, Len Haigh, Ian Schmidt, Paul Hudson, Dave Mortleman, Liam and Rebecca Culverhouse, Senator Chris Ketter, Julie and David Speechley, my prepoll champions, Mark Kelly and Dusty, Jessie Maher and Mike Condon. I also thank my SEC committee and my hardworking electorate and ministerial staff and their families.

I am thankful to be again a part of the Palaszczuk cabinet as we reaffirm our commitment to Queenslanders to provide a strong, stable majority government. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan for advancing Queensland, creating jobs for a strong economy, ensuring a great start for our children, improving the health of Queenslanders and ensuring a responsive government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In my past experience as a Maxiofacial surgeon, I saw firsthand how important employment is. A job with steady income and steady routine leads to steady individuals and steady relationships. Jobs and employment help break the cycle of violence. This is why I'm so proud and honoured to be a Minister in an economic portfolio under a Premier that has in her core DNA the pursuit of jobs for Queenslanders.

I am also fortunate to gain the Energy portfolio in the 56th Parliament. Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Labor team is focused on putting downward pressure on electricity prices because we know they hit household budgets and affect businesses' capacity to create jobs.

We can put this downward pressure on electricity prices because our electricity assets remain in public hands, and we can re-invest the dividends that belong to the people of Queensland.

Under our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan, we will cap household and small business power price increases to average inflation over the next two years.

We will return \$50 a year for the next two years to all Queensland residential electricity customers a dividend from their ownership of our electricity assets.

We are facilitating the next wave of renewable energy investment, delivering up to 400 megawatts of renewable energy, including up to 100 MW of energy storage.

The Renewables 400 program will build on the Solar 150 initiative and focus on technologies not currently being delivered by the market.

These key opportunities are across the State, mostly in regional Queensland, highlighting the strength and abundance of our renewable energy resources.

Not one large scale renewable energy project was built under the previous LNP government and since the Palaszczuk Government was elected we now have \$4.3 billion worth of renewable energy projects committed to or under construction in Queensland.

With regards to Natural Resources and Mines, we are supporting the resources sector with exploration incentives, our Resources Development Policy, and the North West Minerals Province Blueprint.

These policies will support the next generation of resource development in Queensland. We know that supporting the resources industry is crucial for the jobs it creates and the royalties it generates for schools, hospital, and police.

In the past financial year I approved the grant of 54 mining and petroleum leases for projects across the state, including the Colton Coal project near Maryborough and Byerwen Coal's mine near Glenden.

We are doing the heavy lifting on gas policy, with our releases of land for gas for the Australian market only and our work with junior explorers.

The Opposition's colleagues in Canberra continue to rebuff our requests for joint initiatives like pipelines and studies to open up new gasfields, instead choosing to find ways to take away our LNG royalties.

Mr Speaker, unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk Government is getting on with driving investment and planning development in our resources sector.

I have released Queensland's second annual exploration program, giving certainty to industry, traditional owners and communities.

We continue to deliver water in a sustainable manner to support growth and jobs in regional Queensland. I understand that in many regional communities, water is the foundation of development, and I intend to continue to work with these regional communities.

In this term of government as a Minister I am delivering key priorities across all aspects of my portfolio.

In Natural Resources, we will implement the Queensland Bulk Water Opportunities Statement to maximise the benefits of new and existing bulk water supply infrastructure and to support the delivery of the State Infrastructure Plan. We will lead the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. We will support the delivery of water security for Townsville by providing \$224 million for completion of project milestones.

Earlier this year I introduced sustainable vegetation management laws. These laws delivered on the government's election commitment to strike the right balance between protecting native vegetation while ensuring landholders continue to have flexibility to manage their properties.

Another initiative I am rolling out is our fuel price monitoring scheme.

This scheme will maintain downward pressure on cost of living expenses for consumers.

Our scheme will ensure accurate and up-to-date fuel prices will be available through smartphone apps and websites such as Motormouth, GasBuddy, PetrolSpy, RACQ and Compare the Market, as well as newcomers.

Mr Speaker, what that means is that motorists will have the knowledge and the power to make informed purchasing decisions, avoid the price-gougers and save on their petrol bill.

We are on track to have this scheme ready for rollout in time for the Christmas period.

In Mines, I have reintroduced the Lands, Explosive, and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 to ensure the regulatory framework for safety and health in the resources sector is both contemporary and effective. Further, we will continue reforms to resource safety and health, particularly in response to the re-identification of coal worker's pneumoconiosis. I have recently approved the first round of projects as part of our \$60 million Natural Resource Management program, which has so far committed \$12.6 million to reef water quality projects.

These span the NQ Dry Tropics, Cape York, Terrain and Burnett Mary regions.

The funding will go to projects that significantly reduce fine sediment run-off, stream bank and wetland recovery in tributaries connected to the reef, as well as the continuing rehabilitation of Springvale Station.

Mr Speaker, it is an honour to continue to be a member of this parliament and a Minister in the Palaszczuk Labor Government, as we work together to advance Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Dr Lynham, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.15 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determination made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136(3), that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Human Rights Bill by 4 February 2019 and the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 4 February 2019.

MOTION

Order of Business

 Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.15 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 2 to 9 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3304, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (4.16 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate in support of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Greens and I have long supported any and all efforts to strengthen anti-corruption measures at all levels of government and this bill goes some way towards achieving that goal. In particular, the expanded investigative power to be given to the CCC is a welcome improvement. Also, the amended definition of 'corrupt conduct' appears to expand the good work that has been done already by the CCC.

I would like to raise briefly a couple of points on this aspect of the bill. Firstly, it is worth looking at the interstate counterparts of the CCC and, in particular, the New South Wales ICAC, which has been so effective in recent years in identifying and taking on corrupt conduct in New South Wales. I think that we can fairly recognise that ICAC in New South Wales has been more effective in taking on corruption than any other comparable anti-corruption body. That is at least in part down to the breadth of the definition of 'corrupt conduct' that falls within the remit of ICAC in New South Wales.

For the purposes of the New South Wales ICAC, corrupt conduct includes an important element beyond what Queensland's CCC can investigate. In New South Wales, corrupt conduct includes conduct that would result in a disciplinary offence. For these purposes, a disciplinary offence is defined to include any misconduct, irregularity, neglect of duty, breach of discipline or other matter that constitutes or may constitute grounds for disciplinary action under any law.

It is important for us to remember that this is simply the threshold for the CCC to investigate. It does not mean that corruption charges become a routine substitute for disciplinary action. To have any chance of restoring public confidence in our system, the CCC must at least be given this broad capacity to investigate.

In its submission on the bill to the committee in the last parliament, the Australia Institute noted instances where the CCC has not had sufficiently wide powers to investigate in circumstances that are genuinely suspicious and quite reasonably undermine public confidence in the system. Specifically, it identified favourable decisions or changes in policy in respect of the New Acland Coal Mine stage 3 expansion and Sibelco's mining operations on North Stradbroke Island, where both holding companies donated many hundreds of thousands of dollars to the LNP. In circumstances like this, the CCC must be given sufficient powers to investigate.

In addition, the Australia Institute notes in its submission concerns that the amended definition of 'corrupt conduct' could unintentionally narrow the scope of the conduct that the CCC will investigate. The Australia Institute says further in its submission—

The wider investigative jurisdiction given to the CCC through the CCOLA bill are of little use if the definition of corrupt conduct to which these investigative powers are used is narrower.

The department does not share these concerns. I encourage the government to pay close attention as to whether this risk plays out in the coming months or years.

Widening the definition of 'corrupt conduct' is part of the anti-corruption policy that the Greens brought to the last election. While the changes in this bill need to be taken further, and would be complemented by the CCC holding more public hearings, I welcome this first step. I encourage the government to continue to adopt Greens policy by stopping the common practice of cash for access meetings with government ministers and senior MPs and to stop politicians from walking into cushy lobbyist jobs when they leave this place.

The government's ban on developer donations was an important first step in adopting Greens policy on election funding reform. It might go some way to restoring faith in our system. We are yet to see whether the government and opposition will finally be willing to sever their ties with their corporate donor mates by voting with my private member's bill to ban all for profit political donations.

In closing, I refer briefly to the member for Stretton's observation about federal Labor's newfound support for Greens policy on the need for a federal ICAC. Everyone would be aware that we have had a bill in federal parliament since 2010 that Labor has refused to support. They have seen the light. They deserve credit for that. We should add this now to the list of Greens policy that has been adopted by federal Labor on top of negative gearing, the banking royal commission—the federal government has taken that one up too—and the bank levy, although that was the government first followed by Labor.

I encourage all members, particularly on the Labor side of the House, to get in touch with their federal counterparts and urge them to back the motion that Senator Waters will move in the Senate on Tuesday, 13 November to show that the Senate supports the establishment of a federal anti-corruption body. It will be interesting when that motion gets to the House and the new member for Wentworth has the opportunity to show that the Senate and the lower house agree with Greens policy—Labor has taken it on board—and they are going to work for an end to corruption at the federal level.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Corruption is a cancer. It is a cancer that, left untreated, will eat away at the very living organism that is our great democracy. Sadly, in our state's most recent history, time and again we have seen instances where corruption in our governments and public institutions has been left unchecked and allowed to flourish.

We have to look no further than recent examples in local government, as well as those that occurred in the former Beattie government with respect to one of the health ministers. The member for Caloundra and the member for Currumbin have clearly outlined those matters related to the former health minister Gordon Nuttall that occurred in this place in relation to lying to parliament and the matters related to section 57 of the Criminal Code. We all remember the subsequent Crime and Misconduct Commission, as it was then known, investigation in 2006 in relation to other matters with subsequent charges laid and the eventual jailing of Mr Nuttall.

We could also cast our mind back to 2001 when there was the Shepherdson inquiry in relation to electoral fraud and the implications of those findings that led to the eventual resignation of the then Labor deputy premier, Jim Elder.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba South in relation to the then member for Woodridge, Mike Kaiser, who was also a former state secretary of the Queensland division of the Australian Labor Party, and the fact that his subsequent resignation happened at that stage. In fact, the seat of Woodridge has had a fairly chequered history with Mike Kaiser being a former member and also Bill D'Arcy. I would certainly acknowledge the current member for Woodridge made some fairly definitive comments in relation to Gordon Nuttall's superannuation and I would say that all Queenslanders would have agreed with his comments at that time. There have been significant issues of corruption involving federal Labor MPs Craig Thomson and Andrew Theophanous. Certainly the Labor Party here in Queensland has a very chequered history when it comes to corruption.

Whether as politicians, statutory office holders or public officials, those roles come with an inherent understanding that such authority is derived from the absolute public trust that is granted that all actions taken under these roles are done so within the confines of the law and for the betterment of the society for which one serves. Therefore, when corrupt actions occur it is even more than a breach of the law, it is a fundamental breach of the public's trust.

The bill before us this evening seeks to expand the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing the requirement that corrupt conduct be engaged in for the benefit of or detriment to a person. It is also proposed to remove the list of offences that could be corrupt conduct to be replaced with a second

section defining corrupt conduct. While every effort should be made to fight and stamp out corruption before it even has a chance to take place, it is important that this not be done at the expense of good law making or enforcement processes.

Given that this bill primarily implements the recommendations from a bipartisan 2016 Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee statutory review, we on this side of the House, the Liberal National Party, will not be opposing the legislation. That being said, I wish to place on record concerns and reservations that have been raised in relation to the scope and reach of the legislation before us. I particularly would like to draw attention to the concerns raised by the Queensland Law Society with the parliamentary Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee during its examination of the bill.

The Queensland Law Society has raised concerns with the change which broadens the definition of 'corrupt conduct', concerns which I note have the broad support of non-government members of the committee. As the Queensland Law Society stated in its submission—

... we do not consider that 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.

I also note that the Queensland Law Society submitted that it was exceptionally concerned with the proposed amendment contained in clause 18 of the bill regarding the derivative use of compelled evidence. In its statement of reservation non-government members stated—

At the very least, we would appreciate clarification from the Attorney-General in her second reading speech on the intent of this provision and the concerns raised by the QLS.

I wish to add my support to that statement and I also request clarification from the Attorney-General in relation to those matters.

In concluding, as I said, I will not be opposing this bill tonight as efforts to fight and stamp out corruption ought to be above partisan politics. That being said, such efforts must not come at the expense of good law or law enforcement otherwise that cancer that is known as corruption will once again come out of remission and will attack our democracy.

Finally, I take this opportunity to mention that I continue to have residents contact me about their concerns with respect to possible corrupt development application approvals with respect to the Redbank Motorway Estate, which is located directly across the Brisbane River from Priors Pocket Road. Residents have raised issues regarding noise pollution, environmental concerns as well as other matters. I have raised this with the Crime and Corruption Commission, which referred me back to the Ipswich City Council. As a consequence of that, I have written to the administrator about these issues. These allegations need investigating given community concerns.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.28 pm): I rise this afternoon to support the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to place on record, following the member for Moggill's contribution about his constituents contacting him about the Redbank Motorway Estate, that they have also contacted me. I believe that there are definite concerns around the approvals of that particular development application.

The member for Maroochydore, Fiona Simpson, is the mother of her side of the House and I am the mother of my side of the House. We are on a unity ticket when it comes to corruption because corruption should never be tolerated, whether it be at federal, state or local government level. Corruption is a cancer on society and whenever you have a cancer you hit it, you hit it hard and you root it out. That is what needs to be done whenever there are allegations of corruption. It has to be treated very drastically and very fast.

It is very easy for members on the other side of the House to talk about corruption and blame our side, and it is very easy for us on this side of the House to talk about the Fitzgerald inquiry. However, it does not matter because there are goodies and baddies on both sides of politics. Whenever you suspect that there is corruption, it is up to the leadership of both sides of the parliament to absolutely root it out, no matter what. We all have blood on our hands when it comes to having corrupt people in

our parties. The good people are required to call it out on all occasions and say, ‘Time is up; on your bike; get out of the party; get out of the parliament’. That is the only way we can ensure integrity within political parties, within governments, within oppositions and, particularly, within councils.

I want to talk briefly about the section of bill that amends the definition of ‘corrupt conduct’. In particular, I refer to the explanatory notes which state that corrupt conduct includes ‘conduct of a person, regardless of whether the person holds or held an appointment, that impairs, or could impair, public confidence in public administration’. This goes back to the Ipswich City Council.

In relation to this matter, I refer to believability. When it comes to reporting corruption, the worst issue is not being believed. I was not believed for 14 long years, which is far too long. When the mud is thrown, it becomes a do-or-die situation. It gets to the bottom line of kill or be killed, and that is what happened to me in relation to the Ipswich City Council. I understand fully the victims of child sexual abuse and institutional abuse who were not believed, which can cause despair and result in catastrophic consequences.

I was not believed about what was happening in Ipswich, but the good thing is that I am belligerent. I was always going to stay through to the very end. Even though it took 14 years for me to be believed, I always knew that the CCC, the police or an ICAC—whatever form it took—would find out that what I was saying was right and that the truth would come out in the end. The amazing thing about standing here in the parliament this afternoon is the fact that I could have retired or gone off into the wilderness, broken and in despair. However, I stand here today as a light to anyone in parliament or within local government and I say to them, ‘If you ever see corruption, you can do it; you can stay for the long haul. It is always possible and you should always fight for what is right and report it. You have to dare to lead. You have to do the right thing.’ It is important that everyone knows that.

Following the sacking of the Ipswich City Council, an administrator was appointed. He is trying to put public confidence back into the Ipswich City Council. The new administrator has been like a breath of fresh air in Ipswich. For many years in Ipswich, we had a situation where all responsibility and reporting were shut down. It was a disgrace. However, so far the new administrator has done an excellent job. For example, today he closed down Christmas carol events in Ipswich because of dodgy funding arrangements in the past. Basically, the administrator has said that the Brassell carols will be no more and he has launched an investigation into the unaccountable spending of ratepayer cash for that event. I say: good on him!

The administrator is unable to advise the people of Ipswich exactly how much ratepayer funding has gone into the event in the past. That is absolutely shameful. The administrator, Greg Chemello, said—

However, the days of ratepayers’ money being handed out willy-nilly with no transparent consideration of value for money and no public accountability of this spend to the citizens are over for Ipswich.

Bravo, Mr Administrator! Thank you for raising the standards of public administration in the City of Ipswich. Thank you for financial accountability. Thank you for your leadership in trying to professionalise the City of Ipswich administration. We need the city administrator to look at the incorporated body that was raising money for Christmas carols in Ipswich, find out where that money went and who was involved, and make them accountable. I am sure that if he finds anything amiss, he will refer it to the CCC for further investigative work to be undertaken by CCC detectives.

Once corruption takes a hold and nothing is done about it, it becomes normalised in any government agency, whether it be state, federal or local. They cannot get out of it; it enters their DNA. For example, at the moment in Ipswich we have a situation where the councillors who were sacked by a unanimous vote of this parliament are still behaving like councillors. They are still on Facebook. They are still attending events with pseudo-titles such as ‘ambassador’. They are not councillors; they are ambassadors or the like. Still they seem to have no idea why they were sacked, even though it was the result of a unanimous vote of this parliament. It was a vote of the Labor people, the LNP people, the Katters, members of the Greens and One Nation, as well as our Independent member. We all voted together to say, ‘Get out and get on with your lives’. However, apparently they have new titles such as ‘ambassador’ or whatever—God only knows. They might be calling themselves ‘princess’ or ‘prince’, for all I know. Still they cannot get out of it. At present, some of them are campaigning for a return to the council. In reality, that is a campaign to continue the corruption that this parliament sacked them for. They really have no idea.

I am glad that the Minister for Local Government is back in the chamber, because I can tell him that in Ipswich there should be no more divisions. Little fiefdoms developed in Ipswich, where councillors had their own electorate offices and they really had to know only a few thousand people to

be elected every four years. We need to change the electoral boundary system. We need to tell them to stop the nonsense and get out, and that we will never ever tolerate going back to the corrupt antics of that council. That is why the amendment to the definition of 'corrupt conduct' is a good thing. We need Ipswich city to have a clean slate before the next council elections.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bill, which is of great concern to all Queenslanders. I acknowledge the member for Bundamba, who tried to shine a spotlight on corruption but was ignored for a long time. Eradicating crime and corruption in Queensland's civil and political life is a responsibility of the utmost importance and one that I hope is respected by all members of the House. The bill aims to implement the recommendations of the bipartisan 2016 PCCC statutory review of the act. Timely review of the act is vital as eradicating crime and corruption is an ongoing challenge.

While the LNP supports the bill, we are doing so with some reservations. The bill will widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing the requirement that corrupt conduct be engaged in for the benefit of or detriment to a person. It will also remove the list of offences that could previously be categorised as corrupt conduct and instead replace it with a new definition of 'corrupt conduct'. Under this amendment, corrupt conduct may now include things such as collusive tendering, fraud in relation to applications for a licence, permit or authority, dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or disposition of state assets, evading a state tax, levy or duty or fraudulently obtaining or retaining a government appointment.

I comprehend the importance of the inclusion of collusive tendering as vital in ensuring that public administration is held to the highest standards. I know that my constituents in the seat of Gregory are very concerned about this. However, I also note that the Queensland Law Society has concerns that the definition is open to being too broadly construed. They suggested that it should have some restrictions around it.

Firstly, it should be restricted to corruption that involves or affects a Queensland public official or public authority. Collusive tendering has occurred in the past between commercial entities and too broad a definition in that regard would extend the commission's considerable powers into private spheres. However, it may be the case for future review to see whether these fears have manifested.

The Queensland Law Society also wanted the definition to make explicit that corrupt behaviour needs to be behaviour that is deliberate or intentional as opposed to actions that are a result of negligence or genuine mistake. There have been concerns in the past that the commission's vital work should not become bogged down by trivial investigations and by not excluding actions resulting in negligence or error we may open the floodgates to such an onslaught.

To ensure this was not the case, the Queensland Law Society suggested that the definition of 'corrupt conduct' be confined to actions that are a criminal or disciplinary offence or conduct which 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 a local government councillor, a substantial breach of an applicable code of conduct. I do not see that concern addressed in the bill before us and yet it is a very reasonable concern which was explicitly articulated in the Callinan-Aroney recommendations that the operational focus of the CCC should be on investigating serious cases of corrupt conduct. It is a sad fact of life that corruption occurs in Queensland and we must always be ever vigilant in exposing it to public scrutiny.

Sadly, the 2017-18 CCC annual report shows a staggering rise in corruption complaints. It was ironic that the recent CCC annual report was uploaded late on a Friday night. That is a tactic often used by governments when they wish to conceal a failure. Despite the tactic of burying the news, the rise in corruption complaints is there for all to see.

In the last year the number of corruption hearing days has more than doubled while corruption allegations have increased by 45 per cent in the last two years. The commission is already underresourced. This is obviously a concern. If this new definition results in a further upward swing in corruption complaints, the government should ensure that their funding is increased. It has, after all, ignored the expert advice of the Queensland Law Society and the statement of reservation issued by the LNP parliamentary committee members.

If the commission is forced to devote considerable resources into determining what is needed to be investigated, the important issues that should be investigated may be delayed or deferred to Queensland's detriment. The work of the commission is so vital to the proper conduct of public life in

Queensland that we cannot afford to be distracted by red herrings. If the new definition is to have an effect then the government has an absolute duty to increase its resourcing to ensure that serious matters can still be progressed in a timely fashion. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We will not be opposing the bill given it implements recommendations from a bipartisan 2016 PCCC statutory review of the act. I welcome the contribution from the member for Bundamba where she talked about the fact that this issue is above party politics. She needs to be commended for her comments. I certainly appreciate her candour in that area.

It is important to acknowledge that the committee considering the bill made one recommendation. There was a statement of reservation that I will address later. I acknowledge that at all levels of government we must set an example. In federal, state and local government this issue is endemic. It is something we need to stamp out. Any opportunity to broaden the definition to capture those issues must be taken up.

The policy objectives of the bill are to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and implement the recommendations of the committee. 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. It also proposed to remove the list of offences that could be corrupt conduct and replace it with a second limb defining corrupt conduct.

Corrupt conduct may now include things such as collusive tendering, fraud in relation to applications for a licence permit or authority, dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or disposition of state assets, evading a state tax, levy or duty or fraudulently obtaining or retaining a government appointment. Some of these things obviously continue to plague us in this House, at the local government level and at the federal government level and, unfortunately, in a lot of the Public Service agencies.

The bill further implements the 2016 PCCC review by, among other things, 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 proceedings against public sector employees and requiring the unit of public administration to keep appropriate records in relation to any decision not to notify the commission of alleged corrupt conduct. There were only seven submissions to the committee. They were from the Australia Institute, the LGAQ, QUT, the Crime and Corruption Commission—two submissions—the Queensland Law Society and the Environmental Defenders Office.

We will not oppose the bill, but there are some areas that raise some concern. I wish to outline these for my constituents. These concerns were outlined by key legal and justice stakeholders in evidence before the committee. It is important that the chief corruption fighting body in Queensland, the CCC, is not distracted from its core task and concerns have been raised that the new definition of 'corrupt conduct' may be too broad. I did not see that in the submissions to the committee, we have faith in the CCC that they will get on with their job and do it well. The genesis of the Callinan-Aroney recommendations was that the CCC should focus on investigating serious cases of corrupt conduct.

I reiterate that if anyone at any level of government has concerns about corrupt conduct we should take the time to get to the bottom of it and report it. There has been talk in this House over a long period of time of people being investigated and people being accused of things. It has to be asked why the government waited until after the conclusion of the CCC investigation into Minister Bailey before widening the definition of 'corrupt conduct' considering the amendment was first introduced in March 2017. We have seen instances of corrupt conduct arise on all sides of politics that we would sooner not see.

I acknowledge the issues that have been pointed out in the debate, particularly around the Labor Party. I must say about Mr Gordon Nuttall—and I am not defending the man for what he did—who now lives in my electorate, that he is making a contribution to our community.

Mr Brown: Woodgate.

Mr BENNETT: Yes, at Woodgate. He became a friend of my mother. I do not say that for any reason other than to acknowledge that people do their time and then they should be able to get on with life. We wish him all the best after those tumultuous times.

In the last year the number of corruption hearing days has more than doubled. This is what we are talking about. We must set a higher standard. The CCC are already under pressure but, to make things worse, they are underresourced to deal with the rise in complaints. This means that major

corruption complaints will be on the backburner. If we are going to call for more of us to be diligent in making complaints, we need to make sure that the CCC is resourced and focused on doing their job. We will not be opposing the new definition but note the concerns of the Queensland Law Society and trust that the CCC will maintain its core focus on fighting major crime and corruption in Queensland.

I alluded earlier to the statement of reservation to the previous committee report. We placed on record our concerns with certain provisions of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, with submissions from various sources. The Queensland Law Society raised concerns with two aspects that have been widely canvassed in the course of that debate. Firstly, they were concerned about the amendment which expands the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. Their submission states—

However, we do not consider that 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.

It would be timely to have a look at the codes of conduct that are applicable across all jurisdictions—local government, state government and federal government—to make sure that everyone is acutely aware of their duties when they commit to serve, particularly the people of Queensland, at a higher level.

The statement of reservation further talked about the CCC becoming overwhelmed, as I mentioned earlier, with complaints that may be vexatious in nature and well outside the purview of what they should be investigating. However, in determining the merit of complaints raised with the CCC, considerable resources may be utilised and effectively wasted in determining what needs to be investigated. That is a really good point. We have to root out the vexatious complaints and make sure that they do not become the norm. Unfortunately, we have seen it way too often in many campaigns, particularly in election campaigns, where we sometimes use the CCC as a distraction. As we know, if you throw mud, some will stick, and unfortunately you are guilty until you can prove yourself innocent. While we continue to make good laws in this place, I hope that we can get away from vexatious complaints which bog the CCC down in minutia and does not allow the CCC to do the investigations that we all would hope and believe would be essential for good governance in Queensland.

The Queensland Law Society raised concerns with the proposed amendment contained in clause 18 of the bill, regarding the derivative use of compelled evidence. While we understand the merits of this provision, the Queensland Law Society said in their submission, 'The Society notes that the law relating to derivative use can be exceptionally complicated.' They raised concerns with the protections offered by section 197 of the act and they talked at length about that. We would appreciate clarification from the Attorney on this. I know that we will all listen when she wraps up the debate. We support the intent of the bill. We 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.

This is an important piece of legislation. We acknowledge the other contributions. The Queensland Police Union of Employees raised concerns about clause 15 of the bill. The statement of reservation also talked about recommendation 22 of the PCCC report being broad in nature, while section 15(1) is also broad in nature.

In conclusion, I point out that there have been concerns raised with this legislation. It is an important part of Queensland's development that we continue to review and that, as members of the Legislative Assembly, we take corruption seriously and that our authorities, particularly the PCCC and the CCC, are given all the assistance and legislation to make sure that corruption in this state becomes a thing of the past. That is why we will not be opposing the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise to speak on this latest iteration of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which will widen powers for the latest version, for want of a better word, of the CCC to deal with corruption in Queensland.

I have basically seen the birth of the CCC. There was a young backbencher at the time called Peter Beattie running the EARC community consultations. I went to the Albert Waterways Community Centre, the library building in the Albert shire, to listen to this young backbencher promise the world in

terms of ruling out corruption et cetera by the establishment of a group. We have seen many changes—it was the CJC, the CMC and of late the CCC. Basically it is the Queensland watchdog for corruption. I support a watchdog for corruption in Queensland 100 per cent.

Some of the people who have been identified—admittedly some of them through good luck—have been dealt with by the CCC. Hopefully that has lifted the standard of politicians in this state. The few bad apples that are in any profession or any business or any following such as politics should be very afraid of the CCC. On this side of the House, we have always supported and will do everything we can to support the reasonable powers of the CCC to bring those perpetrators to appropriate justice, as we have seen on several occasions.

Having said that, we have to temper that keenness to drive the CCC with the fact that there has to be fairness and justice delivered in the CCC's ability and capacity to carry out their work and not for them to be given absolute power because absolute power corrupts in itself. In expanding their powers in terms of expanding the definition of 'corrupt conduct', we have to be very careful that those powers are not beyond what is fair and reasonable and that they provide reasonable justice.

In all of those iterations—the CJC, the CMC and the CCC—I have starred in certain investigations. Some members might remember one lady who lived down Currumbin way—a lady called Merri Rose, who was a Labor member. She complained about the council zoning at the corner of her street. She later moved to the corner of Boggo Road! The CJC, as it was then, appropriately kicked the complaint about the then mayor of the Albert shire out the door. It is very important that those frivolous and vexatious complaints cannot be masked by the wideranging capacity of people for silly, imagined or political reasons to make complaints to the CCC.

Again, I starred at the CMC—I think it was Mr Birmingham—as the star witness in the Gold Coast City Council investigation. I was not a star witness; I was a minor one—I am playing up my role here. They moved me out very quickly and said that I had nothing to offer and to go home. The reality was that that particular Gold Coast City Council inquiry was predicated on a 78-page dirt file, or dossier, by—and I will say it—a councillor who was a bit of a dropkick, to be honest, if that is not unparliamentary. It is unparliamentary?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Mermaid Beach, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw. An unsavoury person—how is that Mr Deputy Clerk? This unsavoury person called Councillor Peter Young dropped this 78-page dirt file which caused a lot of people to go through a big inquiry. I was chief of staff to the mayor Ron Clarke back then. The CMC themselves spent millions on it—somewhere between \$3 million and \$5 million. You never find out the real cost of it because it is all secret squirrel business. All of those members who were called up—I was only a witness; I was not in the box as it were—had to spend literally hundreds of thousands of dollars on the lawyers to defend themselves against rubbish allegations. The CMC, I think it was back then, dropped that dirt file in the bucket and did not use it one iota. We had a multimillion dollar CMC investigation for no result, no outcome—just some minor taps on the wrist for a couple of lawyers and councillors. Nothing really came out of that witch-hunt, if you like, by the CMC in those days.

We have to be very mindful in expanding these powers that we do not see a repeat of what I believe are political investigations for no worth. I have a senior lawyer on the Gold Coast in terms of other matters that the CCC—I have to be very careful, Madam Deputy Speaker—is reviewing at this point in time, and the plea bargain offer to a person of interest to the CCC was an embarrassing outcome for the CCC. It might have been a good political outcome, but I am aware that they used that in a very unsavoury manner. Those sorts of powers have to be very carefully monitored.

Do not forget that we have had our corruption watchdog for over 25 years or so. In today's dollars it is about \$65 million a year, but if you multiply that over the 25 years that it has been in operation we have spent \$1.5 billion on our corruption watchdog. Now that is a lot of money. Yes, we have had a result—an accidental result, particularly with Mr Nuttall, which was very famous, and they picked it up from other matters rather than the issue itself. Those sorts of things are very important and bringing those bad apples to justice is a great thing. We all support that 100 per cent. However, we have to be very careful in terms of widening these powers. I note that the Queensland Law Society had concerns about this bill in relation to some of the matters which may now be included as corrupt conduct such as collusive tendering; fraud in relation to applications for a licence permit or authority; dishonestly obtaining a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or disposition of state assets; evading a state tax, levy or duty; or fraudulently obtaining or retaining a government appointment.

Without going into the specifics of the matter, is it corrupt conduct if someone is offered an inducement to return a political favour to them—and the CCC would have to determine this through its code of conduct—and then when those matters were no longer needed, or they were unnecessary, or they would not do what someone politically wanted them to do, those inducements and favours were taken away? Does that qualify under the CCC's new code of conduct as corrupt conduct? It may very well be that Mr MacSporran would say, 'Yes, it does.' We have given our support to the bill, and with the government's support—and I hope the government members support their own bill—we should see this bill passed. Should this bill pass, it would mean that corrupt conduct of that nature may well be re-looked at in terms of an offence against the state.

I encourage the CCC investigators to use their expanded powers wisely. I think they have been funded for an extra \$10 million this year. I hope they spend that wisely. I ask the CCC to not just investigate the Gold Coast City Council again and again and again on a whim and a whimsical report by some disenfranchised politician. We want the CCC to make sure they use these very much appreciated, expanded powers—

(Time expired)

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to add to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Like my compatriot from the Gold Coast, I lived through the time when the CMC or the CJC looked at the issues on the Gold Coast. I join in the words from the member for Mermaid Beach in that there were quite a few vexatious referrals a few years ago including that referral to the body about the Gold Coast City Council. That was one of the reasons why in 2014 we looked to narrow that definition and take away the opportunity for someone to abuse a referral to the Crime and Corruption Commission. We did that then, and it made a lot of sense. This government, as we know, tries to reverse anything that the previous LNP government may have done around these particular issues.

This bill will change the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. It is worth noting that this is done by proposed section 15(2) which removes the previous definition and inserts a new definition. Proposed section 15(2) states—

Corrupt conduct also means conduct of a person, regardless of whether the person holds or held an appointment, that—

- (a) impairs, or could impair, public confidence in public administration; and
- (b) involves, or could involve, any of the following ...

The first point listed is collusive tendering. This leads me to ask the Attorney-General whether this widening of the definition may cover some of the issues that I have canvassed this week on the JM Kelly issue. Quite frankly, there is some very suspicious stuff happening in that area. Since I spoke on this matter on Tuesday, I have been inundated by emails and phone calls from various people in Central Queensland telling me exactly what may have gone on in that area. The sort of information that is flowing through there is quite disturbing. With the widening of this definition as per this clause, we may well be starting to look at issues around collusive tendering. As I said today, it is really worrying. It appears that we may have some former members of parliament and current members of parliament who may be involved, even on the sidelines, in the tendering process and there may have been favours given by JM Kelly in Rockhampton. These are things that we seriously need to look at. It may be something that the Crime and Corruption Commission needs to—

Mrs LAUGA: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Can the member please come back to the long title of the bill?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Honourable member, I ask you to return to the bill.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I prefaced my comments by talking about section 15(2), which is the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. I understand that the member does not want me talking about this, but that is exactly what this is about. This is about the definition of 'corrupt conduct'.

Mrs Lauga: You are running down someone's name who has no opportunity to defend themselves.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking any interjections from the member up the back.

Mrs Lauga: I don't think you need to give a direction.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, while I am on my feet and the member up the back is talking, I think the member may well have some real issues that may come to fruition in the near future. The member wants to be extremely careful.

Mrs Lauga interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HART: I do not know whether corrupt conduct may be in the fact that somebody lends you money and you do not talk about it for quite a while and then it appears on your register of interests. That could be a real issue.

Mrs LAUGA: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the imputations that the member is making and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you have been asked to withdraw your comments.

Mr HART: I withdraw. The bill that I am reading from states—

- (ii) fraud relating to an application for a licence, permit or other authority under an Act with a purpose or object of any of the following (however described)—
 - (A) protecting health or safety of persons;
 - (B) protecting the environment;
 - (C) protecting or managing the use of the State's natural, cultural, mining or energy resources;
- (iii) dishonestly obtaining, or helping someone to dishonestly obtain, a benefit from the payment or application of public funds or the disposition of State assets—

I suggest that that goes directly to the conversation I have been having in the House about JM Kelly and the activity of some members of the Labor Party.

The bill also widens the definition of 'corruption'. We have to ask the question as to whether this would then capture the mangocube email accounts and the information that has been coming from the Minister for Transport around the decision on who might be on the boards of directors of some of our GOCs, including the appointments of Mark Algie and Mike Reynolds. If they were appointed as a result of an email that was sent to a private email address, I wonder what happened with regard to Mr Schwarten being appointed to the board of the QBCC a couple of years ago. We have to start to wonder about that process. Obviously, the appointment process is something that I suggest the CCC will eventually have to look at. There are some real issues contained in some of the questions we have been putting to the government, and we quite simply have not had any responses to them.

The Queensland Law Society raised a number of issues with regard to changing the definition of 'corruption'. It said—

However, we do not consider that these powers should be open-ended and limitless.

I guess that is part of the problem here. When you do not actually have a clear definition about anything and you leave it wide open to interpretation, then anybody can interpret whatever they like into it and that may lead to vexatious claims. We saw that during the election campaign, when Campbell Newman and his family were targeted with completely vexatious claims. The Crime and Corruption Commission investigated them and there was nothing there at the end of the day, but those on the other side and those in their party machinery thought it was appropriate to attack the family of a member. That should not be happening, but that is where we will end up with that. The Queensland Law Society said that we should not be leaving this open-ended and limitless. They said—

The definition as drafted is exceptionally broad and may be open to being construed too broadly.

Who would have thought that a lawyer might look at something and construe it more broadly than it was ever intended to be? I guess that is why they get paid the big bucks. They continued—

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—

I suggest there are a few public officials who should be terminated over the JM Kelly debacle that is happening in Rockhampton and will continue to happen in the next couple of weeks.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.14 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I note the member for Burleigh said that I have not answered their questions. I had not been given the opportunity to sum up, but I will answer those questions now. I can say that the majority, if not all, of the questions that have been put to me by those opposite, including by the member for Toowoomba South, were actually included in my second reading speech, if they had listened. I am happy to go through them again.

I deliberately referenced the Fitzgerald inquiry in my speech not only to underscore the original purpose of the now CCC but also to reflect on how it has evolved to reflect the changing nature of government since that time 30 years ago. The CCC must have the powers to address a changing public sector and a changing model in government service delivery. That is why we have put the definitions that we have.

The member for Scenic Rim asked for clarification on a number of points around the broadening of the definition. The member for Toowoomba South raised this as well, as did the member for Burleigh. I specifically addressed the Queensland Law Society's concerns in my second reading speech. However, I will repeat that the requirements in new section 15(2) are cumulative and a public official will only be required to refer a complaint about this type of conduct if the official reasonably suspects that it involves or may involve corrupt conduct—specifically, 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, as I said in my second reading speech, and is an appropriate limitation to ensure the CCC's jurisdiction and coercive powers are enlivened only in appropriate circumstance. What is more, this is central to the commission's purpose. It is important to note that the existing definition of 'corrupt conduct' under the operation of section 15(1) largely remains in place. This means that those changes made in 2014 which were designed to bring about a reduction in the number of trivial and frivolous complaints remain in place. I can also reassure the member for Kawana that commencement by proclamation allows a methodical rollout to enable units of public administration and the CCC to discuss the impacts of the definitional changes, including appropriate assessment of how and when a matter impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration.

I sought in my second reading speech to be very factual and to not try to politically point-score when talking to a very important piece of legislation. I welcome that those opposite support the bill and support the important fact of seeking to ensure that we do everything possible to fight corruption in the public sector, but I do need to respond to those opposite in relation to the points scoring they seemed to make in talking about past Labor governments. They asserted that a number of past members of this place were charged with corruption, and that statement is not accurate with the names that they necessarily mentioned. They certainly sought to make inferences about past members of this parliament.

Those opposite very conveniently were selective in their history of corruption in this state, particularly the member for Toowoomba South. I would have hoped that, if you were going to give an historical list of members in this place who have wronged this parliament and the community, you would be honest enough to talk about the failings on both sides. We have certainly acknowledged the failings on our side. There are some individuals who have faced prison time in relation to those offences, and we have certainly acknowledged that in the past. It is reasonable to acknowledge the former member for Redcliffe and his actions as a member of parliament. It is the reason why I stand here today as the member for Redcliffe.

I will call him out because of the damage and hurt that that person caused to my community because of what they did. I can tell honourable members that some have never recovered; some have not worked since. I take what happened to them very personally. We should not be selective about the history.

When we talk about integrity and accountability, we are not just talking specifically about those individuals. Honourable members should remember that it was the LNP who came in here and increased political donation thresholds so there was less transparency; voted against the bill to introduce real-time disclosure; changed estimates committee hearings to have less accountability and transparency; stifled complaints to the CCC by forcing complainants wanting to make anonymous complaints to complete a statutory declaration signing their name as to why they want to be anonymous; sacked the PCCC in the dead of the night because they did not like what they were saying; and cut 30 jobs from the Crime and Misconduct Commission, as it was then called.

Members opposite want to talk about appointments. We know of past appointments including Michael Caltabiano as a DG. They stopped publishing annual crime statistics and they gagged community organisations from speaking out against government decisions. These are just some of the things that the LNP did. If they are going to come in here and try to take the high moral ground, they are going to fail because they have a pretty dismal history.

I am pleased that there is bipartisan support for these changes. They are important. We do need to ensure that our crime-fighting body and our body that oversees investigations in relation to corrupt conduct have the power they need. This legislation delivers on an election commitment and delivers on our commitment to ensure the CCC has those powers. I commend the bill to the House. I once again thank all members for their contribution to this debate.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 93, as read, agreed to.

Omission of heading—

 **Mrs D'ATH** (5.22 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 **Part 9 (Amendment of Public Service Regulation 2008)**

Page 75, lines 1 and 2—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[1798\]](#).

I will not speak at length to these amendments. They are consequential, simply reflecting an update in relation to the Public Service Regulation—from 2008 to the 2018 regulation—to ensure that that reference is accurate throughout the legislation.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 94 to 96—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): I note the Attorney's amendment No. 2 proposes to omit clauses 94 to 96. Therefore, the Attorney should oppose the clauses.

Clauses 94 to 96, as read, negated.

Insertion of new clauses—

 **Mrs D'ATH** (5.24 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

3 **After clause 96**

Page 75, after line 13—

insert—

Part 9 Amendment of Public Service Regulation 2018

94 Regulation amended

This part amends the *Public Service Regulation 2018*.

95 Amendment of s 3 (Declared public service offices, their heads, applied provisions and applied rulings—Act ss 21 and 23)

Section 3(1), 'Schedules 1—

omit, insert—

Schedules 2

96 Omission of sch 1 (Crime and Corruption Commission)

Schedule 1—

omit.

97 Amendment of sch 14 (Prescribed State employees)

(1) Schedule 14, item 2, from 'schedules'—

omit, insert—

schedules 2 to 12

(2) Schedule 14, items 5 and 16—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.24 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.24 pm): I move the following amendment—

4 **Long title**

Long title, 'the *Public Service Regulation 2008*—

omit, insert—

the *Public Service Regulation 2018*

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Speaker has delivered a ruling that he has asked me to read. It states—

On 20 September 2018, the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations wrote to me alleging that the Member for Lockyer deliberately misled the House on 19 September 2018, in asking a Question Without Notice to the Premier.

I wrote to the Member for Lockyer seeking a response to the allegation. The Member for Lockyer responded on 8 October 2018.

On the evidence before me, I am of the view that a reasonable person could have been misled by the member's statements.

Whilst the Member for Lockyer has provided an explanation for his statements, in his response, the Member for Lockyer also conceded that the statements could be seen as a reckless interpretation of the documents he tabled. The member indicated his willingness to make a clarifying statement to the House and has subsequently made that statement earlier today.

In light of the member's explanation and his clarifying statement, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I seek leave to table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Correspondence in relation to the allegation by the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Grace Grace, that the member for Lockyer, Mr Jim McDonald MP, deliberately misled the House [\[1799\]](#).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 3329.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.28 pm): As I stated in my inaugural speech, our role and responsibility as a government is to provide an opportunity deposit slip for all Queenslanders and not an entitlement chequebook. It is our responsibility as the government to be an enabler of opportunity, not a provider of assumed entitlement. To stand here in this august chamber and give my address-in-reply after being re-elected for a third term by the people of Chatsworth is indeed a true honour and one that I do not take for granted. I fully realise that it is a privilege and not a right to serve in this chamber. I am truly indebted to the people of Chatsworth, and I thank them for giving me the opportunity of serving as their state member in this, the 56th Parliament.

Just as I did in my inaugural speech just over six years ago, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Jagera and Turrbal peoples. I again reaffirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to her representative, His Excellency the Governor Paul de Jersey, the institution of parliament and of course the electors of Chatsworth, who have entrusted me for the third term of electoral representation in this parliament.

I have been asked by some why I reaffirm my loyalty to Her Majesty, and my response is simple. I have no doubt there will be an Australian citizen as our head of state one day, but whenever the republican debate gathers a head of steam and various models are put forward I am yet to find a model that has all the safeguards and protections that our current constitutional monarchy system offers. I also believe that the level of public service given to the Commonwealth by Queen Elizabeth II is without compare and she is truly a remarkable woman.

Even though I am giving this speech nearly 12 months since the last election, I take this opportunity to once again thank defeated and retiring members of the 55th Parliament for their valuable contributions, and I congratulate all returning and new members of this 56th Parliament. The nature of politics dictates that individuals come and go, but of particular note was the outstanding contribution to public service in this great state by the former member for Southern Downs, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg. He is a man of the highest integrity and decency. Lawrence Springborg epitomised all that is great about serving in public office and all that is great about people who have the rare trait of being respected in equal measure on both sides of the chamber. I wish him well with the next chapter of his life.

I remain steadfastly committed to doing what is best for the Chatsworth electorate, which I am proud to serve. Whilst I am deeply honoured to be the shadow minister for transport and main roads, as I repeatedly say, the most important initials or title one can have as a politician are MP. Without them you are not a minister, shadow minister, whip or anything else.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, there is far too much chatter in the chamber. Take it outside or keep your mouths closed.

Mr MINNIKIN: It reinforces the notion in my mind that serving your local community as an MP is always the highest priority. Nothing has changed. Since first being elected in 2012, my passion to make the local community I represent a better place in which to live will continue to be the focus of what drives me each and every day as a parliamentarian.

I again listened with keen interest to the Governor's opening speech on 14 February outlining the Palaszczuk government's agenda for this 56th Parliament. I read with interest the section dealing with the government's Debt Action Plan, which stated—

My Government will continue its careful management of our state's finances and economy as well as continuing to deliver surpluses and lower general government debt.

What a joke! We know that a few months later the budget handed down by the incompetent Treasurer showed \$83 billion of total government non-financial public sector borrowings over the four-year forward estimates. To be specific, table 2 on page 6 of Budget Paper No. 2 shows a figure of \$83.093 billion.

Being asked by the Leader of the Opposition last year to take on the role of shadow minister for transport and main roads was a real privilege. This portfolio is crucial to the livability and economy of our great state. While it has challenges, it certainly has plenty of opportunities. The transport sector is also a diverse one. Operators who provide goods and services to the community range from family businesses to multinational companies. I have made it my business to meet as many of these people as possible including bus operators; taxi, rideshare and limo drivers; heavy vehicle operators; road and bridge contractors; and train crew and toll road operators, to name some of the incredible people who are helping to make this state great.

During my trips to regional Queensland it is always a feature of my visit to meet with local representatives to make sure that I learn about their concerns and aspirations as I travel across this vast state. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to these people who have taken me into their confidence, shared their concerns, and helped me understand how best I can better assist them. While I will always strive to remain positive with regard to the responsibilities of my role, there are clearly times when the government needs to be held to account for their performance. I will not shirk from this responsibility, whether I am fighting for better public transport services or road upgrades or trying to secure a better deal for motorists such as toll road incentives and real-time fuel price monitoring.

While seeking to improve processing times for transport operators I will maintain a problem-solving attitude along with a relentless approach to keep the Palaszczuk Labor government focused on delivering on their transport and main road commitments. This is no less than the people who elected me expect, and I will not let them down. In terms of holding the Labor government—and in particular the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—to account, unfortunately there have been plenty of occasions to point out where they are short-changing the good people of Queensland. 21 October was the second anniversary of Labor's rail fail, when Queensland Rail commuters had 427 services cut

from the timetable each and every week. Despite two years of ongoing sagas and more than \$160 million in additional costs to try and fix this train wreck, in a recent ABC interview the transport minister was still unable to even offer an informed guess as to when these services might be restored.

While it is widely recognised that more train drivers are required as part of the solution, the minister has allowed the Rail Tram & Bus Union to maintain a 'closed shop' approach to driver recruitment and training. This confirms that the Labor government is completely captured by the unions. It is ruled for the unions and by them. The hand-picked consultant who undertook the commission of inquiry into Queensland Rail's train crewing practices, and who was subsequently appointed chair of Queensland Rail, resigned in September after the bonus payments fiasco for Queensland Rail executives, as did two other QR board members. I am unsure whether 'KPI' stands for 'keep public inconvenience' or 'keep public ill informed'.

In 2017 Signals Passed at Danger, SPADs, were at the highest number for almost a decade, and there were apparently no sanctions against drivers for this dangerous behaviour. This is appalling, and the minister needs to do whatever is necessary to address this issue. Public safety should always be of paramount importance. Despite falling productivity, as measured by driver plate time, drivers and guards received pay increases and bonus payments even for just turning up for work. Some drivers earned in excess of \$180,000 per annum, including overtime. While the union is extracting more from Queensland Rail, it is delivering less for commuters. Average sick leave for drivers continued to climb to 12 days of unscheduled leave each year. There are constant delays on the Sunshine Coast line and a \$230 million shortfall in matching funding for the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. The Cleveland line is now referred to as the 'misery line'.

To make the performance stats appear better, on-time running is calculated on a vastly reduced timetable. They are still questionable and they do not reflect the true situation. How can the minister look at people with a straight face and talk about on-time running, when New Generation Rollingstock is not even included and trains simply bypass stations in order to make up for lost time. Rather than taking responsibility for the debacle the minister continues to deflect blame for the lack of drivers onto the previous LNP government. This is their second term and, in any event, no-one was sacked by the LNP. Some staff took advantage of voluntary early retirements. The old playbook of blaming the previous LNP administration was a complete furphy anyway, as we had the best on-time running performance data of any Australian passenger network.

Despite the transport minister harping on about the reduction in actual driver training time, it has still taken 13 months to train new drivers. As at this month there has only been a net increase of 47 fully qualified drivers since the Strachan inquiry in 2016. Of course, the transport minister seems to have a new figure each time he speaks. Overall patronage of public transport has flatlined over the past four years and has not kept pace with population growth. Furthermore, at the estimates hearing the minister appeared unaware that emergency bus services contracts had to be issued to South-East Queensland's major bus operators to keep them operating while the TMR department continued to struggle with New Generation contracts. The statements made by the minister and the Queensland Bus Industry Council are at odds. Based on credibility I know whom I would believe given the private mangocube email scandal, which is still ongoing. South-East Queensland congestion is a major problem. According to the RACQ surveys, peak-hour traffic speeds have plunged and urgent action is needed to bust worsening congestion.

The Labor government's \$9 billion infrastructure underspend over the past three years has led to Queensland racing for the economic wooden spoon, recording some of the combined worst economic growth and unemployment rates in the country. Under Labor, car registration costs have gone up by twice the inflation rate over the past three years—3½ per cent index rate—placing further burden on motorists already suffering under record petrol prices. Queensland car registration costs are too high. Queensland remains among the most expensive states in which to register a vehicle. It has the highest registration costs in Australia for six- and eight-cylinder vehicles.

Outstanding debts under SPER have climbed to \$1.2 billion. A fraction of this money could form the state's contribution to the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line. The lack of proactive management of infringements at TMR prompted comment from the Queensland Audit Office in February this year about the unnecessary delays at TMR before finally passing them along to SPER for enforcement action. The Audit Office also recommended that TMR reviews the tolling framework in conjunction with the toll operator Transurban and the State Penalties Enforcement Registry to better manage the ballooning tolling debts. Under this Minister for Transport and Main Roads motorists are not encouraged to make greater use of the existing toll roads as they are too costly, with no incentives, thereby adding to congestion across the network.

Speed camera fines are set to increase by 11½ per cent from last year, to \$446 million. This leads to the question of whether these devices are being deployed for genuine road safety, which of course the minister will state is the case, or mere revenue raising. My role as the shadow minister for transport and main roads is to hold this minister to account. I intend to do just that.

Other issues I intend to pursue during the 56th Parliament include Commonwealth-state financial relations and competitive federalism. This incessant, ridiculous blame game between federal and state governments, especially in the key areas of health, transport, infrastructure and education, is beyond a joke. As I have previously stated in this House, urgent reform of our constitutional responsibilities is paramount. I was extremely disappointed following the decision not to proceed with the federal government white paper on this area of vital public policy. As Alan Fenna states in *A People's Federation* at pages 134 and 135—

The high degree of vertical fiscal imbalance (VFI) in Australian Federalism gives the Commonwealth enormous power to intervene at will in the many areas of jurisdiction assigned by the Constitution to the states ... Australia's current fiscal arrangements obscure lines of accountability substantially.

Vertical fiscal imbalance and the duplication of service delivery across the three tiers of government are holding this nation back. The sooner this debate is top and centre of national dialogue, the better. I will speak further on this issue in future speeches.

All politics is local, as other members have said. I will continue to fight hard for the constituents of the Chatsworth electorate and look to improve amenities at various schools in my electorate. I will continue to lobby the education minister to support my recent local petition for air conditioning at the junior campus at Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School.

As I continually acknowledge, there is one aspect of being a politician that unites all of us in this chamber, regardless of our various ideological beliefs. None of us can aspire to high office without the help and wonderful support that we get from important people in our lives. I would like to make some callouts. To the local LNP branch members: thank you for your dedication and professionalism during the last state campaign. As in previous elections, there were several days during the state campaign back in November when the mercury was rising and the weather was particularly hot and uncomfortable, but my dedicated support team continued to hit the pavement and letterbox-dropped targeted areas of the electorate.

Unlike the paid employees of the Transport Workers Union, money can never buy the human spirit. To the many supporters, both from within the Liberal National Party and personal friends, who assisted with the prepoll in the weeks leading up to election day I offer my deepest thanks. I acknowledge Matt, Mike, Drewe, Kerri, Ken, Paul, Hayden, Steven, Greg, Kev and many others. I also again acknowledge the numerous supporters throughout the Chatsworth electorate who enabled me to erect signs along their front yards and fences.

My mother, Denise, was again exceptional in her support throughout the entire campaign, particularly rising to the occasion with prepolling. My love for her knows no bounds. Contrary to popular stereotypes, the support I received throughout the campaign from my mother-in-law, Corina, was also incredible. I thank her from the bottom of my heart, particularly for her sterling efforts during prepoll.

As was the case several years ago when I first ran for preselection, my greatest support base is my immediate family. My two sons, Harrison and Lachlan, worked tirelessly around their university, school and sporting commitments to assist with my campaign. For the third election in a row, I was full of pride and overwhelmed by their work ethic and dedication during the campaign. However, nothing politically will ever surpass my pride in watching them grow up into becoming fine, free-spirited and thinking young men. As I have felt since the moment I laid eyes upon them when they were born, I would give up my life for them in a heartbeat.

Six years ago in my inaugural speech I described my wife, Roslyn, as my rock of Gibraltar. Politically, everything I have achieved as a member of parliament could only ever have been done with the support and assistance of my wife of over a quarter of a century. Roz has been magnificent. She has done a phenomenal job, not just throughout the campaign but also throughout the course of my political career. My success in being elected for a third term is due in no small part to her efforts. Roz, I thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

I have previously stated that our ideological battles here in this hallowed chamber are an important part of the overall democratic process—of course they are—and robust debate is an important part of this, but, as the approximately 1,200 names on the honour board of past members of the Legislative Assembly attests, our time here in this chamber is, relatively speaking, pretty short as a

proportion of our overall life experiences. Therefore, I believe it is incumbent upon all of us to use our privileged time here responsibly, in pursuing tangible outcomes for the electorates we are privileged to serve.

In closing, I dedicate my third address-in-reply speech to the memory of two former members for Chatsworth. Mr Bill Hewitt was a source of great political wisdom to me. He passed away during the last term of parliament. If I can be half the politician this gentleman was, I will leave my time in state parliament very satisfied indeed. The Hon. Terry Mackenroth was the member for Chatsworth for 28 years. Whilst we were divided by political ideology, we were united by our love for the Chatsworth electorate. His years of public service are testament to this fact.

I am truly honoured to be returned for a third term as the state member for Chatsworth. I have previously quoted Hal Colebatch, who stated that the high privilege of democracy cannot be maintained unless the equally exalted responsibilities attracting to it are understood and observed. If I can indelibly change just one person's life in just one small way by serving as a member of parliament, it will be worth it. I will continue to serve the people of the Chatsworth electorate to the best of my ability, knowing it is indeed a real privilege and one I will never, ever take for granted.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.48 pm): I am pleased and humbled to stand in this House today as the representative of the Bundamba electorate. From Bellbird Park to Blackstone, Redbank Plains to Riverview and my beloved community of Goodna, it is my great pleasure and an even greater privilege to serve these communities of working-class men, women and children. I love the people of my electorate, and I thank them for electing me for a record eighth term. I love them and they know it, and they love me because I fight for them no matter what.

The people of Ipswich know that, no matter what, I will be there for them and it heartens me to continue to strive for a fair go for them against inequality in any form and for a fairer and better community that puts people first and that puts their views first as well as their quality of life and their standard of living, which unfortunately at present is falling. The election was won with a lot of hard work by many people with similar values. It is about the volunteers of the Australian Labor Party who gave up countless hours, not just at election time but all the time. These men and women live their lives true to the values of generosity, helping and guiding our local people day in, day out through community organisations like Rise Up, through our churches and through our youth organisations and other community organisations.

I especially want to thank our volunteers who helped stuff envelopes, who stood at roadsides, who put up signs and who spoke to friends and neighbours and also strangers about why they should support me and how we in turn support them—our wonderful members in our community. I especially want to thank Graham and Gillian Lynn; Dean and Lorraine Harvey; Phylis Gilroy and her family and Craig Benfield; Philip Luafatu and the Samoan and Pacifica communities; our wider multicultural communities, especially the Sudanese and Congolese communities that are new in our area; and Michael and Heidi Noon and Des Lourigan for taking the terrific photos we used throughout the campaign. These and our other dedicated volunteers worked hard, as did my electorate officers Steve Axe and Tracey Bradley and my former assistant electorate officer Michael Bertram, who maintains a keen interest. I think I probably hold the record in the House: I have only ever had three people work for me—Steve Axe, Tracey Bradley and Michael Bertram, who only retired because he was very ill.

I also want to thank my family: my long-suffering husband, Neil, of nearly 40 years; Stephanie and Gregg and Brianna for their support, even though they have a great disdain for politics generally, especially the evil nastiness; and of course my late father, George, who passed away recently but remains my hero and especially my coalmining hero. I want to thank the CFMEU for its support, especially Andrew Vickers, Tony Maher and Michael O'Connor amongst many others, including the many sufferers of black lung throughout Queensland whom I will continue to fight for, with and on behalf of across the state—that is, working and retired.

I ran this campaign talking about issues and values. That is what people want and expect from their elected representatives—strong representation on issues that are important to them and the shared values and cohesive and fair society that we all want. I will continue to advocate and agitate for these issues in this House and in our community. I fight for what is right and what members of my community want. They can almost second-guess what I am going to do and what I am going to say because I am part of them and they are part of me.

I want to make it clear following the shenanigans that have gone on in the Ipswich City Council over a few years that my community and I will not be told by any government—whether it be Labor, LNP or any other type—what is good for our community and we will not be told this by any level of

government, whether it be federal, state or local government. My community has had to put up with allegedly corrupt local government and now we have the ruler over every other level of government, including this one, and the hide and cheek of the announcement that we will continue to be a dumping ground when my community hates it. Furthermore, that a rubbish incinerator will be waved through is insulting to every single person who lives in my area.

Make no mistake: together we will fight this proposal as it affects us as people and human beings. It affects our health, our kids' health and it affects our environment and I will stand with them, shoulder to shoulder, and continue to lead it because it is wrong, wrong, wrong on every level. In fact, in the United Kingdom David Drew MP, who is the Labour shadow minister for the environment, said in relation to incinerators—

I remain totally opposed ... and as part of my responsibilities for waste I will be urging movement away from an incinerator as the appropriate form of waste disposal.

He is a Labour MP. Holly Lynch, a Labour MP, said—

Public Health England have been unable to rule out adverse health effects from modern municipal waste incinerators ...

She went on to say that there is a prediction that England will burn more than it recycles in this current financial year. If it was the LNP trying to do this in my electorate we would fight it, but it is the Labor government trying to do this in my electorate, and we will fight it too because it is wrong. We cannot believe that a Labor government is supporting it. It is wrong in principle, it is wrong environmentally and it is wrong in relation to the health of people.

As I said, my community is a fighting community and it has had enough. I want to make it very clear that when other people and other MPs say that we have to have incinerators and dumps because of jobs this is an absolute nonsense. We are not going to sell-out our health and our environment because of a few measly jobs. They are kidding us and we will not tolerate it. We trusted our elected representatives at all levels—federal, state and local—and we trusted them to make the right decisions, only to have that trust thrown back in our faces. That trust is no more, and I completely understand it. When I am the only MP in Ipswich openly against dumps and incinerators and openly against the wanton environmental destruction, that means that something is wrong: either the people are being ignored or it is the arrogance of governments doing things and making decisions for the community that it does not want and that it does not support and those people personally bear the brunt of it day in, day out by smells and by health conditions like asthma, bronchitis, sinus or worse.

Residents want their MPs to truly represent their views, to show some guts and some ticker and fight for them, not be subservient to the businesses which could not give two hoots, public servants who do not care—as senior public servants do not live in Ipswich—and also governments whose jobs are to look after the community, not make the community suffer. Labor governments in particular are there to look after the community. I say: be warned. Ipswich people do not trust parties blindly anymore. We have seen it over the past 15 to 20 years and longer, and who can blame them given the events over the last couple of years and the embarrassment and shame expected to be played out in the courts in 2019 and beyond?

If incinerators—not one, but many, because if you wave through one you are going to wave through many—are approved, I want the ministers and the public servants to come and move into my electorate. I want them to move a couple of hundred metres from the dumps where some of the people in Riverview live, or a kilometre or so from the dumps where the people in Redbank Plains live and the people of Ripley live. If it is not good enough for the ministers and directors-general and the public servants, then it is not good enough for us to put up with it. We will not be dictated to by our postcode, by previous decisions by levels of government about dumps and incinerators, by what is good for everybody else in South-East Queensland and New South Wales but is detrimental to us as a community, our families and our health.

I warn the government—state and federal—and past and future councillors that they bring on these issues at their own peril for they will be held accountable by my community and me. These issues will be fundamental at the next elections and words alone will not cut it. Words are cheap and my community is looking for action. They want the decision to be no in relation to dumps and incinerators. If not, they want legislation to protect them.

I say to the Coordinator-General to take note. We have a right to breathe clean air with no foul smells, to have barbecues without putrid smells and to have a healthy life without the constant worries of respiratory illnesses. These rights are taken for granted by the constituents of every other member in this chamber, except for my people—my punters—and it is not on.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Miller, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Pittsworth, Pedestrian Crossing

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.00 pm): Like many small towns, the main street of Pittsworth is the central business hub where the most activity happens on a daily basis. Like many main streets in regional towns, it is also quite a wide street. In the main street of Pittsworth, Yandilla Street, people can have a meal at one of the local cafes, buy the paper from the newsagency, collect their mail from the post office, do their banking or buy their meat from the butcher. Even the main supermarket is located in this street. However, unlike most small towns, Pittsworth does not have a pedestrian crossing located anywhere on its main street, Yandilla Street. At the last census count in 2016, the population of Pittsworth was 3,294. Most of those people park in Yandilla Street to conduct their business, grab a coffee or do their shopping. On most occasions, at some point they have to cross the street.

Pittsworth is a busy rural town with people from smaller neighbouring communities also utilising the facilities that are available there. Owing to the vehicle activity and the width of the street, it can be hazardous for pedestrians trying to cross from one side of Yandilla Street to the other. Those people include mothers pushing their prams and holding on to small children at the same time, the elderly, schoolchildren and the disabled endeavouring to negotiate this street without the aid of a pedestrian crossing.

Since I was preselected for the electorate of Condamine, I have been advocating and supporting the Pittsworth community in their bid to have a pedestrian crossing constructed on the main thoroughfare, Yandilla Street, which is also the Pittsworth-Felton Road. I have had numerous meetings with the local Transport and Main Roads officers and the Toowoomba Regional Council, on each occasion bringing up the topic of the lack of a pedestrian crossing at Pittsworth.

During the last election campaign, this pedestrian crossing was one of the projects that would have received funding in an LNP government. Recently, I asked the minister a question on notice regarding a date for the construction of a pedestrian crossing. His reply was—

Whilst the Department of Transport and Main Roads have identified the need for a pedestrian crossing on Yandilla Street there are currently no funds available for a construction, however hold that thought, this project is being considered for nomination in the 2019 round of the Annual Targeted Road Safety Program.

Yet in this government's 2018 budget, \$17.3 million will be spent to extend a three-metre wide cycleway from Birdwood Road in Holland Park to Gaza Road in Tarragindi. That cycleway just happens to run between Joe Kelly's electorate of Greenslopes and the electorate of Miller, represented by Mark Bailey, the current Minister for Transport and Main Roads. All Pittsworth wants is one pedestrian crossing. I am sure that would not break the budget and would ensure safety for pedestrians.

Member for Burleigh

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (6.03 pm): All week we have had to listen to baseless allegations made by the member for Burleigh. The member for Burleigh has chosen to use the cover of privilege in this House.

A government member: A cowards castle.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. He has used the cowards castle to defame current members of parliament and also previously serving members of parliament who are not in this House to defend themselves. Tonight, I call on the member for Burleigh to get some guts and go outside this parliament—and the member for Bundamba just used that word. I call on the member for Burleigh to grow some backbone and get outside this parliament and make the same allegations that he makes in the coward's castle. I am not a gambler, I bet \$100 here and now that there is no way on God's earth that he will go outside this parliament and make the same allegations that he has made inside this House.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: I am not talking to the member. I say to the member for Burleigh to put up or shut up. The member for Burleigh—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Cooper, that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I call on the member for Burleigh to show the evidence that he has. The member for Burleigh knows that he has no evidence. Otherwise he would have gone to the CCC.

There is a clear difference between a Labor government and an LNP government. Why do we have a CCC in Queensland? Because when the LNP was in government it could not help being corrupt. The member for Burleigh knows—or he should know; he has been here for a very long time—that neither ministers nor backbenchers are ever involved in procurement decisions. They are decisions made by the public servants and the relevant officers. The member for Burleigh knows that, but he chooses to ignore that and instead comes into this parliament and makes baseless allegations with no evidence.

Tonight, I call on the member for Burleigh to go outside this parliament and say exactly the same things that has he said in here. We all know—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the conveyancing lawyer from across the floor. The member for Burleigh knows that this is defamation and he will not do it. The people of Rockhampton and the people of Central Queensland deserve to know the truth. They deserve the facts, not innuendo, not baseless political claims like the member for Burleigh makes. The member for Burleigh gets a parliamentary date so that he could organise his holiday and not be in parliament. This is a man who is lobbying the council and the government to change the route of stage 3 of light rail to go past his own business, even though it is going to cost taxpayers more money. Why would anyone listen or trust the member for Burleigh? I say to the member for Burleigh to not be a coward, to get outside and—

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

Ms JONES: I withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Four times the member for Cooper used unparliamentary language and said that, because the member for Bundamba had used that word, she could use it. That is not how this place works.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I have corrected the member for Cooper.

Coomera Electorate

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.07 pm): Much is happening in the electorate of Coomera. I have spoken in this place many times about the massive growth that the heart of my electorate, the suburb of Pimpama, is experiencing. Recently, some really big events have occurred. I refer to the opening of the Pimpama City Shopping Centre, which is a \$150 million investment in that fast-growing suburb. Of course, on 11 October there was also the long-awaited—25 years indeed—opening of Westfield Coomera, or at least the first section of it. Sadly, for some people, car park fines at Coomera train station of \$261 put a dampener on the opening of the Coomera Town Centre but, hopefully, common sense will see these mass fines wiped.

As we all know, recently the report of the anti-cyberbullying task force was tabled in this House and the Premier's response was released on Monday, 15 October with all 29 recommendations accepted by the government.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take that interjection. Dovetailing from that event, in the state seat of Coomera is an innovative program with Glass Media, with Chris Boyd the driving force working with TAFE Gold Coast, which is the Stop Bullying Now 2018 program. It will see an expansion into four schools this year. Pimpama State Secondary College was the only school last year, but Coomera Anglican College has come on board, Robina State High School in the Mudgeeraba electorate and Varsity College in the state seat of Mermaid Beach. The focus is on anti-cyberbullying messages. The final post-production is underway as we speak and I understand that the launch date is 11 November.

We have also had the delivery of buddy benches to 14 schools in my electorate. I invited all of the schools to participate and 14 of the 19 said that they would be happy to do so and were looking forward to deliveries. The buddy benches were made with love in partnership with the Pimpama Men's Shed. There was great work done to produce these beautiful benches of spotted gum with stainless

steel fixings. These benches will last a long time. Thanks to president Graham, Frank and Peter who assisted in the delivery. Many Pimpama Men's Shed members assisted in the construction. We have already delivered to Pimpama State School, Pimpama State Primary College, our newest school Picnic Creek State School, Pimpama State Secondary College, Livingstone Christian College, Toogoolawah School, Coomera Rivers State School, Woongoolba State School and Mother Teresa Catholic School. We are yet to deliver to Coomera Anglican College, Ormeau State School, Lords, Coomera Springs State School and Norfolk Village State School. We look forward to delivering those in this final week.

Morayfield Electorate, Schools; Australian Federal Police

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.10 pm): I spoke today about the \$205 million in cuts to the Australian Federal Police budget. The AFP budget has been increasingly short-changed over the past few years. During Senate estimates in 2016 the Federal Police Commissioner acknowledged that the variety of demands in the national security environment puts pressure on staffing levels in the Federal Police. This year the Federal Police Commissioner again acknowledged that work in fighting gangs, drugs and corruption may need to be scaled back to meet the most recent budget cuts to the Federal Police. To be clear, this morning I was referring to the federal LNP government's steady and savage cuts to the AFP budget in my response to a question in the House. Our government remains committed to crime-fighting initiatives to keep Queenslanders safe. I say this to reaffirm our resolve and to add clarity to my comments this morning on those crucial issues of serious and organised crime, drugs, corruption and counterterrorism.

Mr Bleijie: Ministerial statements in the adjournment debate?

Mr RYAN: It is an important issue. I now turn to an electorate matter and that is the investment that our government, the Palaszczuk government, is making in education facilities in the Morayfield state electorate. I want to celebrate that investment tonight in my adjournment speech. We will see some facility improvements to the Caboolture State High School with a \$12 million investment in new facilities that will create a new senior learning centre as well as other facilities at the school. I am very excited that Caboolture State High School will be receiving those facilities by the end of next year.

At Morayfield East State School we will see budget money allocated for the refurbishment of the special education unit and also some funding for an exciting project for the school and that is an expanded staff car parking facility. Why that is exciting, Mr Deputy Speaker, and as a former school principal I am sure you will appreciate, is that by allowing greater facilities for our teachers we are able to free up capacity for other people to attend the school, including parents. At a growing school like Morayfield East State School, having that extra car parking facility ensures that people are able to get their kids to and from school safely and effectively.

I am pleased that the Minister for Education is here to hear this contribution tonight because she is a strong advocate for public education and investment in education facilities. She will be pleased to hear that there is some refurbishment money for Morayfield High, Minimbah State School, Burpengary Meadows State School, Caboolture State School and Caboolture Special School. One thing I do have to put on the record is that my advocacy around a performing arts centre for Morayfield State High School will be front and centre this year, next year and until it is delivered. I am looking forward to having persuasive conversations with the minister about that.

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to inform the House of two important community events that take place in the electorate of Moggill. Firstly, the Karana Downs Brisbane River Markets and, secondly, the Pullenvale Folk Festival. The Brisbane River Markets take place on the fourth Sunday of each month in the leafy surrounds of the Brisbane River Golf Club which is located in Karana Downs. Local artist Tanja Stark and her fiancé Jason have been operating the markets since March of this year and they are to be commended for their success. The markets are a fantastic way to celebrate everything that is great about our local community and with over 1,500 visitors in July they are growing rapidly.

Crucial to the success of the markets is the participation by local vendors who ensure that a wide variety of products and experiences are offered to all who attend. The markets are geared towards providing something for everyone, including pets. Visitors can enjoy food stalls which sell fresh meats, organic produce and homemade preserves. They can enjoy live music, workshops for arts and crafts and a variety of activities for kids. Most importantly, the markets are a great opportunity to showcase our local talent and produce. It was a pleasure to attend at the markets recently and I encourage others in the electorate of Moggill and beyond to come along and support these local markets.

I also had the pleasure this year of joining Councillor Kate Richards at the Pullenvale Folk Festival. As always it was fantastic to see so much local talent on display. I commend both Councillor Richards and the Rotary Club of Kenmore on their success. The turnout this year was almost 4,000 attendees with people coming from across Brisbane to join in the fun. The festival boasts a variety of children's activities, al fresco dining and food vans and, of course, live local musicians. This year's line-up included Cameron Milford, John Fegan, Flower and Trengrove, Ruby Gilbert, 8 Ball Aitken, Hillbilly Goats and Juzzie Smith to name just a few. All performers were outstanding and had the crowd on their feet for most of the day. I would encourage all local artists interested in performing at next year's festival to register their interest with Brisbane City Council. The success of this year's event has cemented the Pullenvale Folk Festival on the community events calendar and it will occur again in late July of next year.

I also take this opportunity to mention that I recently attended the Kenmore State High School 2018 Premier Awards night. The junior secondary student of the year is a highly contested and coveted award. Congratulations to Zoe Hennessy. Zoe has achieved outstanding academic results across all her subjects. She has been involved in numerous school activities and she has consistently upheld the school's values. The Kenmore State High School dux for 2018 is Parsa Emami. Parsa is a very deserving recipient who has achieved outstanding results this year and who consistently achieved amazing results throughout his time at Kenmore State High School. I offer my congratulations to him. It was terrific to present the dux award and the junior secondary student of the year award on the night.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge my good friend and a former constituent of the electorate of Moggill, Mr Daniel King, who will join me tonight for dinner in the parliamentary Stranger's Dining Room. His parents, James and Joy, and his brother Ben have been friends over years and I have certainly enjoyed their hospitality.

Algester Electorate

 Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.16 pm): I am fortunate to have 12 wonderful schools within my electorate of Algester with incredibly dedicated teachers and support staff. I had the pleasure of visiting some of these schools recently to celebrate World Teachers' Day and I regularly host school leaders in parliament. Recently Wisdom College was represented by students Malek Moussa, Kate Luces and Huzeufe Coskun. They were accompanied by their principal, Mr Murat Guzal, and teacher Andrew Leigh. Watson Road State School was also represented by school captains Sara Noor and Elena Obradovic, accompanied by Deputy Principal Alex Paterson.

Teachers in my electorate of Algester happily share the great successes of their students. They also share with me the challenges their students face. Some families are really doing it tough in my community. There are many stories of families going without three meals a day simply because they cannot afford it. Some schools in the Algester electorate, like Watson Road State School, run breakfast programs coordinating with the not-for-profit sector to help make sure each child receives breakfast.

The evidence is clear that a healthy diet, beginning with a healthy breakfast, is imperative to successful learning. Programs like the food co-op at Belong in Acacia Ridge are vital in our community. The vast majority of people seeking support from the food co-op are in insecure or part-time work. They are proud people and, whilst they may have a job, the conditions of their employment mean there are times when they simply do not have enough money to make ends meet. Alarmingly there has been a significant increase in demand for the Belong service in recent times. I understand that local residents queue outside as early as 7 am to meet the opening time of 9 am just to ensure they have food for the day. That is why I have taken on the challenge to work with my community to support their food co-op program. I am hosting a fundraiser for this fantastic program on Thursday, 22 November in cooperation with the Archerfield Airport Corporation.

The special guest for the evening will be Deputy Premier and Treasurer Jackie Trad. I am really looking forward to the night and raising some much needed money to go into the local community to support hardworking families and a better future for our children. Belong at Acacia Ridge has been doing an incredible amount of work for local people who, as I said, have been doing it incredibly tough. This fundraiser will go a long way towards supporting Belong and their efforts to make sure that people have access to good, wholesome food to ensure that they have healthy homes, healthy children and a healthy outlook. I welcome and encourage everybody in the House to come and be a part of the fundraiser, to support the local community at Acacia Ridge. Come along and enjoy the evening's events at the Archerfield airport.

Sunshine Coast, Public Transport

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.19 pm): The Sunshine Coast's population is booming. In fact, some estimates are that 8,000 people move to the coast every year. However, 120,000 fewer bus trips are now being made compared to five years ago, showing that our public transport system is failing. This Labor government has dropped the ball on public transport by failing to ensure that bus services meet the needs of Sunshine Coast residents.

The Sunshine Coast needs a proper integrated transport system that allows people to travel where they need to go when they need to go there. People need to be consulted about the services that they need, including the where and the when. It is also about ensuring that buses connect more effectively with train services and that there actually are more train services. It should not be rocket science, but when we see that the population is up yet the number of bus trips are down on the figures from five years ago it shows that something is broken and it needs to be fixed. It is absolutely necessary that there is a proper integrated transport system that uses not only the existing infrastructure far better but also augments that infrastructure and overcomes current problems to ensure that there are better and seamless connections, so that more people will choose to take buses and trains.

When the LNP was in government, we cut the cost of fares because under Labor the year-on-year increase—which I believe was about 15 per cent each year—was unsustainable. That left an impact on our public transport system. People found that not only could they not go where they wanted to go but also it cost too much.

I call on the government to get serious about public transport. We need to more effectively use the infrastructure that we have, as well as build infrastructure that will improve connections. We should not have a situation where up to 8,000 people move to the Sunshine Coast each year yet 120,000 fewer bus trips are being made compared to five years ago. That is a complete debacle. As a first world country, there should be a better answer. Not only on the Sunshine Coast but across the broader South-East Queensland region, we should have a proper integrated system that connects people to their work, their shops, their services and their families so that people who are caught on congested roads have some true relief.

Redlands Electorate; War on Wrecks Taskforce

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.22 pm): In the month of October we celebrate our educators. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all our teachers in the Redlands as we approach the end of the year. Last week was World Teachers' Day. The Redlands is blessed to have many wonderful teachers, teacher aides and support staff.

This is a really important time of the year for all senior students across Queensland as they head into exams, and especially year 12 students as they contemplate the studies and careers that lay ahead. I had the honour of speaking with our year 12 students at Victoria Point State High School. I told them how proud our community was of them and spoke of their need to remain focused on the challenge of the next few weeks and the wonderful opportunities that lay ahead of them. Many of the students were really excited to learn about the free TAFE opportunities the Palaszczuk government is providing.

Victoria Point State School held their colour fun run. Can I say what an absolute hoot that was! The pink dye lasted in my hair for about three days. The students had a ball, and parents and teachers got involved. It was a great way to raise money for the school. I give a big shout-out to Anne-Marie and the whole P&C team who did a wonderful job.

Last week we averted a major crisis, but had problems nonetheless, when a water pipe split on Karragarra Island. Water was cut not only to Karragarra but also to Macleay and Lamb islands, affecting over 6,000 island residents. I thank my community; not only did they rally around each other to help neighbours but also they remained calm and were patient while repairs were carried out, despite some uncertainty in the first instance as to the extent of the issue. They showed strength and resilience. On behalf of our community, I thank Seqwater and the Redland City Council crew that worked through the night and the coming days to restore water, and quality water at that.

With Deputy Mayor Lance Hewlett I hosted community safety forums on Coochiemudlo Island and on the mainland at Victoria Point. I thank our amazing Redlands police officers, Volunteers in Policing, Crimestoppers and the Redland City Council compliance officers who participated. A special thanks and shout-out goes to Brendan Winslow who, with Chris Hebblesworth, is doing amazing work

as the QPS community liaison officer in arranging all of our Coffee with a Cop events. We have Coffee with a Cop coming up on Macleay Island at the Organic Market, which will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with Dave and Carolyn, our local police officers. They do a wonderful job on the island.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Yeppoon and the wonderful community of the member for Keppel for public consultation on the War on Wrecks Taskforce, as we continue to work our way down the Queensland Coast. Our Palaszczuk government is committed to consulting with Queenslanders on the issue of abandoned vessels and good waterways management. I note that the member for Bonney and the member for Broadwater raised this issue today. We look forward to coming to the Gold Coast on 30 November to talk further with those communities.

I mention the Victoria Point boaties market, which was a fantastic event. Finally, I thank the Minister for Sport, Mick de Brenni, the Redlands Rugby League Club and Troy Clarkson for an incredible day. The Legends of League program is great for our schools and great for the whole community.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Surfers Paradise, I acknowledge that joining us in the public gallery is the Guides group from Stafford and Chelmside, in the electorate of Stafford. We have some of their leaders and parents joining us, as well.

Gold Coast, Police Resources

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.26 pm): The Labor government has no credibility when it comes to keeping our citizens safe on the Gold Coast. Just this morning we heard the police minister make a bizarre statement that indicates that we can expect fewer police in the future because technology helps to catch crooks more quickly. That is literally what the police minister said this morning in this place. I table a copy of the editorial of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, which says 'Coast wants actual cops', talking about approved strength as opposed to actual strength. Now the *Gold Coast Bulletin* will have to follow up with an editorial questioning whether our police have enough technology and asking if that is the reason we do not have enough police on the Gold Coast.

Tabled paper. Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 November 2018, titled 'Coast wants actual cops' [[1800](#)].

The Gold Coast needs more police. You need only open the *Gold Coast Bulletin* or see the crime statistics to see that crime is spiralling out of control in our city, yet all we continue to hear from the minister is political spin. Today on page 8 of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, there are three separate stories: one about crime statistics, one about a shortfall at Nerang and one about the fact that there is no prospect of getting extra police from the Commonwealth Games leftover money. I table a copy of page 8 of today's *Gold Coast Bulletin*.

Tabled paper. Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 November 2018, titled 'Coast cops fresh Games cash snub' [[1801](#)].

Our police officers do a fantastic job, which is why, along with all Gold Coast LNP members of parliament, I want to ensure that they have the resources and the watertight legislation that they need to keep criminals off our streets and out of our homes. However, Labor seems to be in denial, which brings back memories of how the former Bligh Labor government responded to the concerns of members of parliament when we were having issues with bikies, armed robberies and violent criminals in the lead-up to 2012. Look at how that turned out.

Over the past few weeks under Labor, this is what has unfolded: we have learned that the coast will not be getting a dedicated drug squad or any additional police from money left over from the Commonwealth Games, despite the fact that the number of people dying from drug overdoses on the Gold Coast has risen by 75 per cent over the past decade. We have learned that some of the Gold Coast police budget is being funnelled into Logan. In one day, Labor police minister Mark Ryan gave us three different figures on police numbers. The Premier admitted that the Gold Coast now has fewer police than two years ago. Of course, we cannot check the numbers, because the annual statistical review has not been released. Apparently, it is still sitting on the Treasurer's desk. That is so frustrating for the LNP, the media and Queenslanders who just want our communities to be safe.

According to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, in Surfers Paradise senior police have been put on desk duty. That is a sad reflection of how Anastacia Palaszczuk and her Labor government regard the Gold Coast, as they strip our city of much needed police numbers and resources. Last year, Labor removed the offence of breach of bail for juvenile criminals, meaning that young offenders are committing violent crimes time and again, with no consequences. Offences against the person committed by youth offenders are up 22 per cent from 567 in 2014-15 to 694 in 2017-18. Only the LNP has a track record of implementing policies that make the Gold Coast the best, safest and most prosperous place to live, work, play and raise a family.

World Teachers' Day

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.29 pm): Last week was World Teachers' Day. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the incredible educators across our state who teach and inspire future generations. I believe that every child should receive a quality education regardless of their postcode or background, and it is a privilege we have here in Queensland that we should never take for granted. We are incredibly lucky to have so many talented educators in the Gaven electorate. I want to congratulate one of our own, Natalie Harris from Pacific Pines Primary School, for winning the Queensland College of Teachers, 2018 Dr Alan Druery OAM Excellence in Teaching Award.

We also have some passionate, caring and determined P&Cs in our community. I want to thank Worongary State School and William Duncan State School for their relentless advocacy in support of their principals, Landan Dare and Reegan Gant. Many of the parents at these two schools were ready to get out there with a petition to keep their much loved principals. I am pleased and relieved that the Department of Education has seen what amazing work these two men do and granted them permanency in their positions at those two schools.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to speak about Mr Dean Harawira, or Mr H as he is commonly referred to. Nerang State High School had a special visit recently from members of the band Sheppard to announce that Mr H has been nominated for the ARIA Music Teacher of the Year Award. It is no surprise as to why. Mr H is well known in the community for the work he does with the funk band and the incredible drum line which has competed in national and international competitions and won an array of awards. Only last week I saw them perform at Country Paradise Parklands when *Sunrise* visited Nerang and at their awards night at the Home of the Arts.

Mr H works with many teenagers in our community who are disengaged and he has given them a goal to strive towards and helped them achieve better results. Douglas, a year 12 student who recently starred in the school's performance of *Annie*, that I had the privilege of seeing, said—

I went in because I love music and as soon as I started talking to Sir—

Mr H—

he fired me with everything he had. He gave me shot after shot to have something in this world.

Mr H has been a foster parent to five children and he said when interviewed recently—

I just found that music was very healing for all of my family. That's why I'm here.

If I can pass some knowledge on that I have and change someone's life that means more than any award.

I think those words show why Mr H was nominated and how passionate, talented and loved he is. The winner is decided by public vote so I ask that all MPs in this chamber get behind one of our local teachers and spread the word in their communities. He is the only Queensland finalist in this category so we need help to show Australia that he is the best music teacher in the country.

The House adjourned at 6.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, 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