



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 13 November 2018

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TUESDAY, 13 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of assent: 9 November 2018

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2017

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2017

A Bill for an Act to amend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016, the Duties Act 2001, the Duties Regulation 2013, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017, the Taxation Administration Act 2001, the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1984, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Public Service Act 2008 and the Public Service Regulation 2018 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Catherine Holmes


Acting Governor

9 November 2018

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 November 2018, from the Acting Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 9 November 2018 [[1863](#)].

REPORT


Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 7 of 2018-19 titled *Conserving threatened species*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 7: 2018-19—Conserving threatened species [\[1864\]](#).


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Minister

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received a notification and supporting certification from the member for Mundingburra and Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. The member was absent last sitting week and will be absent this sitting week. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A. I note that the Premier on 30 October advised the Assembly of acting ministerial arrangements.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Question on Notice, Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 115(a) provides that questions on notice shall be brief and relate to one issue. On Thursday, 18 September 2018 the member for Maiwar asked a question on notice of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. The member's question was drafted to relate to one topic; namely, ID scanners required by licensees in safe night precincts. However, it contains a significant number of subquestions, running from (a) through to (g), with subquestion (a) also broken down into three parts. Each of the subquestions could be a single issue and separate question.

Former Speakers and I have warned members about asking questions that relate to more than one issue or that contain unreasonable subquestions. I refer to Speaker Fouras's ruling on 10 June 2005 at page 2077, Speaker Reynolds's ruling on 13 November 2007 at page 4109 and my ruling on 14 June 2018 at page 1527.

I rule question on notice No. 1472 of 2018, submitted by the member for Maiwar, out of order on the basis that it is not brief and contains an unreasonable number of subquestions. I remind all members that if they ask questions with multiple parts they run the risk that some parts will not be answered to their satisfaction. They also run the risk that the question will be ruled out of order, as is the case today, particularly where the subquestions amount to a separate issue. If a member requires further information or guidance about a matter then the member may ask further questions.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Parliamentary Exchange

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this week we are hosting two officers from the New Zealand Parliament's Office of the Clerk as part of an exchange program that has been operating between Queensland and New Zealand. Ms Amy Highton is a parliamentary reporter and Ms Erin Grace is a publisher soon to be attached to the New Zealand Table Office. They will be observing operations in our Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service and Table Office this week. We welcome Amy and Erin.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from Anglican Church Grammar School in the electorate of South Brisbane, Durack State School in the electorate of Inala and Burleigh Heads State School in the electorate of Burleigh.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

Clifton-Leyburn Road, Speed Limit and Upgrade

Mr Weir, from 209 petitioners, requesting the House to assess the speed limit on the Clifton-Leyburn Road and provide urgent upgrades to ensure the safety of drivers and all road users [\[1855\]](#).

Currumbin Creek Road, Review

Mrs Stuckey, from 196 signatures, requesting the House to conduct a review of road conditions on Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Waters [\[1856\]](#).

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

Ormeau-Pimpama, Police Resources

Mr Crandon, from 2,174 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a Police Hub in the Ormeau/Pimpama region and provide an additional 35 police officers [\[1857, 1858\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Commercial Fishers, Declarations and Compensation

Mr Dametto, from 284 petitioners, requesting the House to review the proposed changes regarding declarations and compensation for fishing businesses [\[1859\]](#).

Sunshine Coast District Water Police, Resources

Mr McArdle, from 165 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the police numbers of the Sunshine Coast District Water Police [\[1860\]](#).

Carmila Beach, Clairview and St Lawrence, Zoning Laws

Mr Andrew, from 374 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct local studies and site-specific oceanography before introducing new zoning laws for the coastal communities at Carmila Beach, Clairview and St Lawrence [\[1861\]](#).

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

Incinerators in Urban Areas

From 4,008 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the application and any further applications for incinerators within city limits of Ipswich and any city in Queensland [\[1862\]](#).

Petitions received

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

2 November 2018—

[1802](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board—Annual Report 2017-18

[1803](#) Ethics Committee: Report No. 180, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2017-18

[1804](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 17, 56th Parliament—Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018

[1805](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3024-18), from 782 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to the protection of shark species and cease the use of shark nets and drumlines

[1806](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools (Auditor-General's Report 15: 2016-17)—government update

6 November 2018—

[1807](#) Queensland State Archives—Annual Report 2017-18

[1808](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade Mission to Japan and Singapore by the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), 1-6 October 2018

[1809](#) Report on the administration of the Marine Parks Act 2004 (reporting period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018)

[1810](#) Report on the administration of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (reporting period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018)

[1811](#) Report on the administration of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (reporting period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018)

[1812](#) Queensland Heritage Council—Annual Report 2017-18

7 November 2018—

- [1813](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding application of same question rule and the Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill 2018

8 November 2018—

- [1814](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 18, 56th Parliament—Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

9 November 2018—

- [1815](#) Podiatry Board of Australia—Registration Standard: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines—1 August 2018
[1816](#) Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia—Nurse practitioner standards for practice—Effective from 1 January 2014
[1817](#) Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia—Midwife standards for practice
[1818](#) Optometry Board of Australia—Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines

12 November 2018—

- [1819](#) Letter, dated 9 November 2018, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding extrinsic documents referred to in the Health Legislation (Scope of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2018
[1820](#) Electricity Distribution Network Code (Version 3) made under the Electricity Act 1994
[1821](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 19, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 5 September 2018 and 18 September 2018
[1822](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 20, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2017-2018

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Drugs Misuse Act 1986—

- [1823](#) Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2018, No. 169
[1824](#) Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2018, No. 169, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [1825](#) Aboriginal Land (North Stradbroke Island) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 170
[1826](#) Aboriginal Land (North Stradbroke Island) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 170, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [1827](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Danbulla Forest Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 171
[1828](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Danbulla Forest Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 171, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [1829](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Disaster Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 172
[1830](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Disaster Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 172, explanatory notes

Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999—

- [1831](#) Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming (Designated Day) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 173
[1832](#) Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming (Designated Day) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 173, explanatory notes

Health Act 1937, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011—

- [1833](#) Health Legislation (Scope of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 174
[1834](#) Health Legislation (Scope of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 174, explanatory notes

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

- [1835](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 175
[1836](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 175, explanatory notes

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017—

- [1837](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 176
[1838](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 176, explanatory notes

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1839](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 177

[1840](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 177, explanatory notes

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017—

[1841](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 178

[1842](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 178, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[1843](#) Fisheries (Vessel Tracking) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 179

[1844](#) Fisheries (Vessel Tracking) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 179, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

[1845](#) Professional Standards (The Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2018, No. 180

[1846](#) Professional Standards (The Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2018, No. 180, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

[1847](#) Professional Standards (The Law Society of New South Wales Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2018, No. 181

[1848](#) Professional Standards (The Law Society of New South Wales Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2018, No. 181, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade Mission



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): I have good news for Queensland—more jobs, more investment and an even brighter future for all of us. Soon it will be a year since the last election—a year in which we have created 39,100 additional jobs, taking the number of jobs created to over 170,000 since we were elected in 2015; we have increased investment in building infrastructure to \$11.6 billion a year, creating even more jobs especially across regional Queensland; we have grown the Queensland economy each and every quarter that we have been in government; and we have achieved record exports of \$77.6 billion, which is up \$6 billion on last year and more than New South Wales and Victoria combined.

Creating jobs and a strong economy is my government's No. 1 priority. Nothing creates jobs like trade and I can reveal that more good news is on the horizon. This is a result of high-level meetings I held last week with two of our biggest trading partners: China and Korea. Together they buy more than \$30 billion worth of our exports. As a result of this past week, I can reveal that they will invest much more right here in Queensland. As a result of these meetings, there will be more jobs created and the vast majority of them will be in regional Queensland. The details are not for me to reveal yet, but stay tuned, Mr Speaker. You will not have to wait long.


Countries like China and Korea are not investing in Queensland by accident. In China I led a delegation of 14 local businesses taking part in the giant China International Import Expo. Kilcoy Pastoral Co., a company founded here in the fifties, is now called Kilcoy Global Foods—a homegrown international success story. Lorna Jane and Capilano Honey are two more household names reaching millions more homes overseas. To them we can add health goods manufacturer Sanofi from Virginia and Patheon Biologics from Woolloongabba adding to Queensland's impressive global brand for cutting-edge medical science.

As a result of this trade mission, the giant Alibaba online payment platform is adding Queensland tourism operators to its list of preferred businesses. Workshops are being held on the Gold Coast and Cairns to help hotels and tourist parks access Alibaba and their 660 million Chinese customers. Brand 'Queensland' is associated with innovation and cutting-edge research. Our sister state relationships with Shanghai and Gyeonggi put us ahead of other states.

My government's leadership on renewable energy is particularly applauded, and our target of generating 50 per cent of our electricity from renewable energy is well known. When you go to places like Seoul and Shanghai you learn why no-emission technology is not something they can wait for. Many European countries have signalled that they will ban internal combustion engines by 2025. If they cannot sell them, car makers will not make them. It is why manufacturers like Hyundai are perfecting

hydrogen powered vehicles—which I was able to test drive while I was over there—and it is why a number of companies are interested in investing in hydrogen production here in Queensland. These are just a few examples of the great things coming to Queensland and I look forward to revealing more in coming weeks.

Strawberry Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I would like to congratulate the Queensland police on what has been a very complex investigation into trying to find those responsible for the strawberry contamination scare. A 50-year-old woman has been charged with seven counts of contamination of goods. In addition, a circumstance of aggravation will be alleged. These are serious charges—


Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I question whether what you are inferring in your statement is sub judice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I am not going into the police investigation at all. I am just talking about the charges.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Premier. I need to take some advice from the table. Premier, whilst I think the House is very interested in the subject matter that you are talking to, given that there is a process with charges pending I would ask that you move on to another section of your ministerial statement.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Of course I do not want to cause any interpretation there, but I do want to remind everyone that there is still a \$100,000 reward and I would urge people to come forward if they have any further advice. I do want to congratulate the police. This has been a very important issue for Queensland and the farmers and the growers. We will not be saying anything that would cause any impact on any police investigation.

Skills and Industry Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): In the lead-up to my government's skills summit on 28 November, significant events are already accelerating our progress towards future jobs. I was delighted yesterday to visit the University of Queensland, which has received a major software grant from global engineering firm Siemens to invest in the future of advanced manufacturing. More than 2,500 software licences will allow UQ students to become familiar with programs used by leaders of new industries. Siemens puts the commercial value of this grant at more than \$500 million, the largest grant of its kind in Australia. What it means is that students in a variety of disciplines will get hands-on experience using the digital tools and software platforms they are likely to encounter when they enter the workforce. It is exactly the sort of new thinking we are promoting through our Advance Queensland program which we will explore further at the Skills and Industry Summit. Our Advance Queensland initiatives in science and medicine are attracting world attention, as I discovered last week in China and South Korea.

The software grant is an important milestone for higher education in our state and the University of Queensland in particular. It is a tribute to the university and the work being done there to prepare graduates for the workplace of the future. I congratulate Siemens for its willingness to partner with the University of Queensland. This is the sort of cooperation between industry and higher education we intend to achieve from the skills summit. This partnership is about job creation, skills development and innovation which are my government's focus and the focus of the summit in two weeks.

Australian of the Year Awards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): Every day ordinary Queenslanders are doing extraordinary things, often without attention or praise, dedicating their life's work to make a difference in the lives of others. Occasionally we get to shine a spotlight on these incredible stories and give recognition and appreciation of their hard work.

Queensland's Australian of the Year Awards were held on the weekend, and I want to congratulate all the nominees this year. They were all outstanding. Detective Inspector Jon Rouse, who for the past 22 years has undertaken the heartbreaking but vital work of investigating crimes against children, was named Queensland's Australian of the Year. He is recognised for his pioneering role in rescuing and protecting children in Australia and around the world by proactively targeting internet child sex offenders. His team of experts arrested 251 offenders on 2,853 sex offence charges in 14 months to March 2018 which highlights the profound importance and effectiveness of this investigation work.

Leading agricultural biotechnology scientist, researcher and humanitarian, Distinguished Professor James Dale, the inaugural Director of the Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities at QUT, was named Queensland's Senior Australian of the Year. The founder of Australia's first molecular farming company, Professor Dale has been leading groundbreaking research to improve the nutritional value and disease resistance of crops and develop edible plant based vaccines benefiting millions of lives across the globe.

Australia's first fashion model with a disability to feature in a national television campaign, Angel Dixon, was named Queensland's Young Australian of the Year. Ms Dixon is a passionate activist, supporter and advocate for disability inclusion and human rights as well as an inspirational public speaker, blogger and the designer of a line of walking canes that will be marketed as a fashion accessory.

Australia's local hero from Queensland is Elijah Buol, a former refugee from South Sudan who completed a Master of Laws in criminology and spends much of his time helping young and disadvantaged members of ethnic communities to successfully work in Australia. I commend these four outstanding Queenslanders on being named our Australians of the year, and I wish them every success in the national awards in Canberra on Australia Day.

Melbourne, Violent Incident



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): All of Queensland mourns the horrific attack in Melbourne on Friday. We were shocked and we were outraged, but most of all we were saddened. We join with Victorians who have lost community leader Sisto Malaspina, the owner of Melbourne's famous Pellegrini's cafe, who by all reports was only trying to help a man he thought was in trouble. I join with Victoria's Premier, Daniel Andrews, in paying tribute to police, paramedics and members of the public for their incredible bravery. I met with our Police Commissioner yesterday, and he advised that, after a thorough review of events, there is no connection to Queensland but extra police were deployed for Sunday's Armistice commemorations around the state. We remain vigilant and defiant. Extremism is always wrong. We must never let our guard down, but we can never let it rule our lives.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I did not want to interrupt the Premier, but there is too much general conversation in the chamber. I ask you to take your conversations outside if you wish to continue them.

Queensland Economy



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.47 am): With the end of 2018 fast approaching, I would like to reflect on the outstanding performance of the Queensland economy and labour market in 2018. Under this government almost another 40,000 trend jobs were created over the year to September 2018.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Deputy Premier. Members to my left, I hear the Deputy Premier's ministerial statement. It appears to be a factual statement. I would ask you to cease your interjections or I will start naming members.

Ms TRAD: Under the Palaszczuk Labor government almost another 40,000 trend jobs were created over the year to September 2018. The total trend number of jobs created under this government has now increased to 170,000—an average of 3,860 more Queenslanders finding work every month. Compare this record to the LNP's period in government when almost 8,000 full-time jobs in Queensland simply disappeared. We inherited an employment rate of 6.6 per cent, and I am pleased to say that this rate has now been reduced to 6.1 per cent under the Palaszczuk government.

I am also pleased to announce the outcomes of the recently released state account figures. In year-on-year terms, the Queensland economy grew by a remarkable 3½ per cent to June 2018, a ringing endorsement of the Palaszczuk government's economic plan. With the LNG construction boom winding down, Queensland's domestic economy continues to strengthen with state final demand up by 3.8 per cent in year-on-year terms to June 2018. Our government continues to back Queensland businesses and our economic plan allows businesses to thrive, invest and employ more Queenslanders. Mr Speaker, you do not have to take my word for it: the private sector is saying the same thing. The NAB quarterly business survey recently ranked business conditions in Queensland as

the second highest amongst the mainland states in the September quarter to 2018. While those opposite continue to talk down the economy, the only thing that is crumbling in Queensland is business confidence in the chaotic federal Morrison government. If business confidence figures yesterday show anything, it is that the Queensland economy is doing well because of Labor and in spite of the Morrison federal government. The Palaszczuk government—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: The Palaszczuk government is interested in building and so is the private sector in Queensland. The state accounts confirm that improved conditions—

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: The Palaszczuk Labor government is interested in building and so is the private sector in Queensland. The state accounts confirm that improved conditions and confidence have seen business investment grow by an impressive 12 per cent in the year to June 2018. Queensland's trade sector has also gone from strength to strength in 2018. Our overseas merchandise exports of \$77.6 billion in the 12 months to September are the highest on record.

This government champions the Queensland trade sector which creates and sustains many thousands of export-generating jobs throughout the state. For instance, in Mackay, the jobs from trade have pulled the region's unemployment rate down from 5.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent over our period in government. As these figures show, our government has a lot to be proud of. The ongoing strong performance of Queensland's economy in 2018 is further proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plan is working and delivering for Queensland.

QIMR Berghofer, Funding



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.51 am): On Melbourne Cup day last week, Cross Counter may have won the great race, but Queensland secured the trifecta of research, investment and advanced jobs in biomedicine. On cup day, I announced a \$1.4 million boost in funding to leading medical research institute QIMR Berghofer which will support 40 full-time jobs at its Q-Gen facility in Herston as well as grow QIMR Berghofer's reputation as a world leader in immunotherapies.

The \$1.4 million in funding assisted the institute to secure a deal with US biopharmaceutical company Atara Biotherapeutics to develop immunotherapy treatments for clinical trials locally and in the United States and Europe. Immunotherapy works by training the immune system to recognise and destroy cancer and other harmful cells. Through our government's support, QIMR Berghofer can now expand its cell therapy facility, Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics, including purchasing specialised laboratory equipment. That means that Atara has agreed to extend its agreement with QIMR Berghofer to collaborate on research and development of new immunotherapies for cancer. The upgraded Q-Gen facility could also attract clinical trials to Queensland that may otherwise be conducted overseas. The project was supported by \$700,000 from the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning and \$700,000 from Queensland Health. I thank the Minister for Health for his strong support for Queensland's growing biomedical sector.

We believe a large part of the success of our mission to grow Queensland's economy relies on agreements like those recently signed between QIMR Berghofer and Atara. The Palaszczuk government's 10-year biomedical roadmap and action plan is attracting projects like this to Queensland. Our 10-year plan was developed in close consultation with industry to create high-value knowledge based jobs of the future and drive export growth for the industry—and, Mr Speaker, we are delivering.

In February, medical device manufacturer Cook Medical added 94 staff to its Eight Mile Plains facility to meet export demand for its life-changing stent devices. Fuelling the government's vision for this industry are programs such as our \$2 million Biomedical Assistance Fund, which delivers financial assistance to Queensland biomedical businesses developing innovative biomedical products.

Queensland's biomedical sector in 2015-16 added \$1.4 billion to the state's economy and employed 9,440 people. It is forecast to grow by up to 38 per cent over the next 10 years to \$1.9 billion and potentially generate a further 3,000 jobs. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to backing this growing industry and the thousands of jobs for Queenslanders it is supporting and creating now and into the future.

Tourism Industry



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.53 am): Today I am pleased to announce that this weekend we will host the first ever international T20 cricket match on the Gold Coast. This is all thanks to our investment for the Commonwealth Games to transform Metricon Stadium into being capable of hosting elite athletics events. We invested in broadcast quality lighting and a drop-in wicket for Metricon Stadium so we can now host international cricket on the Gold Coast, a lasting legacy of the Commonwealth Games. Howzat, Mr Speaker!

Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: I invite the Prime Minister to come and have a pie. We expect this event to generate more than \$1.5 million for the Gold Coast economy. With three Big Bash League matches also scheduled for later in the season at Metricon, we know the Gold Coast tourism industry will continue to make runs throughout the season.

This weekend's game kicks off an amazing summer of events here in Queensland. We have: the Woodford Folk Festival on the Sunshine Coast; Jeff Horn versus Anthony Mundine here in Brisbane; the Magic Millions Raceday, polo and sales on the Gold Coast; the Brisbane International; and the Burleigh Pro on the Gold Coast. Since 2015 we have more than doubled the value of our major events calendar, with it this year generating more than \$780 million for Queensland. With an extra \$36 million in the budget to grow major events, this industry will only continue to grow Queensland jobs.

State Schools, Infrastructure



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering schools where they are needed to ensure every young Queenslander receives the quality education they deserve. That is why we are investing \$808 million through our Building Future Schools Fund to deliver new and upgraded schools to support our growing communities across the state.

As both the education minister and the member for McConnel, I know all too well that the demand to live and learn in the city has never been greater—with our inner-city suburbs growing almost twice as fast as the state average. That is why the Palaszczuk government is building two new secondary schools, at Fortitude Valley and Dutton Park.

I am pleased to be able to inform the House that work on building the new inner-city north secondary college has now begun. I look forward to turning the first sod on site with the Premier today. As the first new school to be built in Brisbane's inner city in more than 50 years, this secondary college will be a game changer. It will also be the first vertical state school built in Queensland. The vertical design maximises the small site footprint, enabling the delivery of the school buildings, a sports centre, a performing arts centre and an oval.

The new college has been purposely designed to integrate into the urban setting and will feature flexible, creative and innovative learning spaces and embedded technology to meet contemporary educational needs. As with all new schools, the school will be delivered in stages. The Brookes Street precinct will be completed in readiness for the start of school in 2020 and will provide an exciting new learning environment for up to 250 year 7 foundation students. By mid-2020, the college will be able to accommodate up to 750 students. The school's capacity will progressively increase to 1,500 students from years 7 to 12 by 2025 and onwards.

Two further milestones on the journey to deliver this exciting project will also be achieved today. The proposed catchment for the new college has today been released for public consultation, and the Department of Education has opened expressions of interest for student enrolments using the same process that applies for other schools across Queensland. The proposed school enrolment management plan will prioritise local students to ensure we relieve pressure on inner-city enrolments.

As education minister and the member for McConnel, I am proud that from 2020 the former Fortitude Valley State School site will again become a school, having been saved from being sold to the highest bidder. This project, to be built by Queensland's own Hutchinson Builders, will support 300 jobs during construction. Principal Sharon Barker and I are looking forward to consulting with the community about the new name for the college, and already great options have been suggested.

Blue Cards



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government takes the safety of Queensland's children extremely seriously. Thanks to previous Labor governments, Queensland was one of the first jurisdictions to introduce a working with children check scheme in the nation. A review of the blue card system by the Queensland Family and Child Commission found that Queensland's blue card system is one of the strongest in Australia and has enhanced protection for children in regulated environments since 2001. The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to further strengthen and enhance this system. In this year's budget, the Palaszczuk government allocated \$17 million over the next three years to implement our commitment to a no-card no-start initiative and streamline the blue card application process.

I can inform the House that I intend to introduce a bill later today that delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to implement a no-card no-start framework. The bill will: introduce automated blue card application processes to prevent people commencing paid work while a blue card application is pending; uncouple the requirement for paid employees to have an existing job, allowing applicants to apply prior to confirmation of employment so that they can be job ready; introduce a requirement for a blue card to have a photograph of the authorised person on it to reduce the prospect of fraudulent misuse; introduce an automatic stay of QCAT decisions in circumstances where QCAT overturns a decision to refuse an application for a blue card—the stay remains in place until either the appeal period has expired or until an appeal is finalised; deem additional offences to be disqualifying offences; introduce a new framework of 'restricted person' to capture negative notice holders, suspended and disqualified persons and persons who have been charged with a disqualifying offence; and introduce new offences and increase existing penalties for breaching the act.

The bill will, if passed by this House, implement the bulk of the recommendations of both the QFCC reports, including a new information-sharing register. The Palaszczuk government will continue to build on the strong reforms of Labor governments to do all we can to protect our communities and keep our children safe.

Whitsunday Island, Shark Attack; Shark Control Program



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.00 am): I firstly offer my condolences to the family and friends of Daniel Christidis, who died after a shark attack in Cid Harbour. It was a tragic circumstance, and I sympathise with those impacted as well as the rescuers and hospital staff who assisted in the response. We have worked directly with the Whitsunday council, the tourism industry and local stakeholders to share important safety messages for tourists and locals, and we have released a five-point plan to support this community. My office was involved in a teleconference with scientists yesterday to begin scoping out the research we need to learn more about shark activity in Cid Harbour. I can announce that a request for tender will be released in the next week. We have already committed \$250,000 to this research, and we have called on the Prime Minister to match that.

Let me clear up any misconceptions about Queensland's Shark Control Program. The government's advice surrounding Cid Harbour has not changed: people should not swim there. This was the advice after the September attacks. Drum lines were deployed after the second attack, while authorities visited each and every boat in the harbour to advise people not to swim. Following the two attacks advice was prepared, in cooperation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, to advise tourists to be shark aware, and I table a copy of that information.

Tabled paper: Poster from the Australian Government, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, undated, titled 'Be Shark Smart' [1865].

Cid Harbour was not, and is not, part of the Shark Control Program. Cid Harbour is a place of mooring, not swimming. The Shark Control Program operates at 86 beaches across Queensland. The program is using the same gear types, equipment, techniques and personnel as has been the case under all governments for years. There has not been any change in the Shark Control Program delivery, although in last year's budget the Palaszczuk government committed \$2.1 million in additional funding—


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Members to my left, the minister is providing a factual statement. If you wish to ask questions of the minister, please do so during question time.

Mr FURNER: The Shark Control Program covers 0.01 per cent of Queensland, where the main population lives and swims. That means that there is 99.9 per cent of Queensland that has no drum lines and no shark nets. Suggestions that most Queensland beaches are covered are wrong. Wrong, too, is any suggestion that we are winding back the use of shark control measures at beaches. To suggest otherwise could damage our tourism industry by creating unfounded fear. It is not proposed to extend the program to areas such as river mouths or harbours where we would not be able to sufficiently mitigate the risk.

It is important that Queenslanders are aware of what is being done and what the risks are from sharks. Our advice remains the same: swim or surf only at patrolled beaches and do not swim at dawn or dusk.

Container Refund Scheme


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.03 am): Queensland's container refund scheme, Containers for Change, started on 1 November and has had amazing results so far. In less than a fortnight, more than 10 million containers have been returned. That is \$1 million that has already gone back into the pockets of Queenslanders and charities. At the one-week mark, Queensland had returned three million more containers than New South Wales had in the first week of their scheme, which started almost one year ago. Once again, Queenslanders are showing up our rivals south of the border.

This is a wonderful achievement for Queenslanders. The container refund scheme has provided employment opportunities and new business ventures right across the state. Last week, along with the member for Maryborough, I visited a container refund point in Maryborough. We met some of the seven new employees in that business and the owner suggested that another seven are planned for the near future. Across Queensland around 500 new jobs have been created from the container refund scheme and we expect this to increase.

The container refund scheme is also helping charities, community organisations and schools, who are receiving donated refunds. Last week I heard firsthand how Clifford Park Special School in Toowoomba was benefiting from the scheme thanks to its partnership with the refund point operated by E&E Waste. Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge is also benefiting from the scheme thanks to its partnership with a refund point operated by TOMRA, which I also had the opportunity to visit last week. The scheme is a win-win-win. Not only is it creating jobs and business opportunities; it is also benefiting the people of Queensland and helping the environment.

Queenslanders use nearly three billion containers every year and they are the second most commonly littered item in the environment. These figures show that Containers for Change will have a huge impact on that and will improve recycling rates right across Queensland. Let's not forget that this is the very beginning of our scheme. We expect it will continue to grow as more and more Queenslanders get on board and return their containers for change.

Nurses and Midwives; Ipswich Hospital

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.06 am): Queensland's nurses and midwives do fantastic work each and every day. Queensland has a strong health workforce, with tens of thousands of health professionals dedicating their lives to helping others. This has not always been the case. From March 2012 to June 2013 the Queensland Health nursing and midwifery workforce fell by a staggering 1,374 full-time-equivalent staff. This is the record of those opposite: sacking hardworking nurses and midwives.


I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government's record is in stark contrast. At the election, we made a promise to the people of Queensland to rebuild the front line by employing additional nurses and midwives. Between February 2015 and June 2016 we employed an additional 3,033 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives, but we did not stop there. Between June 2016 and June 2017 an additional 1,250 hardworking nurses and midwives were deployed within our hospitals, but we still had work to do. I am proud to say that between June 2017 and June 2018 the Palaszczuk Labor government have employed a further 1,670 nurses and midwives in Queensland. We promised to rebuild the front line and by employing 5,953 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives—a 22 per cent increase—we are delivering on that promise.

Our record in government is that we back our nurses and midwives, and through our record Health budget this year we will continue that support. Of these new nurses, over 230 are part of our successful Nurse Navigator program. These nurses assist patients with complex care needs to better

engage with health services. They undertake a comprehensive healthcare assessment to identify the needs of patients with chronic disease and help facilitate their journey through the healthcare system, ensuring they get the care they need at the right time and in the most convenient place. I am proud of our record in government and I am proud to continue to deliver on our promises to the people of Queensland.

Finally, I want to thank our amazing nurses and hospital staff at Ipswich Hospital. They had a very difficult weekend, but they have shown immense courage and professionalism throughout this incident. To them and to all our hardworking, brave, kind and compassionate nurses across the state I say thank you.

Riverway Drive Duplication Project

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): Today I am pleased to announce the completion of the congestion-busting Riverway Drive duplication project in Townsville.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Thuringowa!


Mr BAILEY: The member for Thuringowa may need a sedative. Over the past 18 months work has been underway on this major upgrade to help deliver a safer and more reliable road network for the Upper Ross. The Upper Ross area of Townsville is experiencing strong residential growth, and Riverway Drive is the key road link that connects the Upper Ross to other parts of Townsville and the CBD via the Townsville Ring Road. This \$43.5 million upgrade of Riverway Drive was fully funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government under the State Infrastructure Plan. It has delivered real benefits for the 20,000-plus motorists who travel this section of road every day and sparked new commercial investment along its route, creating even more North Queensland jobs.

The project was completed late last month and, as this House well knows, the member for Thuringowa has championed this project for his community since day one. 'Riverway Drive' is his middle name! Thanks to his leadership and support, the Riverway Drive project has delivered dual traffic lanes in each direction along a three-kilometre section between Gollogly Lane and Allambie Lane—often promised, but delivered by this government. The project also features: new and upgraded signalised intersections, including at Santal Drive; new centre medians; protected turning lanes; pedestrian crossings and refuges; new bus stops and shelters; streetlight upgrades; and new stormwater pipes along the entire length of the project.

I thank motorists, residents and the community of Townsville for their patience during construction. Traffic flow was sustained and access to more than 180 businesses and residential properties was preserved during the 18 months of construction. It provided valuable local employment and contracting opportunities, supporting 82 North Queensland jobs. Pedestrians and cyclists will also see further benefits along Riverway Drive by the end of this year when we start replacing sections of the older footpath with a new 2.5-metre-wide shared concrete footpath. The completion of these works is the Palaszczuk government's and member for Thuringowa's Christmas present for Upper Ross motorists. Merry Riverway Drive Christmas, Mr Speaker!

I have more good news for Townsville. The Palaszczuk government has started planning for a further duplication of Riverway Drive. Our next project will focus on the stretch between Allambie Lane and Dunlop Street. A business case for the duplication of this section is now underway. The business case will give us an indication of the costs involved in continuing to deliver projects and make sure that local investment keeps pace with population growth in North Queensland.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Week

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.12 am): Once again the Queensland Police Service is undertaking a massive security operation in front of world leaders. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Week is being held in Port Moresby until Sunday this week. Leaders and their families from many nations intend to visit and stay in Cairns and Brisbane. Nations to be represented include Canada, New Zealand, Brunei, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and many others. In fact, the Vice-President of the United States is also attending and will stay in Queensland. It is estimated that 300 Queensland police officers will be part of the security effort.


It is a big commitment from our Police Service, but they are clearly up to it. Queensland police kept the community and international visitors safe during the G20 and the biggest event ever staged in Queensland: the Commonwealth Games. Queensland police officers have been deployed to Papua New Guinea in an advisory and mentoring capacity. Our police will also provide security to high-profile Australian and Queensland figures who are likely to visit Queensland and Brisbane this week. Our police will also be responsible for the security of 15 leaders from Pacific island nations who will be staying in Brisbane.

The Queensland Police Service is world-class; our police have proved that time and time again. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank them for their tireless efforts and their contribution to the APEC Leaders' Week.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Child Protection, Law Reform

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I wrote to the Premier last week to outline the LNP's plan to introduce the toughest penalties in Australia for child killers, making sure they serve at least 15 years in jail, which is more than double the current average. Given that current punishments do not meet community expectations, will the Palaszczuk government put politics aside and support the LNP's plan to get tough on child killers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I have not yet received that correspondence. I am more than happy to have a look at it. I only returned on Saturday morning. I think I did see some details about that in the paper. I think the Leader of the Opposition said at the time that they were going to introduce these laws if they were elected in the future. I would also make the point that those opposite have the opportunity to introduce a private member's bill into this House whenever they want. In fact, I want to applaud Katter's Australian Party which, from memory, has introduced six private members' bills into this House—

Mr Dametto: Five.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Five, and those opposite have introduced one. This is a lazy opposition. There have been five private member's bills from the Katter party and one from the LNP. What do you say about that? How many resources do those opposite have? Lazy, lazy, lazy! If those opposite want to change the existing laws they are welcome to move a private member's motion—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba South, you are not putting your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite have the opportunity to introduce a private member's bill at any time. In one year they have put forward one private member's bill—one! They are lazy.

The Attorney-General has spoken at length about the Sentencing Advisory Council, and that report is due to come to government this month. It is something called consultation. I know that those opposite are not good on consultation. We know that Prime Minister Scott Morrison likes listening and hearing. He does not like doing or action.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We will get to cutting a bit later. Let me say very clearly that the Sentencing Advisory Council is delivering its report to the Attorney-General later this month. Government will give that due consideration, and of course we will always listen to the experts and we will listen to the community. There has been consultation with the community. I say to those opposite that if they want to introduce a private member's bill you have to do a bit of work. You have a lot of staff—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, address your comments through the chair, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, Mr Speaker. They are the most well resourced opposition in the country. Yes, we heard it from those opposite when they sat on this side of the chamber. When they sat here they were happy to say that. I want to reiterate what they said: they are the most well resourced opposition in Australia, and they have introduced one private member's bill since the election—

(Time expired)

Child Protection, Law Reform

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My next question is also to the Premier. I refer to the spate of soft punishments for child killers: just six years for Mason Jet Lee's killer and a suspended sentence of only four years for Matthew Scown's involvement in the killing of Tyrell Cobb. Do the Palaszczuk government's delays to reforming punishments for child killers not prove that Labor's priorities are all wrong?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I caution the Leader of the Opposition. My understanding is that there are still matters currently on appeal before the court.

Mr Bleijie: We have had this debate before.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, no.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am getting advice from the Attorney-General, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please continue your answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I understand that there are those issues. In relation to those issues that are raised, the courts weigh up the evidence that is presented before them and the penalties are applied in accordance with the legislation. I do want to correct the record: the Attorney-General has said that the report will be released publicly.

An opposition member: She is sitting on it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It has not been finalised yet. The report will be publicly released later this month.

Mrs D'Ath: The 22nd.

Ms PALASZCZUK: By 22 November. That is not long to wait. It will be publicly released. These are the people who when in government abolished the Sentencing Advisory Council. There would have been no report because those opposite got rid of it. What else did they do? They cut the drug court. They cut the special circumstances court.

Mr Dick: Cut the Murri Court.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They cut the Murri Court. The member for Kawana knows well—the worst attorney-general Queensland has ever seen. I hear no dispute. No-one opposite is disputing that fact. No-one is jumping to a point of order. They hid him away for six months.

Mr Bleijie: Says the union lawyer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections are clearly aimed to disrupt and you are not directing your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we are coming up to our one-year anniversary, I reiterate: my government listens to and delivers for Queenslanders. We have spent four years uniting Queensland, after the destructiveness of the former LNP government in this state. There were cuts, they wanted to sell assets and they impacted on families right across Queensland. Those opposite should not come in here and lecture us. We will continue to work for Queenslanders and we will work with everybody.

(Time expired)

Trade Mission, Employment Outcomes

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier reveal more about any upcoming employment opportunities for Queenslanders as a result of the recent trade mission to China and Korea?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, I will give you all another reminder: the use of the word 'you', unless you are referring to me as Speaker, is not acceptable.

Ms PALASZCZUK: While I was overseas I had the opportunity to speak with key investors. On my most recent visit to Korea I met with the chairman of Sun Metals. The Sun Metals chairman, CEO and I talked at length about the great investment Sun Metals has made in Townsville over many years, providing vital secure, long-term employment. We also spoke at length about the additional solar farm they have built on the Sun Metals site, which now constitutes 30 per cent—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, you can do this all morning if you like. I ask you to listen to my Speaker's ruling or I will start naming members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I also heard at length how important the Townsville site is for the further growth of Sun Metals worldwide. I intend to follow up on key conversations I had with Sun Metals. Government is now working with Sun Metals on a couple of issues. There is the likelihood of a further announcement before the end of the year involving an expansion of the Sun Metals site. This is great news for Townsville, which has been through some really tough times. We know what happened with the collapse of Queensland Nickel.

I also had the opportunity to speak to another mining company that is looking at further development outside of Townsville for the production of batteries. This is where the world is going. No longer can we have a federal government that does not understand renewable energy policy. Queensland contains those minerals that are vital to battery manufacture. We will continue to fight for investment across our state.

The news is also good for Central Queensland. I had the opportunity to meet with Hanwha Energy, which has invested in the Barcaldine Solar Farm. Now it is looking at another major investment in Central Queensland. Once again this means jobs. It has made a commitment to utilise the local workforce and local products in building that solar farm. They are just two examples. I will have a lot more to update the House on over coming months.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There will be more next year, don't you worry about that.

(Time expired)

State Schools, Air Conditioning

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. Over the past couple of weeks thousands of Queensland schoolkids have sweltered in state school classrooms without air conditioning, with reports emerging of kids suffering heatstroke. Given that the Queensland Teachers' Union has expressed its support, will the Premier now also support the LNP's plan to put air conditioning in all state school classrooms?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government is investing in building the schools we need for the future. It is investing in the halls our children need for the future. As the education minister has told this House on numerous occasions, we have a gradual program of rolling out air conditioning, concentrating first and foremost on our most northern and western schools.

We knew that those opposite had problems with their policy when they were not quite clear whether it applied to all schools, private schools or public schools. They were very unclear in relation to that. I make it very clear that we have continued to invest in schools. We have built and opened five schools since coming to office. Halls are continuing to be built and upgraded right across the state.

Ms Jones: \$21 million this year on air conditioning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: \$21 million already this year.

Ms Grace: 2020 Ready.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We will continue to progressively roll that out. In the past we had a program of solar schools. We know how important—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Warrego, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will always continue to invest in our children's future.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I will wait for silence.

Ms Palaszcuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. Premier, you are warned under the standing orders. You spoke after I called the House to order and asked for silence.

Food Security

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier please update the House on the Queensland government's measures to ensure food security for vulnerable Queenslanders and any alternative strategies?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton for the question. We know how important it is to provide services and food to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. In October I was able to visit Foodbank at Morningside with Minister Di Farmer. There we were able to see the great work that this organisation and FareShare are doing to make sure our most vulnerable people are getting the food they need.

Who is this also benefiting? It is benefiting the farmers. The farmers give the produce to the organisation to make into healthy foods to be distributed. The Farmers' Federation was absolutely appalled at the Morrison government's decision to cut funding to Foodbank. What kind of government cuts funding to Foodbank? What kind of government does that? Many members across the chamber have their heads down. In contrast, my government supports Foodbank in Queensland with nearly \$1.2 million per year. The FareShare charity kitchen, in which Foodbank is a partner, is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and, as I said, it will use the excess fresh food that the farmers give to it. Through Foodbank we also extended support to the School Breakfast Program with \$1 million over four years. We know how important it is for our children's education for them to get a healthy breakfast before they start the school day.

In stark contrast, you see my government's commitment to funding the School Breakfast Program. Foodbank is helping with that. We gave \$1 million in the last budget, and I thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for making that money available. What kind of government cuts funding? I hear in recent reports that the Prime Minister may be overturning that decision—in fact, he may have overturned that decision—but who was advising him in the first place to make such a heartless, cruel decision? We will always support Foodbank. We will always back our farmers. It is not really listening and hearing when you cut funding to Foodbank, is it?

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

Electricity Prices

Mr PERRETT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given the benefits of retail electricity market deregulation for South-East Queensland residents, will the Premier listen to Labor's own electricity pricing inquiry and adopt the LNP's plan to allow regional Queenslanders to shop around and save \$300 on their electricity bills every year?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The answer to that question is no. Why? Queensland's electricity prices are coming down.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, there is no need for those kinds of interjections. You may not agree with the person on their feet, but it is not appropriate to interject and yell across the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, my government gives the community service obligation worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year as well. We know that Queensland has the best energy mix in the nation. I am glad the member asked me a question about energy because it allows me to talk about the complete lack of national energy policy. I feel sorry for the Minister for Energy and the former minister for energy for wasting years of their lives working with the LNP federal government in Canberra for what? For absolutely nothing! It is an absolute disgrace.

Ms Trad: Except for a late change of leadership.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We always knew the party room would blow up over the National Energy Guarantee.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned for continual interjections and not directing your comments through the chair. Members, I really need you to listen to these rulings. Members will be warned and members will be leaving the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us elaborate on this because it is a good lead-up to the federal election. In terms of the federal government, which was under the leadership of Malcolm Turnbull and now Scott Morrison, Malcolm Turnbull went around and asked all of the business community to come in and support the National Energy Guarantee—the whole national business community involved in supporting it—and then he could not get it through the party room and the whole thing collapsed.

A government member: And lost his job.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right and, as a result, we now have Prime Minister Scott Morrison. What is still lacking is a national energy policy. Let me make this contrast—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough and member for Caloundra, you are quarrelling across the chamber. This is becoming a pattern. You are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What is very clear when I meet with investors—those from the Australian business community, the Queensland business community and overseas investors—is that they know there is certainty in energy policy in this state and that is why they are investing. They are investing because there is energy policy. I will say it again, and I am more than happy to talk about this at length: there needs to be a clear recognition at the next federal election of where every single candidate stands on the issue of climate change. We can no longer have elected representatives denying the impacts of climate change. Australia is coming late to the party. Every other country is embracing this. They are making policies relating to it, and those opposite have their heads in the sand. The federal government has its head in the sand and those opposite have their heads in the sand. We will always back our strong energy policy.

(Time expired)

Morrison LNP Government

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier outline the effects of uncertainty from the federal government on Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question because the member knows, because she has a lot of businesses in her electorate, that what the business community wants and what Queenslanders want is confidence and certainty from the federal government. They want a government in Canberra that is like the government here in Queensland—stable—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I called for order three times. The House will come to order. I could not hear the Deputy Premier's response due to the level of interjections.

Ms TRAD: What Queenslanders want from a federal government is a federal government like the government they have here in Queensland—stable with clear leadership, understands policy and drives policy reform. This is in direct contrast to what they are seeing in Canberra and it is having an effect on the national economy and on the state economy. The Suncorp CCIQ report showed that there was a whopping 5.8-point decline in the national outlook index, and that is because of the cuts and the chaos we are seeing from the Morrison federal government. Mr Morrison might like to come up to Queensland and eat a lot of meat pies and—

Ms Palaszczuk: Try hats on.

Ms TRAD: Yes, try hats on and pretend to ride on a bus but does not ride on a bus. He can do that all he wants, but what Queenslanders want in Canberra is a government that is focused on them, not a government that is focused on itself; a government that understands that we need certainty in

terms of energy policy and action on climate change; a government that is focused on investing in the infrastructure that our state needs to make their lives easier; and a government that is focused on health and education funding, not health and education cuts, and that is exactly what we are getting from the federal LNP.

One would think that those opposite would stand up for Queensland, but their whole approach is see nothing, say nothing, do nothing. The time for doing nothing is over. This weekend in Bundaberg at their state council meeting, is the member for Nanango, the Leader of the Opposition, going to stand up to her federal counterparts and stand up for Queensland; stand up for more infrastructure funding; stand up for more health and education funding; stand up for education, energy policies or action on climate change?

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

Ms TRAD: There is enough of them waiting in the—

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

(Time expired)

Queensland Rail, Train Crew

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. After more than two years of Labor's rail fail and with no end in sight and with numerous recent reports of qualified drivers being turned away, will the Premier now agree to implement the LNP's plan to fast-track Queensland Rail's external recruitment to finally restore confidence in the public transport system?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I called order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Chatsworth for that question. I also thank that member for just recently voting with his conscience. It is a real pity that this weekend the way he voted is subjected to his party's state council.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118, relevance. The Premier is speaking of nothing that was in the question at all. It was about Labor's rail fail, which she should know a lot about.

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, you were doing really well until the last part of your point of order. Premier, I ask you to come back to the question that has been asked. I note that you have quite a considerable amount of time in which to come back to the question in your answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My answer to the member's question is no, because the external recruitment is already underway. That was very clearly one of the recommendations. When the Deputy Premier had responsibility for transport, she opened up that recruitment. It was one of the key recommendations of the Strachan inquiry. We know that those opposite did not have the trainers who were needed—

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We also know that, when it comes to rail delivery, those opposite do not support the building of the second stage of the light rail, which will be a great asset for the Gold Coast community. We are very keen to look at exploring options for the extension of that rail, but probably not where the member for Burleigh wants it to go.

The minister will continue to implement the Strachan recommendations. He is working diligently. He is speaking with commuters. He is meeting with the rail board. I commend the minister on his recent decision to ensure that members of Queensland Rail do not get the bonuses that the board had issued.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are on a warning already. I ask you to leave the chamber under the standing order 253A for the rest of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 10.42 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have given statements previously. If you are on a warning you will get no quarter from me in terms of additional interjections. That will be my last warning today.

Ripley, Bus Service

Ms HOWARD: My question is directed to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on new bus services in Ripley and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I welcome to the gallery of the parliament students from the Anglican Church Grammar School, a very fine school. I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and acknowledge her strong advocacy for public transport services in her electorate. The Ipswich corridor is among the fastest growing in the country and the new Ripley development is among the fastest growing areas in that corridor. That is why, this week, I was delighted to announce a new bus service for Ripley, the 531 service, to better serve the needs of that community. I announced that as the Minister for State Development responsible for that priority development area, including getting people in that area to work. This is an important bus route.

Last week in Queensland there was another bus route. Unlike the 531 bus service, there was no-one on this bus. Certainly, no-one was doing any work on that bus. That leads me to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, who is clearly of the view, 'Why visit Queensland when you can fly over the top of it?' The ScoMo ghost bus was emptier than the policy platform of the member for Nanango. We have to feel sorry for the driver of the bus. There he is in the lame duck express going up the Bruce Highway. He has all the pies in the back, but no-one is there to eat them.

This morning on the radio we heard the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, say to people in Queensland who want more funding for public transport and roads, 'Try living somewhere else.' That was his answer to Queenslanders. There are no new buses from him. There are no new trains from him. What about the state LNP bus? Do members remember that they were all in the kombivan fuelled by renewables? That has broken down on the side of the road.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr DICK: The member for Mermaid Beach is calling out. He has cut off the dreadlocks. The member for Burleigh prefers trains in Canada. He does not want to support public transport. Pacing the aisle as the conductor is Gary Spence. He says, 'Show me your ticket'—an extreme right ticket—'otherwise get off the bus. Verity Barton, get off the bus.' On hops the member for Broadwater. He wants to start driving the bus straightaway. 'Member for Chatsworth, member for Currumbin and member for Clayfield, got a conscience? Off you get. You don't need to be on the bus. You are excess baggage. We don't need you.'

The truth is that the LNP bus is the bus that no Queenslanders wants to ride on. It is going in circles. The backbench is getting restless. They keep asking the same question, 'Are we there yet?' For as long as the member for Nanango is driving, they are never going to get there. With the member for Nanango driving the bus, you are all on the road to nowhere.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development, I remind you to put your comments through the chair.

North Queensland, Youth Crime

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table a report of teachers having to lock themselves in a storeroom and call police to escape rampaging youth thugs and Education Queensland being forced to post security guards outside a school and teachers' homes for their safety. Will the Premier now agree to adopt the LNP's policy to reintroduce breach of bail as an offence for juveniles to stop the rising tide of youth crime in North Queensland?

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 12 November 2018, titled 'Palm workers beef up break-in security' [1866].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look at the issues that the member has raised, but I say from the outset that it would be a very rare day that I adopted any LNP policy. The people of Queensland had a big choice at the last election. They had a good look at both sides and they made that choice for a government that respects them, that looks after them, that cares for them as opposed to those opposite. Let me say that the damage the Campbell Newman government did to this state still resonates. I very rarely use that name in this chamber anymore.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am smiling. In all seriousness, I am yet to see an LNP policy that is well thought out and is evidence based. Very rarely do they hold consultation. I am more than happy to ask the education minister to look into that matter and get back to the House.

Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on the success of the government's \$36 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question and I thank her for her continued advocacy to see Great Keppel Island return to its former glory. I understand that, this morning at parliament, the honourable member met with the investors and I also welcome them. They are a great family who want the best for not only Great Keppel Island but also that whole region of Central Queensland.

We are very proud that we are the first government in Queensland's history to put out to tender \$36 million for new investment in authentic new tourism infrastructure in Queensland. We have done this because we have listened to industry and industry has said very clearly that one of the ways we can continue to grow Queensland's tourism pie is to make sure that we are investing in this infrastructure. I am very pleased to inform the House that already we have had 100 applications for this fund. Last week 27 went through to the second stage to submit their business case for a full detailed assessment. I will continue to update the House.

After the last election, through Tourism and Events Queensland we did some deep dive marketing into what people are looking for when they are making their choices about travelling around the world. We know globally it is more competitive than before and we need to make sure that we are getting that message right. What we are hearing very loudly and clearly is that people want authentic experiences.

Mr Dick: Fair dinkum experiences.

Ms JONES: Fair dinkum, dinky-di, give-me-another-pie experiences. You can imagine why Queenslanders are so sceptical when we have a Prime Minister who screams from the rooftops that he is about to do a bus tour of Queensland only to jump on a VIP jet. That is the way to build up your fair dinkum, dinky-di credibility: announce a listening tour on a bus and catch a plane. Queenslanders have had a gutful of this Prime Minister who is more interested in going to pie shops than listening to the qualms of those at Foodbank. This is a man who scoffs pies with one hand and cuts funding for Foodbank with the other.

Mr Dick: Shame!

Ms JONES: Shame on him. He does a pie tour of Queensland and does not even go to Yatala! How genuine is that?

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right. We have seen a complete fail by the Prime Minister when he came to Queensland. He made empty promises, he failed to sit down and listen to Queenslanders and we are no better from his visit. There was no U-turn on his bus when it comes to education funding, health funding or the funding for infrastructure that Queensland needs to grow our state and our economy and certainly no funding for tourism, including Great Keppel Island where he failed to meet our commitment for \$25 million.

Gold Coast, Cruise Ship Terminal

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The Premier has previously said that a cruise ship terminal may not be needed on the Gold Coast once Brisbane gets a second terminal at Luggage Point. Last week the minister said, 'We have not formed a view one way or another as a government. We have made that clear.' Will the minister back the Gold Coast City Council's plan to build a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast?

Mr DICK: I am a bit taken aback because I have just got my annual question from the LNP. I think it has been an entire year since they have asked me a question so I do sincerely thank the member for Surfers Paradise. If they can ask me another two we will be done for the rest of the parliamentary term. We will have a pair for the next two years, member for Surfers Paradise.

Can I get to the facts, and this troubles the LNP sometimes, the oceanside cruise ship terminal is a project of the Gold Coast City Council. Council needs to make it stack up environmentally and economically. The Port of Brisbane had to make the international cruise ship terminal stack up in order for it to proceed. The same approach will apply to the Gold Coast City Council's proposal. As the Minister for State Development said—as I have said—we will consider the implications—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I know I have talked a lot about comments about the third person.

Mr DICK: It would be churlish to say that I like quoting myself, so I will avoid it on this occasion. We will consider those proposals as they come forward and, of course, we will make the master plan work for The Spit whether or not the cruise ship terminal stacks up.

I thank the member for Surfers Paradise for the question. What do those opposite actually want? Does the LNP support privatising Doug Jennings Park, which Jeff Seeney put on the table in 2012? Do they support turning Wave Break Island into a canal estate, as Jeff Seeney wanted to do in 2014? Or do they support no development north of Sea World, which was the position of the member for Surfers Paradise in 2004? They have had more positions on The Spit than they have had prime ministers and that is saying something.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Minister for Tourism: they have had more positions on The Spit than they have had state leaders of the LNP. The member for surfer Paradise would know a bit about that. We have a clear and unequivocal position. We will let the master plan go forward. We have options for the community. The master plan for The Spit will be delivered and it will be delivered by a Labor government and by a Premier who for the first time in 30 years will deliver a master plan for The Spit. That is what Labor does.

From those opposite we have the canal estate, two ideas for a cruise ship terminal and we have no development from the member for Surfers Paradise. At the end what we fundamentally have is absolutely no leadership from the member for Nanango on this issue. She has everyone on the Gold Coast out with ideas but she says absolutely nothing—except she said in the paper we will build one. Where is it going to be built and how much will it cost?

State Schools, Federal Funding

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat. Who was that who spoke during this question? Members, I have asked for questions to be heard in silence.

Mrs MULLEN: My question is for the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister please update the House on negotiations with the federal government regarding funding for state schools?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Jordan for that question. Last week we visited Hymba Yumba Independent School, a school much in need of additional funding. It was an absolutely fantastic visit. The member for Jordan knows very well that every dollar in education is a dollar well spent. In the past week we have seen the Liberal state governments in New South Wales and South Australia embarrassingly sell out on the issue of equal funding for public schools. As honourable members would be aware, Scott Morrison established a \$1.2 billion slush fund for non-government schools to get them to sign up to their new deal. The slush fund is called Choice and Affordability and state governments across Australia were wanting similar funding boosts for public schools. This was supposed to be in relation to supporting underperforming schools, for drought relief in those areas and targeted support on a needs basis. Those states signing up to this deal have relegated Gonski needs based and sector blind funding into the dustbin of history. It is an absolute shame that this has happened.

In fact, in September the New South Wales education minister Rob Stokes was quoted in the media as saying that he would not sign any agreement that favoured one sector over another. He said he did not want public schools being treated as second class citizens. But last week he sold out. In a humiliating backdown on Wednesday the New South Wales government signed an education funding agreement with the Morrison government that failed to secure any additional federal funding for public schools similar to the \$1.2 billion slush fund provided to non-government schools. Instead New South Wales decided to stump up an additional \$712 million out of its own coffers.

The question that has to be asked is: what political deal was done with that government to compensate for those funds? We do not know any details about that. Where is extra funding coming from for possible infrastructure—that Queensland is denied—in order to assist them to fund that? I am looking forward to finding out more information in relation to that.

This follows similar actions by South Australia on Monday. It has put party politics before public schools. It has let Scott Morrison and Dan Tehan off the hook from providing a similar funding boost to state schools. The Palaszczuk government does not begrudge extra funding to the non-government sector. I want to know what the member for Nanango is going to say about this. What is she going to do in relation to ringing up Scott Morrison and getting similar funding for public schools in this state that he is denying Queensland students. She is great at being an angry, carping critic about everything, but is very silent when it comes to standing up for Queensland students.

Veterans' Employment Pathway

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Premier. Approximately 1,600 Queensland based Australian Defence Force members leave the ADF annually. Will the Premier extend the veterans' employment pathway pilot program to veterans living in regional areas so that they can have the opportunity to partake in that program?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for that very good question. We do have a policy of recruiting people who have served in our defence services to avenues within government. Of course, I expect that would be across all of Queensland, wherever we can. I will have more to say about the launch of that policy very shortly. It is the right direction to take. A lot of veterans have served us incredibly well and I pay my respects to them.

Whilst I am on my feet, I thank Queenslanders from right across the state for coming out to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day. It was absolutely outstanding, as was the 'Remember' poppy art installation that was sent around Queensland. The Deputy Premier and I went to see the installation at South Bank. Fifty-seven thousand Queenslanders signed up for World War I. That was a very large contingent when you think about the size of Queensland over 100 years ago.

We want to do everything we can to support our veterans across all avenues, including housing, public transport and travel. We honour those who served. I thank the member for a very good question. I am happy to have further discussions with him about the issue. I thank him for raising it.

Bruce Highway

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on the Bruce Highway upgrade program?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Gladstone, who is a great advocate for roads in his electorate and across the state. Indeed, he is a regular driver on the Bruce Highway. At nearly 1,700 kilometres long, the Bruce Highway is the artery of this state. If you think of London to Venice and then add another 100 kilometres, you can imagine the length of that important piece of infrastructure. There is joint funding over 10 years of \$8.5 billion. We have seen 295 Bruce Highway projects done, 127 more under way or in design, and 32 more in planning. In this year's budget the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed \$900 million to the Bruce Highway over the next four years.

I know the Bruce Highway very well. After last year's budget, I drove the entire length of the Bruce Highway in the Bailey Bruce Blitz. I recommend that drive along the entire length of the Bruce Highway to anybody, including the Prime Minister. We have seen a flying trip from the Prime Minister, but not a road trip. He seems to prefer having a private jet to his ghost bus. He was happy to use the bus as a taxi to the tarmac, but not to actually drive on the Bruce Highway. In fact, when you look up the coast there was no hi for Hervey Bay or Home Hill. He bypassed Bowen and he bypassed Bundy. There was no go for Gympie. He missed Maryborough and he was in the air over Ayr. That is what we saw from the Prime Minister.

We have a 32,000 foot Prime Minister. He says he is for the people and he says he is an average bloke, but he is not interested in driving on Queensland roads. He says he is an everyday kind of person, but he is not willing to drive on Queensland roads. He is not willing to go out there and talk to Queensland motorists. Clearly he would prefer meal service to a service station. That is what we see from him. The cap and the pie were great, but we saw an elitist effort from a prime minister who is remote both in his psychology and in his travel mode.

Where was the money for Gladstone? Where was the money for Cairns? Where was the money for the Sunshine Coast? The Prime Minister was very happy to have a \$5,000-a-table fundraiser in Gladstone, but he had zero dollars for Gladstone roads and the Gladstone community. That leads us to the conclusion that the big ScoMo bus trip was actually a ruse on the Bruce. That is the Prime Minister's contribution to this state. It is more of the same from Canberra. I look forward to the next federal election.

Shark Control Program

Mr COSTIGAN: This morning my question is to the Premier. I table a map showing Queensland's Shark Control Program locations.

Tabled paper: Liberal National Party map, undated, titled 'Queensland Shark Control Program' [1867].

Premier, with shark control equipment in place in other tourism hotspots such as the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Cairns, Townsville and Mackay, when will the Palaszczuk Labor government show the Whitsundays the respect it deserves and adopt the LNP's plan to install shark control drum lines in the Whitsundays?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, I am going to rule that question out of order. You did not address that question through the Chair. You directed it directly to the Premier. I have given sufficient warning and rulings on this in the past.

Non-Government Organisations, Funding

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Acting Minister for Communities and the Acting Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. Will the minister outline the Palaszczuk government's support for organisations working with vulnerable Queensland families and any other alternatives that might be advocated?

Mr SPEAKER: Before answering the question, members on all sides of the House, there was not silence during that question. Members speaking during the questions will be warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question. I know what a tremendous advocate she is for so many of the NGOs in her community that work with some of our most vulnerable families. Every year the Palaszczuk government provides more than \$1.2 million across 80 organisations that work on the front line, providing emergency relief and food parcels to our most vulnerable. More than \$16 million is provided to our neighbourhood and community centres, which again work with our most vulnerable families and provide much needed food parcels. Of course, with our concern about families doing it tough in the drought, our \$4 million Community Drought Support Program works hand in hand with some of our most vulnerable families.

Foodbank is an absolutely vital partner in delivering much needed support to many Queenslanders, particularly those doing it really tough in the drought. It is estimated that our \$1.2 million partnership with Foodbank enables the collection of 12 million kilograms of food, which is distributed right across our state. Of course, as the Premier talked about, the School Breakfast Program really makes a difference. It is interesting that two of the schools providing much needed breakfasts to students are in the electorate of the member for Nanango.

However, what did we hear from the Leader of the Opposition about Scott Morrison's appalling decision to cut Foodbank's funding? Did we see her stand up for the schools in her electorate that provide breakfasts? Did we see her pick up the phone to talk to Scott Morrison about how shocked and appalled the whole community was by that decision? She is laughing, but of course the National Farmers' Federation was not laughing. The National Farmers' Federation said that they were baffled and disappointed by the Prime Minister's decision. The community outrage, Labor's campaign and people power have forced Scott Morrison to reverse his decision, but that is no thanks to those opposite.

Time and time again, we see the Leader of the Opposition put her mates in Canberra before Queenslanders. Queenslanders in her own community are doing it tough. Even when it comes to schoolchildren getting breakfast, she will put Scott Morrison and her mates in Canberra ahead of Queenslanders. It is about time that the Leader of the Opposition stood up for Queenslanders. I could not believe that we did not hear one word from anyone on that side of the House in absolute opposition to the decision of the Prime Minister. It is about time that they stood up for Queenslanders and not their mates in Canberra.

(Time expired)

Fuel Prices

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. At the beginning of this year the Premier repeatedly refused to look at the LNP's policy for real-time fuel price monitoring and now, nearly one year later and a backflip later, Labor's promised trial still has not started. While Labor has dithered, Queensland motorists have paid hundreds of dollars more for petrol that could have been avoided. Is this not proof that Labor has its priorities all wrong and is slugging Queenslanders with higher bills?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I will allow the question, but that preamble comes very close to being too lengthy. I caution you for future questions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy addressed this issue during the last parliamentary sitting week, if my memory serves me correctly, and mentioned that it would be up before Christmas. I say to the member for Burleigh: watch this space. It is not long to go.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. He may have been on holidays. In fact, he has the parliamentary sitting calendar for next year. We have issued the parliamentary sitting calendar for next year so you can plan your holidays around the parliamentary sitting times.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was not very funny then, was it? As I said before, there is a lot of interest in terms of electric vehicles and hydrogen vehicles that are being well utilised overseas. I see a huge market for them across Australia. We are going to see a huge transformation in the take-up of those vehicles. As we saw, the prices are coming down. The Minister for Transport was at the recent launch of the Hyundai Ioniq. The price is coming down. With hydrogen vehicles coming in we are going to see a huge transformation.

I will end on this point. Overseas investors were absolutely complimentary of my government's electric superhighway program leading the nation. It is the policies of this government that are securing investment. We are embracing new technologies. I acknowledge the school students in the gallery—our future. It is lovely to see them.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I notice that the member for Broadwater did not get a question today. A little bit surprising, is it not? He did not get a question today. There is still a bit of time maybe. He was perhaps the most vocal out there, but did not get a question in here.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Broadwater, I understand that you are the subject of some commentary from the Premier, but under the standing order 247 you will address your comments through the chair.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, I have just called the House to order and you immediately loudly interjected. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We notice the member for Broadwater has a few billboards going up around the place—'One year on my focus remains.' The big billboard is going up.

Ms Trad: Remember the last LNP leader from the Gold Coast?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, the member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, are you going to table that document or will you be reading from the document?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do they want me to table it?

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I give this as a Christmas gift to the member for Nanango.

Tabled paper: Photograph, undated, of billboard featuring the member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP [1868].

Electricity Prices

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

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has one minute to respond.

Dr LYNHAM: Only the Palaszczuk Labor government has a policy towards transitional energy sources, transitioning to renewables and bringing electricity prices down. Those opposite have no clear policy. Those opposite are like an episode of *Russell Coight's All Aussie Adventures*. That is all they are. The member for Nanango backs renewables. She is over this way. The member for Everton says

no to renewables. He is over there somewhere. The member for Burleigh does not know where he is. He is over in Canada somewhere. We have the member for Callide and the member for Burleigh off on the Callide energy tour, except they ended up in Warrego. They got the wrong electorate again.

We have no energy policy from those opposite. We have concise, coherent energy policy into the future—into 2030—on this side. There is a final piece of advice—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 am), without notice: In accordance with sessional order 2B, I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time for each bill specified:
 - (a) the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill, a maximum of five hours to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits apply for bills listed in paragraph 1:
 - (a) minister to be called on in reply by two hours before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (c) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (d) question on long title to be put by one minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 15 November 2018, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on the minister to reply to the second reading debate;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In briefly speaking to the business program motion this week, in terms of the first bill to be passed the committee report on the bill contained only two recommendations. The first was that the bill be passed and the second was that a minor drafting issue be amended. There were no statements of reservation or dissenting reports. This shows broad support for the substance of the bill. I understand, however, that there will be amendments in consideration in detail. That is why the motion has prescribed discrete time for this House to consider those amendments and to ensure that members get the opportunity to put questions and hear from the minister directly in relation to the proposed amendments.

This week the House will also undertake address-in-reply contributions, a disallowance motion to be moved by the member for Glass House, debate on committee reports, introduction of bills, private members' statements, adjournment statements and the end of year valedictory speeches. As this is the last business program motion of the year, I would like to reflect on how it has been operating.

As at today this parliament has considered and passed 29 bills this year. An analysis of the sitting weeks for which this parliament has utilised the new business program motion shows that the bill pass rate is approximately 3.66 bills per week. This is compared to 2.7 bills per week without the business program motion. Simply put, the business program motion is working, with more bills being considered and passed on average with the motion than without.

I have no doubt, based on the interjections we heard earlier this morning, that those on the other side may make reference to the sitting calendar this year and a tentative sitting week not being utilised. I will briefly speak to that. As always, those on the other side say one thing and then do another when they are actually in government.

When the sitting calendar says 'tentative sitting week to be confirmed', that is what it means. It is a tentative sitting week that the government of the day decides whether it will utilise or not. I would think that those members on the other side, seeing many members missed out on the opportunity to attend

many school events last year because of the election, would welcome the opportunity to be in their electorates, to share the Christmas cheer, to celebrate with their wonderful schoolchildren who are graduating and to go to award ceremonies and so forth.

The last time there was a sitting calendar with a tentative sitting week was in 2013. The member for Mermaid Beach was the then leader of the House. The member advised, 'I wish to confirm that the tentatively scheduled sitting week of 3 to 5 December 2013 will not be required. Therefore, please note the final sitting week in 2013 will be the sitting week of 19 to 21 November.'


Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, members!

Mrs D'ATH: As always, they are happy to do one thing in government but, of course, have a bit of a whinge when they are in opposition about the government of the day having the same opportunity to not utilise the tentative sitting dates. As this is the last business motion for the year, I wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a safe new year, and I look forward to continuing this debate in the new year.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kawana, there are a number of members already on the list this morning. I will not have any hesitation in asking you to leave the chamber if you continue with your behaviour.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.20 am): I put to the Leader of the House one of the reasons why the LNP may have used that particular opportunity. It was probably that about 200 bills had been passed that year already. If you look at the average number of bills passed by the Labor government in the 55th Parliament and in this parliament, there are significantly fewer bills per year than under the LNP government.

This motion that the Leader of the House has moved is guillotining another bill—and, God forbid, we are debating one bill again this week. The work and effort that goes into that—one bill! The bill is going to be guillotined and debate will be cut off again. That was not necessary because we were prepared to come back in December and keep the debate going—to debate whatever bill. The government has eight bills on the *Notice Paper*.

I apologise to the Leader of the House that I was unable to attend the Business Committee meeting yesterday. I know that the member for Maroochydore represented me. By all accounts, it is reported to me that it was a similar agenda. The meeting went for about 30 seconds—the government had their way; the opposition lost out.

An opposition member: Lots of consultation.

Mr BLEIJIE: Lots of consultation—same, same. It was déjà vu. I thank the member for Maroochydore for attending that meeting. It is important to note that the Leader of the House is excited because this week we are going to be doing the valedictory, which is the end of the year celebration to thank all of the parliamentary staff. At the same time, we are also thanking the Governor for his speech a year ago! I do not think I have ever seen a time when we are saying, 'Happy Christmas,' but also, 'Your Excellency, thank you for the great speech you made a year ago.' It is nearly a year ago since the election. It is because the government, the Labor Party, are lazy. They have not been able to get their agenda through the parliament under the guise of family friendly hours.

We see the parliament sitting less. We see the Premier jetsetting overseas more often. She is never in Queensland. In fact, between the last sitting week and this sitting week and between previous sitting weeks, the people of Queensland have been asking, 'Where is the Premier?' No-one knows what she does. The tourism minister does not know where the Premier is. They do not know whether she is on a 747 jetsetting somewhere—to Asia and China. The Premier travelled to China to watch the Queensland Ballet. She only had to go across the road to watch the Queensland Ballet. She did not have to fly to China to watch the Queensland Ballet, for goodness sake!

If we look at the statistics, in the 54th Parliament, which was the LNP government, there were 605.42 hours of debate time. In the 55th Parliament, which was the first Palaszczuk government, there were 558.24 hours—nearly 45 hours less debate time. This year, in the 56th Parliament, we are up to only 158 hours. Is the Leader of the House seriously going to tell us that in the next two years between now and the next election they are going to go from 158 hours of debate time up to 605 hours? If that is the case, they are going to have to triple their legislative agenda next year because they will not get to that figure—605 hours of debate time under the LNP government in the 54th Parliament. The reason for that debate time was that we did not stop at seven o'clock.

An opposition member: We worked.

Mr BLEIJIE: We worked. The members of the parliament worked hard. They actually did what they are paid to do, and that is to work through the night and debate legislation.

This Palaszczuk government is one of the most resourced governments in Queensland—over 224 ministerial staffers. They said this morning that this opposition is the most resourced opposition. No, it is not. I think 22 staff for seven members of parliament is a pretty overresourced opposition. I reckon that if you are the opposition party and you only have seven members of parliament to 22 staff you are pretty resourced.


Mr Dametto: We have none.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am not taking the interjection from the Katter party member. We are not talking about his resources because they are subject to an important Ethics Committee investigation into the Premier. The reality is that it is a lazy government. They want to go home at six o'clock every night. They do not have the legislative agenda. They pull up stumps this week. The issue is not that we are not sitting in December; the issue is that we only found out about it a few days ago. No-one could anticipate what the diary was going to be like next year. Do members know why? It is because the Premier cannot make a decision. She cannot make a decision—

Mr Mander: She doesn't make decisions.

Mr BLEIJIE: And does not make decisions. Queensland is worse off because of this Premier and the Labor Party.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.25 am): I rise to again support the parliamentary business motion moved by the Leader of the House. I must say that, while I missed my weekly catch-up with the member for Kawana last night, I did not miss his contribution this morning. Let me respond to one point that he has made. He has come in here and criticised our Premier for going to China to develop trade links with China that create jobs here in Queensland. This shows how out of touch those opposite are—to score political points against a Premier creating jobs and delivering trade for Queensland.


In talking to the motion, let me say again that thanks to the reforms introduced by the Leader of the House we will do some important things this week. First of all, we will have a very important debate about substantial reforms for the resources sector here in Queensland. We will have five hours of debate on that very important bill introduced by the Deputy Premier. I was pleased to work on those reforms when I was the environment minister and will be very pleased to speak in support of them in that five-hour debate. We will also have a long debate on the opposition's disallowance motion.

We will also this week, for the first time in four years, have the opportunity at a proper time to recognise the contribution of our parliamentary staff. We will, for the first time, have a chance at a reasonable time to have a valedictory debate—

Mrs D'Ath: Not at midnight, not at one o'clock in the morning.

Dr MILES: Not at midnight, not at one o'clock in the morning—to properly recognise the work they do supporting our democracy, supporting our efforts all year. I understand that, in addition to the valedictory debate, Mr Speaker has organised for us to see the lighting of the Christmas tree which will be a lovely event. I understand that he has agreed to allow us all to have one drink at that event before moving on to the more traditional end-of-year Speaker's drinks.

When we take that moment to recognise the staff of the parliament—staff like Colleen, who I understand is retiring after this sitting week—isn't it fitting that we will have an opportunity, thanks to the Attorney-General's reforms, to properly thank Colleen for all of those lunches and all of those meals? When we all go to see the lighting of the Christmas tree and get that one drink that Mr Speaker has kindly agreed to allow us, I urge members not just to thank the staff, not just to toast the staff but also to thank and toast the Leader of the House because without her reforms we would not have that opportunity to recognise their contribution. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 am): How out of touch is the health minister to seriously think that we should thank the Leader of the House for shutting down debate because the only way we can thank the parliamentary staff is to stop at six o'clock at night! Colleen has been here for decades—

Dr Miles: Are you going to do it at midnight? Are you going to do it at 1 am?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She knows better than most that we have those drinks and it does not matter what time of the day it is. The parliamentary staff absolutely—

Mr Mander: She's filthy she's not getting overtime, that's for sure.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the Leader of the Opposition to resume her speech, there are several members who have already been mentioned by the Speaker. That will continue through until the lunch break. I will have no hesitation asking people to leave the chamber.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. That was a reflection on a very hardworking member of staff here and the member for Everton should withdraw. That was actually disgusting.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, you have a point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Under what standing order was the Deputy Premier rising to raise any point of order other than to have an attack in debate of a motion that she is not even speaking on?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will speak with the Clerk. Member for Everton, I ask you to withdraw your comments please.

Mr MANDER: What comment, Mr Deputy Speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your unparliamentary comments.

Mr MANDER: Unparliamentary comments?

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Everton.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is the Labor government that uses this parliament as a plaything, and that is exactly what we just saw then by the fake outrage by the Treasurer of this state. She is not even contributing to the debate because—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That from a Labor government which uses the parliament as its own personal plaything. They shut down debate. In the parliament this morning how many times did we hear the Premier say words like 'I'm going to update the House soon' or comments like 'you'll know more about that in the coming months'. The parliament of Queensland is here for that reason. If the Premier has many things to update the House on, let's prove it. Let's actually have a sitting date.

An opposition member: Let's hear it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Let's hear it, because we now have only two more sitting dates of this year and it is only 13 November. We all want to thank the parliamentary staff but that can be done in December. That can be done at seven o'clock at night, it can be done at eight o'clock at night and it can certainly be done at nine o'clock at night. The piece of legislation that is before this House today is a very important piece of legislation. If every member of this House chooses to speak on that bill, how long will the Leader of the House give us—3.2 minutes each and that is it. That is not open, that is not accountable, that is not transparent and—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Attorney! You have the call, Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Most importantly, the reason we are elected is to be in this great House and represent our constituents. We are here to talk about their issues and get them on the table. It is no wonder this government wants to shut down parliament—not only debate but also more sitting weeks. Listen to the clangers that have happened in 2018—Labor's clangers. It is a big, long list. I will not be able to get through them all. It is no wonder due to these clangers why they do not want to be open and accountable.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are speaking to the time allotted for debate on bills before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Attorney, I have been listening intently and I am giving the Leader of the Opposition some latitude.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Again, how out of touch this Labor government is. We are debating the fact that the opposition has been shut down and is unable to discuss the Labor clangers that have happened in 2018. We have seen five new taxes introduced. Let us remember this one: the Mackenroth grandstand naming debacle. We would like to discuss these issues. There is the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital instead of actually looking after sick children.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, I gave you some latitude. We are debating a procedural motion, not conducting a review of the year. You will have your opportunity to do that later in the week.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. When I have the opportunity to stand up in this House it reminds me of the amount of time that has been taken away from the opposition in speaking spots. And why? Because those opposite are scared of what we will say. They know full well—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The arrogance and the lack of scrutiny from this Palaszczuk government is absolutely gobsmacking. Let us remember that we have the highest unemployment rate in the nation, and the minister over there cackles away about it because they do not care about youth unemployment in the regions. They talk about breakfast programs. I doubt that minister would have ever even served at a breakfast program in my electorate—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Minister, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who said that? Member for Broadwater, you are also warned under the standing orders. Leader of the Opposition, I will ask you to come back to the procedural motion, otherwise I will ask you to resume your seat. You have 10 seconds remaining.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is clear at the last sitting week of parliament in 2018 that Labor have shut down debate because they have no plan for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Deputy Speaker's Ruling

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.37 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I would like to seek clarification about what happened at the beginning of the opposition leader's contribution regarding standing order 234, which is about personal reflections on members. I would like to have clarification at some stage provided or I will write to you about this, because as I understand it standing order 234 applies to personal reflections on members, not personal reflections about other people who may work in this precinct. I am concerned about the ruling that you gave, Mr Deputy Speaker, on advice from the acting Clerk because I believe that it was incorrect and I will be writing to you about this matter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Surfers Paradise, I invite you to write to the Speaker with your concerns and they will be addressed through that process.

MOTION**Business Program**

Resumed from p. 3383.

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

AYES, 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.

NOES, 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, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: C. O'Rourke, Sorensen.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN (RISK MANAGEMENT AND SCREENING) AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Introduction**

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.43 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006, the Public Service Act 2008, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [1849].

Tabled paper: Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1850].

I am pleased to introduce the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The Palaszczuk government makes the safety of Queensland children its highest priority. It was under a former Labor government that Queensland became one of the first jurisdictions to introduce a working with children check scheme in Australia. The blue card is now synonymous with our commitment to keeping our children safe. As at 30 September 2018, there were over 725,000 current blue card holders and applicants, representing almost one in every six Queenslanders.

It is, however, important to remember that child protection does not start and finish with a blue card; it is one of many tools available to us to assist in protecting our children. The purpose of the blue card system is to contribute to the creation of safe and supportive environments for children and young people when receiving services and participating in activities which are essential to their development and wellbeing, such as child care, education, sport and cultural activities. The Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 refers to these core activities as 'regulated employment' and 'regulated business'.

The blue card system mitigates past, present and future risks to children through screening people working with children in regulated employment and businesses, monitoring all blue card holders and applicants, and legislatively requiring child related organisations to implement policies and procedures to manage risks to children. To strengthen and improve the blue card system, this government, under the leadership of the Premier, took action and commissioned the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the QFCC, to undertake a whole-of-system review of the working with children act with the assistance of an expert panel. The QFCC in its final report, *Keeping Queensland's*

children more than safe: review of the blue card system, found that Queensland's blue card system is one of the strongest in Australia and since 2001 has enhanced protection for children in regulated environments.

The Palaszczuk government has broadly supported the intent of all recommendations made by the QFCC and made a commitment to further strengthen the blue card system. This includes \$17 million over the next three years to implement the government's no-card no-start scheme and improve the blue card application process. Importantly, and in accordance with recommendation 78 of the QFCC's blue card system review report, an implementation reference group has been established to monitor the blue card reforms. The group consists of government and non-government stakeholders including Bravehearts, PeakCare Queensland, Queensland Council of Social Service, QSport, Surf Life Saving Queensland, Independent Schools Queensland, Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, Kummara Association and Junkuri Laka. In accordance with its monitoring role, the implementation reference group has been consulted on key aspects of the bill.

The bill I introduce today is the first stage in a series of legislative reforms that I will bring before this House. If passed, this bill will implement the bulk of the QFCC recommendations from its final report. It also lays the foundations for other reforms to be progressively implemented over a period of time that balances the needs of relevant stakeholder groups with the Palaszczuk government's commitment to keeping our children safe. Most importantly, it prioritises key safeguards that will further strengthen, enhance and modernise the operation of the blue card system.

The bill has two key objectives. Firstly, the bill delivers on the government's election commitment to amend the working with children act and introduce automated blue card application processes to prevent people commencing paid work while a blue card application is pending. The implementation of no-card no-start is a core safeguard that strengthens the blue card system by ensuring that all persons working in regulated child related environments have been issued with a working with children clearance prior to commencing work. It is consistent with the principles of the working with children act that the welfare and best interests of a child are of paramount consideration.

The bill gives effect to the government's commitment to no-card no-start laws by prohibiting an employer from employing a person in regulated employment unless the person holds a working with children clearance and the employer has notified Blue Card Services that the employer is proposing to employ the person. To satisfy the notification requirement, an employer will be required to take reasonable steps to verify the employee's identity—for example, by viewing the employee's working with children card, which will include the person's photograph, or another form of photo identification—and notify the chief executive either via the Blue Card Services new online organisational portal being developed or through a paper based form of this employment arrangement. This new requirement builds upon the existing offences that prohibit an employer from employing a person if they know or ought reasonably to know the person holds a negative notice, or the employer has received a notice that the person's working with children authority has been cancelled, or their application has been withdrawn due to being charged with a disqualifying offence.

Offences will also apply to employees who start or continue in regulated employment without a working with children clearance. Circumstances of aggravation will apply so that more severe penalties can be imposed if the person is either a disqualified person, a negative notice holder, has cancelled their previous working with children authority on their own initiative, or has received a notice of withdrawal for their application because they have been charged with a disqualifying offence. This is in addition to existing offences that prohibit a person from performing regulated employment because their working with children authority has been suspended and prohibit employers from allowing a suspended person to perform regulated employment.

The no-card no-start requirement under the bill does not apply to police officers and registered teachers who undertake child related work outside their professional duties. This is on the basis that they have already been subject to criminal history screening and ongoing monitoring by either the Queensland Police Service or the Queensland College of Teachers. The no-card no-start laws are so much more than just legislative change—they represent a significant shift for the system. In order to meet their intent, they must be supported by a suite of complementary initiatives, including improvements to the application process as well as a community education and awareness campaign.

This brings me to the second core objective of the bill, giving effect to a range of recommendations made by the QFCC in its final report on the review of the blue card system and its *Recommendation 28 supplementary review: a report on information sharing to enhance the safety of*

children in regulated home-based services. I will turn to some of the main changes now. One of the key findings of the QFCC's review of the blue card system was the need for an overarching review of the working with children act to simplify the laws and make it easier for stakeholders to understand their obligations. In recognising this, the bill takes the opportunity to modernise and simplify some of the language in the working with children act.

Under the framework proposed by the bill, a person seeking to undertake regulated employment or carry on a regulated business will make a working with children check application and, if successful, be issued with a working with children clearance or a working with children exemption if the person is a registered teacher or police officer. A working with children card will be issued to the person as evidence that they hold a clearance or exemption. In addition, to reduce duplication across the working with children act and other legislation, the bill introduces the collective term of a 'working with children authority' to capture both a working with children clearance or a working with children exemption. The bill also implements a range of recommendations that the QFCC identified would complement the no-card no-start requirement.

As part of its review, the QFCC identified that the current blue card application form is hard to follow and complete correctly; the manual and paper based nature of the process results in delays in processing times; and current identity check processes create an administrative burden for organisations. The QFCC recommended the introduction of an efficient online application process supported by a strengthened identity check that would result not only in faster processing times and a better client experience for applicants but also stronger safeguards for children through better quality identity checks of applicants. A user-friendly manual application form will also be available for people who have limited access to technology or prefer not to apply online. The QFCC also recommended removing the requirement for a person to have an agreement to work before applying for a working with children check, considering it to be an unnecessary barrier to employment.

In response to these findings, the bill includes a streamlined and simplified process for a person to make a working with children check application. The amendments provide sufficient flexibility so that applications can be made manually or through an efficient online process. There will be no need for a person to have an agreement to work with an organisation prior to making the application. This will allow a person to become job ready before engaging in child related employment.

While the bill uncouples the application process for paid employees, persons who seek a working with children check to undertake volunteer work will be required to demonstrate that they have an agreement with a regulated organisation to provide volunteer services in order to have their application fee waived. This approach balances the need to continue to encourage volunteering in the community while also keeping the blue card system sustainable. From an employer perspective, the bill will enable communications between the chief executive and organisations to be made through an online organisational portal, which I referred to earlier. All of the current interactions between organisations and the chief executive are authorised under the working with children act. For example, organisations are responsible for notifying the chief executive of each new person's employment with them. In addition, organisations must notify the chief executive about a range of other issues, including when an employee or volunteer leaves the organisation. The bill will provide sufficient flexibility so that these notifications can continue to be made manually or through the online organisational portal.

New section 398A recognises that the chief executive may approve an information system for generating, sending, receiving and otherwise processing electronic communications between the chief executive and organisations. This will facilitate the establishment of the online organisational portal. New section 344A formalises that the chief executive may give a range of authorised entities information electronically through the portal. This includes information about a working with children check application, a working with children authority or negative notice held by a person as well as other notifications given to the entity under the working with children act. This is information that is already provided, but the portal will enable this information to be shared in a much more efficient way.

The bill also introduces other key safeguards, as recommended by the QFCC. This includes changes to the disqualifying offences regime. Currently, under the working with children act, disqualifying offences can generally be categorised into three groups: serious child related sex offences, offences related to child exploitation material, and murder of a child. A person who has a conviction for a disqualifying offence is prohibited from making a working with children check application. If a person is charged with a disqualifying offence while either holding or applying for a blue card, the card is either suspended or the application is withdrawn.

In 2015, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released its recommendations on working with children check systems. The royal commission recommended that the range of offences that should be treated as disqualifying should be expanded to include abduction or kidnapping of a child and animal related sexual offences. The QFCC agreed with, and endorsed, the royal commission's findings as part of its review of the blue card system. The QFCC also highlighted the need to consider any unintended consequences from the system automatically disqualifying people with convictions for kidnapping offences that arise in a family law context. As a result, the bill gives effect to the royal commission and the QFCC recommendations and expands the range of disqualifying offences under the working with children act to include: bestiality; kidnapping of a child; kidnapping for ransom of a child; child stealing; and abduction of a child under 16.

The bill has regard to avoiding the unintended consequences foreshadowed by the QFCC by making clear that the abduction and kidnapping offences will only be treated as disqualifying if the context in which the offence was committed was not familial. The bill also makes the murder and rape of an adult disqualifying offences. These offences are currently treated as serious offences under the working with children act. It is important to note that the existing strict decision-making framework in respect of serious offences means the chief executive must issue a negative notice to the person unless it is an exceptional case in which it would not harm the best interests of children.

The bill's inclusion of these offences as disqualifying is beyond what the QFCC and the royal commission called for. Notwithstanding the current strict framework regarding serious offences, the Palaszczuk government has listened to community concerns and is making these changes to include murder and rape of an adult as disqualifying offences, providing even greater protection for Queensland's children. In addition, the bill removes the ability for a person performing child related work to rely on an exemption under the working with children act if they are considered ineligible to work with children. Currently, a person can undertake child related work without a blue card if they meet one of the exemptions provided for under the working with children act. These include if the person's child related work: is as a volunteer parent, in certain circumstances; or is as a volunteer under the age of 18; or does not meet the minimum frequency for regulated employment.

This means that persons with negative notices and other high-risk people can rely on these exemptions to carry out child related work. The QFCC noted that stakeholders expressed strong views that allowing such persons to rely on an exemption is unacceptable. To this end, the bill introduces a new category of person, a 'restricted person', which will capture the following people: negative notice holders; persons with a suspended working with children authority; disqualified persons; and persons who have been charged with a disqualifying offence.

The bill provides that a restricted person will not be able to rely on certain exemptions in the working with children act to perform child related work. The bill creates an offence for the restricted person who starts or continues in this employment; and for employers who employ or continue to employ the person if they know or ought reasonably to know the person is a restricted person. The amendments in the bill will not affect the continuing general operation of these exemptions. For example, the volunteer parent exemption will continue to enable parents who do not meet the definition of a 'restricted person' to continue to be exempted from working with children check requirements.

Above and beyond the QFCC's recommendations, the bill includes a further safeguard to complement the no-card no-start initiative by providing for a stay of blue card review decisions so that, if the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal overturns a decision made by the chief executive to issue a person with a negative notice, QCAT's orders are stayed automatically until the appeal period has expired or an appeal is finalised.

I earlier made reference to the QFCC's *Recommendation 28 supplementary review*. This report evolved out of a QFCC recommendation in its report *When a child is missing: remembering Tiahleigh—a report into Queensland's children missing from out-of-home care*. Recommendation 28 of that report required the QFCC to undertake a supplementary review of legislation, policies and practices relating to information sharing between all parties as responsible agencies for undertaking internal risk assessments and decision-making about the safety of all children in regulated home based care services.

Regulated home based care services include foster and kinship care, family day care and stand-alone care services. Under the working with children act, foster and kinship carers, family day care educators and persons providing stand-alone care are all required to hold a blue card. The QFCC's supplementary review identified a need for the greater visibility of households providing home based care services to children by regulatory bodies such as the Queensland Police Service, the Department

of Education, the Office of the Public Guardian and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. This is particularly relevant where households are providing more than one home based care service to children such as a foster carer who may also operate a family day care service from their home.

The key recommendation, which was accepted by the Palaszczuk government, called for the creation of a centralised register of regulated home based care services. The bill establishes the register to improve the visibility of these services, inform decision-making and risk assessments, and facilitate information sharing between relevant government agencies to promote the safety of all children accessing these services. The register is not designed to replace existing information exchanges between agencies. It is an additional tool to provide more comprehensive information regarding certain types of home based care services to inform other forms of compliance and monitoring activities being undertaken by regulatory agencies.

The bill provides for the type of information the register must contain about each person who delivers a home based care service and other adult household members who reside in the home. Access to the register will be limited to authorised users from the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Education, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Office of the Public Guardian. The bill provides when an authorised user of the register can use, give access to, or disclose confidential information obtained from the register. In particular, an authorised user will be able to use, give access or disclose information to identify, access or monitor a risk or potential risk to the safety or welfare of a child being provided care through a home based care service, as well as check the currency and status of a regulated person's or adult household member's working with children authority or application.

Other amendments are proposed which address recommendations from the supplementary review. These will require all adult household members of home based stand-alone care services to hold a blue card and make the Department of Education the notifiable person for individual family day care educators and adult household members so that it receives notifications about any changes to their blue card status. Above and beyond the supplementary review recommendations, the bill also makes the Department of Education the notifiable person for all staff members, nominated supervisors and volunteers under either the Education and Care Services National Law or Education and Care Services Act 2013.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to listening to the community and experts to increase protections for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children. The preparation of this legislation has been considered and thorough, involving consultation with key industry stakeholders, including through the implementation reference group, all of whom work to keep our children safe each and every day. Our children deserve nothing less. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.03 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.04 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018 [\[1851\]](#).

Tabled paper: Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[1852\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Terrorist attacks in Australia and abroad and the threat of terrorism and associated violent and extremist ideology have seen terrorism take prominence as a global security concern. Violent acts of terror pose a direct and ongoing threat to Australians and communities around the world. The use of threats and violence by terrorists to advance ideological, religious or political causes has no place in Queensland or Australia. It strikes at the core of our democratic values, which provide freedom to all citizens to express their differences by legitimate and nonviolent means. We know that the most effective defence against terrorism is preventing radicalisation and the progression to violent extremism.

In pursuit of this goal I commend the efforts and work of the Queensland Police Service, Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Commission and other government agencies and community based organisations; however, there have been a number of recent violent incidents in Australia motivated by extreme views. Members may recall the tragedies of the Brighton siege in 2017 and the Martin Place siege in 2014. Events such as these are powerful reminders that we can never be complacent in our response to terrorism in Queensland and across Australia.

The bill will implement the agreement of the Council of Australian Governments to ensure that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity—underpinned by nationally consistent principles to ensure there is a presumption against bail and parole in agreed circumstances across Australia. These reforms recognise that the evolving threat posed by terrorism is not constrained by our state borders and that a national response is required.

Before I move on to the substance of the bill, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders for the time and resources they generously continue to provide during consultation on our legislative reforms. I acknowledge that stakeholders have raised concerns that the reforms in the bill represent a departure from legal principles and will infringe on rights and liberties without sufficient justification. As a government, the safety and security of the community is our priority; however, the actions we take to protect the community must be carefully balanced against the impacts of these actions on human rights and civil liberties.

While the threat of terrorism is to be taken seriously, Queensland does remain a safe place to live and work. In passing laws we are mindful to support this safe environment and to ensure that our response is not disproportionate to the threat faced. The measures in the bill, while extraordinary, recognise that there should be a higher bar for the release of individuals who pose a higher risk to the safety of the community, whether that release be through bail or parole. The passing of these amendments is an essential component to ensure the safety of Queenslanders and, through the provision of nationally consistent laws, the safety of all Australians. Let me now briefly outline the bill's significant amendments.

The amendments in the bill are anchored to a definition of 'terrorism offence'. This definition captures a broad range of terrorism and terrorism related offences under Commonwealth legislation as well as three offences under interstate laws. The bill also provides for the inclusion of terrorism related offences under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation by prescription under regulation to ensure our laws can rapidly respond to the continually evolving treat of terrorism. Other terms such as 'terrorist organisation' and 'terrorist act' are defined a nationally consistent way.

The bill amends the Bail Act 1980 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 to reverse the statutory presumption in favour of bail for an adult or release for a child who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is currently or has previously been subject to a Commonwealth control order. This will apply regardless of the offence a person is alleged to have committed. Authority to grant bail in these circumstances will be limited to a court to ensure stringent and consistent consideration of applications under these reforms. The court will need to be satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist to justify granting bail.

This amendment inserts a new, higher threshold test of exceptional circumstances into the Bail Act for the first time. What amounts to exceptional circumstances will be determined by the court on a case-by-case basis considering all of the relevant circumstances. Currently under the Bail Act, in circumstances where the statutory presumption in favour of bail is reversed a defendant must show cause why their detention in custody is not justified. The bill will reverse the presumption in favour of release for children under the Youth Justice Act in corresponding circumstances to adults for the first time. These reforms, both the insertion of a new threshold test and in particular the reversal of the

presumption in favour of release for children, may be considered extraordinary; however, the provisions in the bill are carefully limited to apply only to those offenders with demonstrated and proven links to terrorist activity and appropriately recognise the direct risk such links pose to the community.

Importantly, all existing procedural safeguards and appeal and review mechanisms are retained for applications the subject of the reforms in this bill. Let me be very clear: while the extraordinary measures proposed in this bill are appropriate for use in responding to the unique risk posed by people with links to terrorist activity, this should not and is not intended to be viewed as a change in the approach to bail laws in Queensland more broadly. The bill recognises that, while not sufficient to justify a reversal of the presumption in favour of bail, broader links to terrorism and links to those who advocate support for terrorism are relevant matters when assessing whether someone poses an unacceptable risk if released on bail generally.

The bill amends the Bail Act and Youth Justice Act to insert new terrorism related circumstances in the lists of matters to be considered by a court or police officer when determining bail. This requires consideration of any promotion of terrorism by the person or any association the person has had with a terrorist organisation or another person who has promoted terrorism. A person has promoted terrorism if they have carried out an activity to support the carrying out of a terrorist act, made a statement in support of the carrying out of a terrorist act, or carried out an activity or made a statement to advocate the carrying out of a terrorist act or support the carrying out of a terrorist act.

The bill makes it clear that, when considering promotion of terrorism, any reference to a terrorist act includes a terrorist act that has not happened and is not limited to a specific terrorist act. The concept of promoting terrorism is used consistently through all legislation amended by the bill and requires more than accidental support for terrorist acts to be shown. Rather, activity or statements that are directed towards or for the purpose of supporting or advocating support for terrorist acts are required.

In recognising the vulnerability and lack of autonomy of children, amendments to the Youth Justice Act clarify that only associations that are for the purpose of supporting a person or terrorist organisation in carrying out a terrorist act or promoting terrorism are relevant matters for consideration. Accidental or incidental associations, family relationships, religious or legal interactions that are not for the purpose of supporting a terrorist act or promoting terrorism will not be considered relevant.

The amendments made by the bill related to bail ensure that a bail application by a person with demonstrated links to terrorist activity receives greater scrutiny and ensures that those people who pose an unacceptable risk to our community are not granted bail.

The bill amends the Corrective Services Act 2006 to create a presumption against parole for prisoners who fall into one of two categories. In these circumstances, prisoners may be granted parole only if the Parole Board Queensland is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. The first category comprises prisoners with direct links to terrorism. This includes prisoners who have been convicted of a terrorism offence, who are subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code or who have promoted terrorism. The second category applies where the Commissioner of Police provides a report to the Parole Board identifying that there is a reasonable likelihood that a prisoner may carry out a terrorist act. This provision only applies to prisoners who have been previously charged with a terrorism offence, who have previously been the subject of a control order or who the Parole Board is satisfied have associated with a terrorist organisation or a person who has promoted terrorism.

The two-category approach in the bill incorporates a level of flexibility to respond to terrorist risk. This approach ensures that the presumption against parole is sufficiently wide to capture all prisoners with direct links to a terrorist activity while excluding those with links that may be tenuous by coupling identifying criteria with a report identifying the likelihood of terrorist acts being carried out.

To support these reforms the bill allows the Parole Board to request that the Commissioner of Police provide a report in relation to specified links to terrorism as well as the likelihood of a prisoner carrying out a terrorist act. However, the Commissioner of Police can refuse to provide information to the Parole Board in certain circumstances. These circumstances include if the information is not in the Police Commissioner's possession, if it was accessed through an arrangement with another law enforcement, intelligence or border protection agency and the arrangement prevents disclosure, or if it is information protected from disclosure in court proceedings under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Police Commissioner is satisfied that withholding the information will not adversely affect public safety.

The bill provides that any application for parole by a prisoner who has links to terrorist activity must be considered by the Parole Board sitting as five members. Further, the bill provides additional powers to ensure that a prisoner's parole order can be suspended or cancelled if the Parole Board becomes aware that the prisoner poses a risk of carrying out a terrorist act.

The bill also amends section 160B of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to allow a court the discretion to fix a parole eligibility date for any offender who has been previously convicted of a terrorism offence, who is the subject of a control order or who has carried out actions or made statements directed at supporting or advocating support for the carrying out of a terrorist act rather than a date an adult offender is to be released on parole.

Unlike some other Australian jurisdictions, in Queensland there is no equivalent of adult parole for children. Instead, the Youth Justice Act provides for the release of children from detention to supervised release orders, with the time of release determined at sentence. As a default, release occurs after 70 per cent of the sentence has been served; however, the sentencing court may order release at any point between 50 and 70 per cent if it considers that there are special circumstances. To implement the COAG commitment, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act to remove the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date any earlier than after serving 70 per cent of a period of detention. This will apply to a child who has previously been found guilty of a terrorism offence, who is the subject of a control order or when the sentencing court is satisfied that the child has promoted terrorism, regardless of the offence before the court. The bill also requires conditions that are reasonably necessary to reduce the risk of a child carrying out a terrorist act or promoting terrorism to be imposed on the supervised release order of any child who has been previously found guilty of a terrorism offence, who is the subject of a control order or who has promoted terrorism.

The Queensland government recognises the need for counterterrorism legislation to be effective and agile while remaining proportionate and measured. This bill seeks to balance the rights of all Queenslanders while acknowledging that the unique nature and gravity of terrorism threats at times demand extraordinary measures. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.16 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.16 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, the Coroners Act 2003, the Cremations Act 2003, the Duties Act 2001, the Health Act 1937, the Public Health Act 2005, the Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[1853](#)].

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1854](#)].

The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 will make significant reforms to health legislation to protect and improve the health of Queenslanders. It will remove barriers for patients and doctors seeking access to medicinal cannabis treatment, it will ensure Queenslanders are notified of pollution events that pose a risk to public health and it will establish a register of occupational dust lung diseases such as coalmining pneumoconiosis, or black lung, and silicosis.

The bill will significantly streamline the framework for regulating medicinal cannabis in Queensland. By repealing the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016 and amending the Health Act 1937, the bill will ensure that medicinal cannabis is regulated in the same way as any other

scheduled medicine. Since 2015, Queensland has led the way in Australia by allowing doctors to prescribe medicinal cannabis to their patients. The federal government has followed our lead and finally changed the regulation of medicinal cannabis at the national level.

At the time the medicinal cannabis bill was introduced in Queensland, medicinal cannabis was a schedule 9 prohibited substance. Queensland legislation was required so that patients could have lawful access. Since then, medicinal cannabis has been rescheduled by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to be a schedule 8 or schedule 4 medicine, depending on its composition. There are well-established regulatory pathways for accessing schedule 4 and schedule 8 medicines. Repealing the act will ensure there is no unnecessary duplication with Commonwealth requirements.

The bill will amend the Health Act 1937, enabling medicinal cannabis to be regulated under the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996. This will mean that any specialist can prescribe medicinal cannabis for any patient they believe will benefit from treatment, just as they would for any other controlled or restricted medicine. It will also mean that visitors to Queensland who have a valid prescription for medicinal cannabis from another jurisdiction will no longer require a specific Queensland approval. The bill also removes the requirement for pharmacists to hold an approval to dispense medicinal cannabis and researchers to hold an approval to conduct a clinical trial. The Australian government will maintain strict controls on the use of unapproved therapeutic goods through the Commonwealth licensing and approvals system. It will remain illegal for the Queensland public to grow cannabis for medicinal purposes.

The bill also makes two significant changes to the Public Health Act 2005. The first will give Queensland Health new powers to deal with the public health risks caused by pollution events. Both in my time as environment minister and now as health minister I have been concerned to see the number of pollution events in Queensland where the polluter has flat out refused to inform the public. Most recently we have seen a number of incidents of contamination of waterways from PFAS, a compound used in firefighting foams. It is critical that Queenslanders are notified quickly where there is a potential risk to their health from pollution. This bill will ensure that the party responsible for causing the pollution must take responsibility for notifying the public of the health risks.

Queensland's Chief Health Officer will be empowered to require the person responsible for creating pollution to notify the public of any health risk arising from the pollution event. They will be able to direct both the content of the pollution notice and what form it takes to ensure impacted communities are properly informed. It will be an offence not to issue the notice when directed by the Chief Health Officer, with a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units. Where the responsible person cannot be identified or does not issue the notice as directed, the Chief Health Officer will be able to issue the pollution notice directly, ensuring there is no delay to the public being made aware of any potential risk to public health. Queensland Health will continue to work cooperatively with other departments and entities to ensure a coordinated approach is taken in response to pollution events.

The Public Health Act will also be amended to establish an occupational dust lung disease register. This amendment gives effect to recommendations 59 and 60 of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee of the Queensland parliament in its *Black lung white lies* report of 2017 by establishing a compulsory notification regime for occupational dust lung disease to Queensland Health. It will also require annual reports to parliament about the number of cases reported. Dust lung diseases are not limited to the coal and mining sector. We have recently heard disturbing reports of silicosis being diagnosed among workers who work with engineered stone benchtops. In September 2018 the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations issued an urgent safety warning for workers and employers in Queensland's engineered stone benchtop manufacturing industry and banned dry cutting, grinding or polishing of engineered stone benchtops.

This bill will ensure that the register captures particular types of lung diseases such as silicosis and pneumoconiosis caused by any occupational exposure. The bill requires particular medical practitioners to notify a diagnosis of these diseases to the Chief Health Officer. Instances of dust lung diseases already come to the attention of the Queensland government through other means such as under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. To ensure diagnosed cases are not overlooked, the bill enables the Chief Health Officer to request information about any diagnosed cases provided directly to relevant agencies, including WorkCover and DNRME. Each year Queensland Health will provide a report to the Minister for Health which must be tabled in parliament. This will enable a parliamentary committee to inquire into the report. This notification process for dust lung diseases will improve data collection and enable diagnosis information to be collated by Queensland Health. This will assist with monitoring the prevalence of these conditions.

The bill also amends a number of Health portfolio acts to support the implementation of policy initiatives to protect and improve the health of Queenslanders and to clarify the operation of legislation. It will amend the Radiation Safety Act to reduce regulation for certain types of licensees. For example, a dentist must be trained in the use of some types of dental X-ray equipment to be registered as a dentist. Dentists also need a licence from the state under the Radiation Safety Act to use this dental X-ray equipment. This bill will create a new type of licence holder in the act called a 'prescribed licence holder' who is deemed to have a use or transport licence without having to apply for or renew a licence. These prescribed licence holders will still be subject to the same requirements, standard conditions and penalties for contravention as other licence holders. However, they will not be required to do the paperwork and pay the fees associated with applying for and renewing a licence.

The bill will also make three amendments to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act. The first will make clear that tissue can be removed from both adults and children for clinical research studies, provided this is done in accordance with existing protections in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research and the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research. The bill specifies that tissue can only be taken for particular purposes in children—that is, where the removal is for the child's benefit, or as part of a procedure for the child's benefit, or if a doctor is satisfied that there is a negligible or low risk of harm and minimal discomfort to the child.

The second amendment to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act will reduce the regulatory burden on pathology laboratories. It will ensure all laboratory reagents, reference, control and quality assurance materials that are derived from human tissue are not captured by the prohibition on the trade of human tissue in the act. This will mean that pathology laboratories will not need to continually apply for ministerial permits to purchase materials that they legitimately and routinely require for quality assurance programs.

The third amendment will remove a requirement that a post-mortem examination conducted in a hospital must be conducted in the hospital mortuary. This will ensure imaging equipment that is not typically located in mortuaries can be used in post-mortem examinations. This bill also amends the Coroners Act, the Cremations Act and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, which are administered by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. The amendments will ensure schools of anatomy can respectfully dispose of donor body parts where the parts of the body were used at a school of anatomy for the study and practice of anatomy.

Finally, the bill will amend the Retirement Villages Act to clarify recent reforms to that act. These amendments mean that current reforms to ensure that former residents receive their capital in a timely manner apply to freehold units as well as leasehold and licence tenured units. This also requires a consequential amendment to the Duties Act. The amendments will apply retrospectively to November 2017 when the original changes to the Retirement Villages Act took effect. This will ensure all retirement village residents, regardless of tenure type, are treated equally. To assist the House in considering the bill, I table the draft Health Legislation Amendment Regulation and draft explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, draft regulation [\[1869\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, draft explanatory notes [\[1870\]](#).

If the bill is passed, the regulation will commence at the same time as the relevant parts of the bill commence by proclamation.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that Queensland's health legislation is serving the needs of Queenslanders as medicines advance and circumstances change. We are removing duplication with Commonwealth regulatory requirements for medicinal cannabis, streamlining processes for patients, health professionals and researchers. We are removing duplication in the regulation of licensees under the Radiation Safety Act and we are ensuring that pathology laboratories no longer need to go through the unnecessary step of applying to the minister for permits simply to access material required for quality assurance purposes. By establishing a central register of all diagnosed cases of occupational dust lung disease, the Queensland government will be better able to monitor these diseases. We are also making sure polluters take responsibility by informing the public of pollution events that may cause a public health risk. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.28 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 1 November (see p. 3347).

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.29 pm), continuing: I am pleased to continue my address-in-reply. Following delay after delay by Racing Queensland, the Ipswich Turf Club upgrade was due to start in August this year. The Ipswich Turf Club has wanted this upgrade, which I have supported, for many, many years, and it is very important that it be completed prior to the Ipswich Cup in June next year. I want Racing Queensland to guarantee that the upgrade will be finished before the Ipswich Cup in 2019 and, if not, that Racing Queensland reimburse the club for any financial losses. Racing Queensland has dillydallied for far too long and the Ipswich Turf Club should not be disadvantaged. It is simply not on. The delays are purely Racing Queensland's fault and I will be watching the progress—or lack thereof—very closely. I put Racing Queensland on notice.

My community wants honesty and transparency in government. They know that the economy is not so good, because they see it, they live it and they feel it. At the Goodna St Ives Shopping Centre, where my electorate office is located, there are vacant shops and some of them have been vacant for years. There are also vacant shops at the Redbank Plaza shopping centre. That is because small businesses are closing down. My people do not look at Deloitte reports, CommSec reports, or any other reports, because they live unemployment, underemployment and lack of training opportunities and every single day that seems to be getting worse.

Workers in my electorate are doing it tough. They believe that our workplace laws are broken and do not deliver a fair go. Inequality is growing in my community. Trickle-down economics has an impact on our hospitals, our schools and our communities and makes wealthy people even wealthier. Workers struggle with insecure work, irregular hours, unsafe workplaces and stagnant wage growth. They truly wonder about the changing world. Often they say to me, 'Jo, the world's gone mad.' They talk about feeling like they are on an escalator trying to go up but instead going down and moving backwards. They do not like it and neither do I. I can see their angst and anxiety on their faces and in their general demeanour. It is the insecurity and the despair that really worries me. People are suffering and it is just terrible. They feel like they have no control over their lives, their work, the money that is brought into their households and they are very angry. They say to me that all they ever hear from political parties, no matter where they are—at a federal, state or local government level—is how much money is going to be thrown at a particular problem. They say to me that they want that to stop. They want better policy, innovative policy for them.

They also believe that the new gig economy will come at a cost to workers. Workers have little power to ensure reasonable family friendly hours and they also have little power to ensure that their pay keeps up with inflation and the cost of living. They believe that workers are being deliberately kept in casual employment to keep them fearful of losing their job and compliant to their bosses. As union membership continues to decline, we are witnessing an Americanisation of Australia. I see it in my community, particularly in relation to trust.

People ask me, 'Who do you trust these days? Do you trust governments? Do you trust banks? You have to be joking. Do you trust churches when you look at the recent royal commission?' They laugh when you talk about telcos. They laugh when you talk about petrol companies. They ask me, 'Where has the decency gone? Where has the honour gone? Where has doing the right thing gone?' I cannot give them the answers, because when I think of it, with governments, banks, churches, telcos and petrol companies, everybody seems to be ripping off everybody else.

However, in this parliament we have to ensure safe, secure employment with protection against exploitation. We must do everything we can for our students in schools, because not every kid is going to be a coder. We need to look at the future labour market and see what it is going to look like. I do not


care what anyone says: we need to look at a universal basic income so that the community can participate in what our future will look like, how it will work and what it will mean for them and their families.

Workers need to be treated with dignity and respect. People in my community are sick of being labelled low socio-economic, as they describe themselves as being high community. The people in my community do not do labels and they regard that as an insult to all of them. I reiterate that the people in my community do not want dumps, nor incinerators making them not only feel bad but also look bad. Basically, my community is in despair and depression. It is as if no-one cares about them, that governments do what they like to them. I have news for them in years to come.

We also need to look at expanding the railway line through to Ripley and further on to Ipswich. The Centenary Highway is an absolute shemozzle. The Mater hospital at Springfield definitely needs an emergency department funded by Queensland Health. The locals of my electorate are also calling for a maternity ward. They want a public-private partnership in relation to Health and the Mater hospital at Springfield.

The training system in my community is considered to be broken. It is sad, but true. We used to have relatively free TAFE. Now, it costs up to \$20,000 to get a TAFE diploma qualification. It can be cheaper to go to university to get a bachelor degree qualification. The costs of TAFE courses have put a brake on training opportunities for the people I represent and they are very angry about it. We used to be able to send people to TAFE as adult learners and put them on the road to a trade or other qualification for little cost. Now, TAFE demands to know what a person's income is so that it can work out whether that person can afford the fees and whether it will accept their enrolment. It is definitely not on that these barriers are put up in my community.

I am humbled to be the member for Bundamba and to be a part of a community of battlers who have had to fight for virtually everything in their lives. I believe that we will continue this fight. Together, we will fight for what is right. We will fight for what others take for granted not only in this chamber but also elsewhere, and that is for clean air, for simple things like kerbing and channelling in the streets, for simple things like dignity and respect and a fair go for our community.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to give my address-in-reply speech. I am a little bit surprised to be doing it this late in the year but, with the part-time parliament we have, I will take the opportunity now to say a few words. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be re-elected as the member for Toowoomba North to ensure that the constituents whom I represent have a strong local voice in this place. To them, I apologise that the Labor government has tried to quieten that voice by reducing the opportunities that I have to speak on issues and legislation that affects their and their family's lives.

Prior to the last election, there was a redistribution of electorates. The people of my electorate strongly wanted to ensure that particularly the Highfields region remained part of the Toowoomba North electorate. There was a big push by the Labor Party to cut out the Highfields area and put it into an electorate located much further north. There were strong objections to that and I was pleased that the redistribution allowed me to carry on representing the Highfields area—an area that I love, an area that I have lived in and an area in which I would like to think the people have seen the delivery of many things, including the high school. I thank the voters and the constituents of the electorate of Toowoomba North for giving me this opportunity to be their strong local voice in this place.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to my wife, Sue, and my family, particularly Brianna, who took some time out of studying her medical degree to fly in to help me campaign. My son Mason was whipped into shape by Jon Martlew and he had him out working hard. I also thank my other two children: Shannon, who was overseas, and Jordan, who was in Europe. I appreciate their phone calls and text messages and the support they offered. We all know that we cannot do this job without the support of our families. I appreciate the support that mine gives me to enable me to be their representative in this place.

There are several people who have worked in my office over the period of time that I have been the local member and I would like to thank all of them, in particular Wendy, Donna, Elysia, who is now working with me, but also Austin, Mitch and Kylie who all at different times have played a role in ensuring that the office runs smoothly and that constituents are well represented, listened to and have their concerns heard and acted upon and, where possible, resolved.

Obviously, a campaign needs a lot of volunteers and support. The support that I have in Toowoomba North is very much grassroots support. It is not support from an organised union. We are not bringing people in who pretend they are locals. We have a good, local contingent. I will go through

quite a long list of people who I would very much like to thank. If there are any I have omitted I promise that I will give them another opportunity to be mentioned in this place in the future. Unfortunately, this address-in-reply comes so late that Delys Kelly, who ran my campaign office, has, in fact, passed away. She was a stalwart of the party for generations and an anchor in times when the party had few numbers in this place. Her help, support and guidance over many years was greatly appreciated. I give my condolences to her family. I acknowledge her support here today in running the office, taking the calls and making sure everybody did what they were supposed to do. She was never shy in telling me what I should be doing as well.

I thank those volunteers who looked after the corflutes—we all know that they need to be put together, erected and kept clean—the booth workers and the people who did roadsides for me, particularly Garth and his family; Jon Martlew and his family; Michael Duff and all of his family and other relatives who came in to help; Dave and Pati Nicholls; Gary and Helen Varidel; David and Jane van Gend; Big Jim, who is a country boy at heart who lived in Toowoomba for a number of years and although he is getting old and has a lot of different health issues going on always turns up and works hard and I appreciate his support and help; John Lutvey; Glenis Batten; Neil Munro; the entire Anderson family; Jeff Eacersall and his family; Mike Hogan and all of his boys who helped us with our signage and put a lot of work in; Colin McKay; John Redman; Mike Robinson; John White; John and Kathy Gouldson, and I wish John all the best with his current health challenges and I hope he overcomes those as he has in the past; the Barron family, who helped me out at Fairview Heights, for all the work that they put into that area; to Pen and the crew who look after Rockville for me—it is always a tough booth and I appreciate the work she does there with her friends to make sure that I get a good vote; to Errol and Del Spence; Isaac Moody; Jim Curtis; John McVeigh; Barry O'Sullivan; and Barry Junior. These are all part of the team that means I get to be here and represent the people of Toowoomba North. They all give up their time, they all work hard and I appreciate it. We had a couple of young members—Darcy, Ben, Daniel, Ben Apsey, Matt Costello, Cameron, and Justin—who also put a great deal of time in and I appreciate all the work they have done.

After thanking all those people for working and giving me the opportunity and the privilege to represent the people of Toowoomba, let me talk about some of the things that we would like to see done in Toowoomba North. In fact, I will start with some of the pledges that were put forward by the Labor Party. One of those was that there would be a \$6 million upgrade to the intersection of Ruthven and North streets. This is an intersection where one can wait for four or five changes of lights every morning in multiple directions. It is causing massive congestion. It will be a complicated fix. I ran a petition on it. I ran a campaign on it. It was asked, 'Why is he doing this? The money is already in the budget. It has already been actioned. We have already started the job. It is in the planning.' It is 12 months later and there has been zero action. Before the election all we heard was a lot of rhetoric. That seems to be very common for this Labor government. There is a lot of conversation before an election and then a lack of action after an election.

We were told there would be 49 new police officers in the southern region. I look forward to seeing them when they get there. I will welcome them onto my patch. I know the people of Townsville, the people of the Gold Coast and many other places are waiting for their promised officers to arrive to drive down crime. Certainly, in my region 49 officers would make a big difference. They were promised before the election and what we have seen subsequent to the election is zero activity in that area from the Labor government.

We also were promised a police station at Highfields. After finding that the land that was purchased by the Labor government some 11 years ago is now prone to flooding, absolutely no activity has happened. We have spent a couple of hundred thousand dollars and achieved nothing but now are going to relocate that station to another block of land. I look forward to that station opening. Again, it was much lauded during the campaign via social media videos. There has been an allocation of \$100,000 which, let us face it, is really not even going to get a tin shed on the block of land. I hope there is some money put behind that by this government because the people of Toowoomba North deserve that.

We are in the same situation in relation to a new town police beat. It has been a year. Recently the minister said that it will go ahead. We heard that a year ago and six months before that in the lead-up to the election. People said it was the LNP that closed the police beat. That is true. When Tommy retired we did close the police beat because it was in his house and he wanted to sell his house and move to the coast. I think Tommy, after his years of loyal service to the Queensland Police Service, was entitled to do that. The budget was never taken away. The budget has been there for four years under the Labor government and yet we see no action on the police beat. Although it was very visible in the campaign prior to the election, we have seen nothing happen after the election.

Those are some of the things that the Labor Party said it would do and that it clearly, as yet, has not done. It has been a year. We are a third of the way into the term so one would expect at least a third of the job to be done. If we use the police station as an example, there was a pledge of \$2.8 million or thereabouts and a bit over \$170,000 has been spent, so we are a long way off a third of the job being done.

What have we seen done in the electorate since I have been the local member? All of the flood works through the centre of town are basically now complete. Whilst this will never flood proof the CBD, it certainly reduces the risk to life and the risk to property. It has been a good investment. On 17 December 2014 a PDA was put through in relation to the centre of town. It has a goods shed on it. This was a great opportunity for some economic activity and redevelopment of the inner city. Unfortunately, under this government not a great deal has happened since then. I did manage to get all of that land turned over to the local council so we have that opportunity going into the future.

The Victoria Street Bridge was built by the LNP government and is used every day by thousands of people to get to and from the CBD. It has been a good congestion-busting piece of infrastructure. Thanks must go to the Royalties for the Regions program and the LNP government for delivering that.

I was told by many people that a high school at Highfields would not be necessary, but the school is basically full. It has been expanded. I appreciate the government's commitment to the ongoing development of that high school. Its first group of seniors is coming through, which is a fantastic achievement and makes Highfields a much stronger community. I had campaigned very hard for a school hall at Wilsonton State High School.

Mr Perrett: Very hard.

Mr WATTS: I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. I campaigned very hard for that hall and I appreciate the support that was given. The community desperately needed that facility to complete the school. It is a hardworking school. Many of the school's students who end up going to university will be the first in their families to do so. Those students deserve the same facilities as everybody else. I am very proud to have been their strong local voice in this place and to have fought to get that project delivered on their behalf.

There are other projects I could mention such as rail tunnel projects that were delayed and had their budget cuts. I see opposite the member who had something to do with holding up those things for a period. They are now finally underway after about a four-year delay.

I want to talk about the second range crossing, which will be a great piece of infrastructure, funded by the LNP government at both state and federal levels. When Labor came to power there was really just one job left to do, which was to sign a contract. That was really all they had to do. Obviously, that contract has been delayed and pushed back. I am told that it is supposed to open on 2 December, which I think is the final push-back date. The contract delay has meant that there have been many failures on the site, many of which I have spoken about in this place. Certainly safety issues became a concern. I appreciate that a couple of ministers came up and dealt with some of those safety issues, 10 months after I raised them here. However, there are other things that people should be aware of.

I am told that just about all of the cross drains on the second range crossing are currently imploding because the original engineering works did not make them strong enough. They are going to have to be sleeved inside to stop them collapsing, which will reduce the drainage flow and ultimately may lead to some long-term problems. I am told that the compacting and settling has not been done particularly well on various parts of the range and, again, that will become an ongoing maintenance issue.

One issue that should be of great concern to people is that some of the cheapest and skimpiest revegetation around has been used on the second range crossing, after we did such a good job with the existing range crossing and its revegetation. Not only is it skimpy, fouling and not really revegetating particularly well; I am also told that grader grass is present. Grader grass is a weed that will destroy paddocks and has a poor protein count. It is not all over inland Queensland yet, but once you start spraying it on the embankments of a 41-kilometre piece of infrastructure from which trucks go to all parts of Australia and Queensland, I am very concerned that it will spread to other areas and cause great problems for some of our rural communities, their productivity and profitability. I do not know what the minister is doing about that, but I urge him to act quickly to kill the grass before the seeds get into the watercourses and cause ongoing problems.

Historical coins have been found on the range crossing, which we would like to see displayed in Toowoomba. It was one of the biggest ever finds of historical coins in Australia. I have asked the question, but still we do not see anything happening there.

The major problem is that the range crossing will not be opened on time. The people of my electorate and surrounding electorates will be disadvantaged because of the incompetence of this government in the administration of the contract. By 2 December, parts of the road will be opened so that an insurance claim can be made for poor engineering and they can then start working to try to fix it. I do not know if it will be three, five or six months from now—who knows how many months it will be, as everybody has a different story—before we finally see the road opened. They had one job, to sign a competent contract and enforce it, but we have found nothing but disaster all the way along the range crossing.


The toll is another issue. We know that the business case said that there will be a toll. People deserve to know what that toll will be, so that they can get on with planning for their businesses. There will be many opportunities for people to save on logistics costs by using the range crossing, but to be able to plan, organise and sign contracts they need to know how much the toll will be. It is not complicated. The minister should be able to do the maths. I can help him if he struggles. I am happy to refer back to the original business case. Let us know the cost of the toll, so that people can start planning for their businesses.

I would like to mention my political opponents in the last election, Kerry Shine and Paul Wilson. Both men have a passion for the electorate. We all ran good campaigns. I look forward to being able to represent all of the people of my electorate.

Going forward, there are some things that we would like to see happen. We would like to see mountain bike tracks and walking tracks on the range crossing. We would like to see in Toowoomba a public transport service where we can use go cards; where the buses are regular; where buses do not have to drive past at 60 and 80 kilometres an hour without stopping to pick up people as they have to maintain the ridiculous timetables that they have been given. We have an opportunity to build a motor sports precinct to the west of us and I think that needs to be looked at. I refer again to the parklands PDA in the centre of town. That is a wonderful opportunity, but with lack of government interest and the local government the project is just not being moved forward. It has been four years and the project is not moving forward.

Going forward within the electorate, we need many things. One of those things, which I spoke about in the campaign, is to make sure that to the north of the electorate we have a road adjoining Boundary Street, so that people can skip around the New England Highway. Again I call on the minister to take a serious look at funding that project. We need to have a plan in place to protect the corridor before people build on it and before it is developed. We need a long-term plan going forward. Going forward in the electorate, there are plenty of opportunities for development in the inner city, for our road network to be improved, for the enhancement of the inland rail route and to ensure that the Second Range Crossing is not only finished but also done properly.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.57 pm): I am incredibly proud to stand here as the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and as the member for Bulimba. When the Premier asked me to take on this portfolio, I could not have been more thrilled. Being given portfolio responsibility for issues that were the very reason I got into politics in the first place was a very proud moment. Across my portfolio we deal with issues that a lot of people would prefer not to think about. Everyone would rather believe that our children are always safe, that domestic violence does not exist and that youth crime can be solved with a three-word slogan or two.

The reality is that the issues we face in my portfolio are difficult. They are not unique to Queensland, but in many ways we are leading the nation in our responses. Our staff and the non-government agencies that deal with these issues are facing the consequences of poverty, mental illness, substance abuse, violence and depravity. We see aspects of the human condition that the average person could never envisage. However, we are also at the forefront of changing lives for the better every single day.

There are about 84,000 children known to Child Safety at any given time and our dedicated Child Safety staff work hard every day to make sure that our kids are safe and they deserve our full support in their work with children. We have undertaken bold reforms in child safety that have been transformational for our systems and for many people's lives. We are in the fifth year of fulfilling the vision of the Carmody reforms to the child safety system. Many of those issues are generational in nature, so change will not happen overnight.

However, we are already starting to see some benefits with, so far, eight consecutive quarters of improvement on key measures. In our most recent Child Safety performance data, in terms of getting to our most urgent cases within the target time of 24 hours we recorded our best result since 2009. We have added more than 450 staff over three state budgets with the result that our caseloads are down to 17. We have grown our foster and kinship care numbers and we have created ground-breaking IT solutions such as Carer Connect to better connect children in care, carers and child safety officers. We are doing more than ever before to provide support and early intervention services to help them nip problems in the bud before they become issues for Child Safety with, for instance, 18,000 families actively engaged and connected to the right support services and more than 10,000 referrals to intensive family support since March 2015.

Our focus remains squarely on the children and we continue to strive to give every Queensland child, no matter their background, the best possible start in life. Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. It has been approved by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Our focus remains squarely on the children, and we continue to strive to give every Queensland child, no matter their background, the best possible start in life.

This is a long road Mr Speaker and I can't help but think about how much further down the reform road we could be right now if it had not been for the damage done by the previous government.

With 225 permanent and 177 temporary jobs, and hundreds of millions of dollars cut from the Child Safety system.

Who knows how many more kids we could have saved had those things not happened.

Mr Speaker this year we implemented an historic reform of the Youth Justice system so that 17-year-olds charged with offences are treated under the Youth Justice system.

We have invested \$200 million in this reform to help break the cycle of offending, keep communities safe and change the story for our troubled young people.

We are making communities safer by investing more in solutions that evidence says works, such as restorative justice conferencing and support to help young people comply with their bail conditions.

Our priority is to get in early and make sure young people are given an opportunity to get their lives back on track.

It's why I asked former Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson to make recommendations on the completion of our Youth Justice reforms, and his recommendations outline the need for:

- Early intervention with families;
- More flexible schooling options;
- Diverting young people away from the Youth Justice system where possible; and
- Keeping young people out of detention where it is safe to do so.

And I thank the many many people who've given us feedback on Bob's report, as we use it as the foundation to develop our Youth Justice reforms.

But Mr Speaker we also know that where young people pose a risk to others then we have no choice but to use youth detention to protect Queenslanders.

On DV—we are in our fourth year of work on our massive \$328 million commitment over six years to implement the recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever report.

And of the 140 recommendations, we have completed 92 of the 121 that were for government.

As well as massively increasing the investment in a range of measures, including for specialist DV courts, changes in legislation, funding for counselling and support services, and for womens shelters, the Respectful Relationships course in schools, and additional training for police.

We have created DV High Risk Teams and changed the public conversation about domestic and family violence.

We remain 100 per cent dedicated to ending this terrible scourge.

When it comes to pioneering leadership opportunities for women we are setting the gold standard, including increasing the proportion of women on government boards (now at 47% representation, in contrast to the 31% we inherited from the LNP), launching the Queensland Women's Strategy and the Violence Against Women Prevention Plan, as well as new investments in fighting sexual violence.

We do not pretend that there are quick fixes to these issues. This is serious work, and it takes serious commitment and long-term interventions based on evidence to make real differences in people lives.

And I acknowledge all of the people working across these sectors, for their dedication and commitment to achieving those outcomes.

I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Government that has an overwhelming commitment to keeping communities safe, to giving every child the best possible start in life, and to making sure women and girls are free to take their rightful places in all walks of life.

Much has been done already.

And I do want to acknowledge the outstanding work of my predecessors, the Members for Waterford and Redcliffe, who set the groundwork for the reforms that continue to roll out in my portfolio.

There is much more still to do, and I am looking forward to getting on with the job.

Mr Speaker on top of the great privilege of being the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

My other great privilege is to be the Member for Bulimba. I held this seat between 2009-2012. Had a little break, courtesy of Campbell Newman. And then was absolutely thrilled to win the seat back again in 2015 and in the most recent election at the end of last year.

I cannot believe that I have these two jobs. How lucky could I be?

The Bulimba electorate has been my home for over 20 years Mr Speaker. It's where I raised my family, where I have been intimately involved with the community for all of those years, and whose priorities are my priorities.

We are a close community with strong social fabric.

But the challenges we face are those which possibly characterise all inner city areas, facing the impacts, in so many different ways, of increasing population density.

For instance on public transport and traffic congestion, on our schools, on the availability of land for sport and recreation, and on the capacity of our local community organisations to respond to need.

It's why I worked so hard last term to get:

- \$15 million for new and upgraded infrastructure for my local schools
- \$6 million to address the parking issues around Cannon Hill and Murarrie Train stations
- Funding for a study on how to best tackle local transport and traffic congestion

And why I fought against inappropriate development against local development, including at the Bulimba Barracks.

And it's why, when I went to the last election I promised to:

- Deliver a \$15.9 million upgrade of Cannon Hill station
- Fight for funding to upgrade Morningside station
- Undertake a major upgrade to the Cannon Hill Bus station on Creek Road, Cannon Hill
- Complete the study on how best to tackle local transport and traffic congestion and work towards local solutions
- Get more local bus stops—that will be friendlier for people of all abilities especially those with a disability or restricted mobility
- Ensure masterplans are developed for all state schools in the electorate, including BSHS, MSS, Cannon Hill SS, Norman Park, Seven Hills and BSS
- Keep up the fight against overdevelopment
- Continue to be a champion of local businesses and local jobs
- Work with local community groups and sports clubs to secure essential grant funding
- \$1 million for Foodbank to expand their successful school breakfast program including to schools in the Bulimba electorate
- And restore more front line staff in health and education.

Mr Speaker I spoke earlier of the strong social fabric of my community, and I have delighted in being part of that, and in supporting local residents, businesses and community groups in any way I can. I've run:

- My Small Business Instagram campaign
- QLD Day Awards
- The Bulimba Electorate Youth Advisory Panel
- My annual Community Groups Information evening
- Seniors morning teas.

- An Eco Forum
- JP Forums
- Community BBQs, including with my colleagues at Federal and Council levels
- Mobile offices
- DV Forums
- Parent Forums, including with the wonderful Triple P Program
- Pyjama Drives with the Pyjama Foundation + PY Foundation

And have absolutely loved seeing everyone participating.

I treasure the almost 200 community groups who operate in my electorate, and I treasure the many friendships I have made across those groups and across my community. It is humbling to have the chance to meet so many amazing people. Everyone has a story, and I love to hear them all.

However when we speak of people, I do need to mention some names in particular.

I need to speak of the amazing team we make at Federal, State and local level in my area—the three of us women who work so hard together for the betterment of our community. They refer to us as the Three Amigos Mr Speaker—and we quite like that title. Before January this year, it was Terri Butler the Federal Member for Griffith, Shayne Sutton Councillor for Morningside and myself. And after Shayne's retirement, we have welcomed the wonderful Kara Cook as her replacement.

The three of us were and are great friends, and we are seamless in our approach to fighting local issues.

I want to place on record my appreciation for everything that Shayne achieved during her time as Councillor. There is not a street you can drive down in our area where she did not make an impact. She was and is a dear friend and was a fierce advocate for her community.

Kara has taken over with a vengeance, and is doing Shayne's record proud, as well as notching up her own formidable record already, on fighting for important issues for our community.

I also need to thank my wonderful electorate office staff—the lovely Vickey, my former office manager, who left this year to move to Perth with her husband. A huge thanks for the over three years she gave me, working huge hours and having such a huge heart for our constituents. To Annmaree who has been such a faithful and diligent AEO. I'm so lucky to have you. And to Thomas who took over Vickey's job and seems like he's been doing it forever—you are wonderful. And to Liz who comes in every Monday to help us out—we couldn't do without you.

To my loyal campaign team and ongoing supporters—Sharon Humphreys, Bob and Claire Atkinson, Kara Cook, Kerrie Hackett, Vickey Payne and her family, Lyn Eaton, Brian and Barb Daley, John Shepley, Kerrie Hackett, Beau Mollinger, Margie Gamble, Ellen Barratt, Michael Kinnane, Roger and Patti Boyd, Michael Olm, Brayden White, Grace Houlihan, Thomas Wealleans, Nathan Seng, Molly Hammond, Mark Bruerton, John Impey and Lucy Morelli. And the many others who gave and still give their time.

A huge thank you. I don't even know how I would do my job without you. You inspire me in a hundred different ways.

To the mighty Hawthorne Bulimba, Cannon Hill and Galloways Hill ALP branches. You are magnificent!

To my colleagues the Member of Ashgrove, McConnell, Mulgrave, Nudgee, Mackay, Mt Ommaney and Rockhampton—a special thank you for your friendship.

To the Premier and Deputy Premier—thank you for your ongoing personal support.

To Evan Moorehead—thank you always.

But the special mention Mr Speaker goes to my family.

My sister Su and her husband Peter and their four beautiful girls Kate, Ashleigh, Georgia and Bronte—and respective husbands and boyfriends (and now new baby Matilda, who I know will be helping in the future)—thank you for your practical help. But thank you for always being there behind me, encouraging me and supporting me.

To my own family, who are my mainstay and my anchor. There is no other way of saying it. Like all members in this House, they don't get much say in the way politics takes over their lives as well.

But my husband Ian is unwavering. Whether he's running prepoll, standing in for me at events, making sure there's a meal on the table at the end of a big day, listening to my long stories, reassuring me if things are tough, and so many other countless things—I am so grateful for his love and support. And love him right back.

And my daughters Lucy and Millie? I cannot even begin to tell you how magnificent they are, and how proud of them I am. At their respect for others, their work ethic, their generous hearts, and their fierce passion for righting wrongs. They are formidable companions on the campaign trail and in the work I do in the community. But most of all, they are the people I love, and they are a huge reason I can keep doing what I do.

I declare my absolute commitment to always doing the best I possibly can for those for whom I have been granted the huge privilege of responsibility.

Debate, on motion of Ms Farmer, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Child Protection; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): We on this side of the House are serious about protecting our children. We have heard far too many horror stories about children being hurt and killed by those who are meant to have loved and protected them. Sadly, a case that everyone sitting in this House will remember is the tragic case of little Mason Jet Lee. I was absolutely shocked by the abuse that this poor little boy suffered in his short life.

That is why last week I announced I will introduce Australia's toughest punishments for offenders who kill children. There is no worse crime than killing an innocent child. I was disgusted when I heard that Mason's killer could be free in six years. How could the man who so callously took a life away be allowed out on our streets in such a short time?

I and those on this side of the House say enough is enough. We on this side of the House will bring sentencing of child killers into line with community expectations. We will increase the minimum non-parole period for murder of a child from 20 years to 25 years. We will also introduce a new, separate offence of child manslaughter, ensuring violent offenders who cause the death of a child face a mandatory minimum 15 years jail.

These violent offenders who take the life of an innocent child should not be allowed out on our streets with just a slap on the wrist. I will guarantee no more soft sentences for child killers. We will protect our kids. We will stop our kids coming into harm. We will punish those who harm our defenceless children.

Queenslanders expect their government to work hard. Queenslanders expect governments to have ideas to keep moving the state forward. Queenslanders expect their government to have a plan. Those in the Palaszczuk government have none of that. Instead, Queenslanders have a government that has simply no plan. They have no plan to protect Queensland children which is why I have proposed these tough new child killer laws. Queenslanders have a government that is so lazy they cancelled the December sitting of parliament because they simply do not have the will to come to work.

I ask everyone sitting in this chamber: what has Labor achieved this year? Sadly, not much. We already know that there is a do-nothing Premier leading a do-nothing government, but now we are starting to see the cost of a government that simply does nothing. We know that trains do not run on time, when they run at all. There are 470 fewer services a week with no end in sight to the rail fail.

We have a health system in crisis. Ambulance ramping is back. Emergency department wait times have blown out. Elective surgery wait times are simply unacceptable. The AMA report card shows bullying is rampant in our hospitals, with almost half of junior doctors at the RBWH experiencing bullying or harassment. More than one in three doctors reported being bullied at the PA Hospital. More than 50 per cent of junior doctors at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital were advised not to claim overtime. What does this health minister care about? It is one thing and one thing only—that is, changing the name of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. It is a disgrace.

The list does not end there. Sadly, the failures continue. Our education standards are going backwards. Queensland kids in the last 12 months have gone backwards in terms of year 3, 5, 7 and 9 standards.

Drug and violent crime is increasing across the state. Crime in Queensland has hit crisis levels and we have seen police cuts throughout the state. There is not a night on the TV news that we do not see a Queenslanders affected by crime. These are innocent Queenslanders who are bearing the brunt of Queensland's crime crisis. What is the police minister's response to all of this? It is, 'Nothing to see here folks.' It is a joke. The police minister spends too much time denying problems in front of him instead of fixing the problem. Queenslanders need real action on crime.

Our debt is ever increasing. Labor's debt is costing Queenslanders \$3.5 billion a year, \$9.5 million a day, \$400,000 an hour and almost \$7,000 a minute just in interest charges. Queensland has the worst unemployment in the nation. It has now held this wooden spoon for the last two consecutive months. September's unemployment rate was 6.1 per cent trend and six per cent seasonally adjusted. I could go on, but sadly there are just too many failures of this Labor government for the time that is allowed.

Queenslanders want better than this and they deserve better than this government. There are serious problems that need to be solved, but the Premier is simply afraid to make the difficult decisions. When there is a problem the Premier simply disappears from sight and from scrutiny. That is not governing and it is not certainly not what Queenslanders want in a Premier. Those opposite, under the Palaszczuk government, have no plan, have no energy and certainly have no ideas.

There is plenty of work to do, but the Premier's priorities are simply all wrong. Queensland families and businesses are paying higher taxes and increased living costs. Much needed infrastructure across Queensland is not being built. Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, we are falling behind the other states.

Labor's priorities are all wrong. Labor spends millions renaming a hospital when the health system is in crisis. Labor gives domestic violence offenders extra taxpayer funded leave but does not close the loopholes in the blue card system until pressured by the LNP. Labor introduces five new taxes when Queensland has the highest unemployment in the nation and staggering low business confidence. Labor cuts police when crime is out of control. Labor wants to teach our kids about unions while education standards are slipping. Labor slugs us more for our registration and electricity but does not fix our roads and lower our power bills. Labor does favours for union mates, but rail fail continues. Labor is more concerned about criminals' rights than ours. Labor has ordered 250 reviews but then covers up their findings. Labor spends millions of dollars on overseas travel but cuts maternity services in the bush. It is a complete disgrace when those opposite are focused on those matters rather than what really counts for Queenslanders.

When I was elected opposition leader I said that I would be an opposition leader with a plan. I said that I would be an opposition leader who offered solutions to this government. It is clear they like these solutions because we have seen those opposite now adopt seven of the LNP's plans—that is, seven of our policies. We have seen those opposite get on board with free swimming lessons for our kids—an LNP policy; real-time fuel price monitoring—an LNP policy, announced by those opposite but yet to be enacted; GPS tracking on dangerous sex offenders—an LNP policy; upgrading the M1—an LNP policy; duplicating Sunshine Coast rail—another LNP policy; having a third government generator to lower electricity prices—an LNP policy; also, mandating government investment in renewables—another LNP policy.

It is clear that this government has no fresh ideas of its own. It is clear that this government is bone lazy. It is clear that the Palaszczuk government has no plan, no interest and no energy in Queensland. It is only the LNP that has a clear plan for Queensland.

Townsville, Water Supply



Mr STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (2.10 pm): There is no doubt that Townsville is a growing city and widely recognised as the capital of Northern Australia given that its population hovers around 200,000 residents. With this population growth comes demand on infrastructure both now and into the future. We all know in our own communities the importance of reliability, affordability and security of water in enabling towns and cities to grow. In December 2016, Townsville had been through three failed wet seasons and the prognosis for rain in 2017 was not looking any better. The council were already pumping through the Haughton channel and barely keeping up with the demand, given that the city was already on level 3 restrictions.

I met with the Premier and Minister Bailey several times during 2016 and 2017 advocating for funding to increase the capacity of the water pipeline if the city was to grow and to encourage additional manufacturing and large industry to the region. The water task force was established to determine solutions to meet the water needs of our growing city. When the task force released their interim report, without hesitation the Premier and the minister committed \$225 million to upgrade the water pipeline. When we talk about game-changing decisions, decisions that make significant impacts, this is one of those moments in time when the decision to back the people of Townsville, with \$225 million to increase the capacity of water for the city, will remain in their memories for generations.

The Palaszczuk government's local procurement policy, allowing contract packages to be broken down into smaller components so that local contractors have the ability to bid for these contracts, has brought a huge change to our city. On Friday just last week, I met with Rick from KB Pipelines who told me that they are an Indigenous family run and operated company who has put on additional apprentices due to the increase in work from the water pipeline project. Rick also talked about the confidence they have in being able to do the work on such a large scale as this.

I then went on to Mendi Constructions. While Jeff Doyle was not at the company site, his plant equipment was not either because every possible truck, grader and dozer were being used on the various sites across Townsville. As it turns out, Mendi did the initial work on the Townsville stadium, on the Bus Hub and now on the water pipeline. For them, the investment by the Palaszczuk government in Townsville has meant that they have put on additional workers to cope with demand.

My final visit on Friday afternoon was to Scott at CivilPlus who were responsible for the \$100 million berth upgrade to the port. Scott was saying that they have had to put on an additional 52 people since the work started to flow from state government projects like the port and water pipeline. They, too, are involved in the initial works around the water pipeline.

The importance of the water pipeline cannot be understated for the people of Townsville. It is a significant piece of infrastructure that will change our city. Only two weeks ago the final task force report was released and stated that if stage 2 were to be built simultaneously with stage 1 it would save around \$55 million. Last week the 'ScoMo Express' came to town, without the bus but with the Prime Minister saying that they would give money to the project—in forward estimates—after the business case had been done.

The federal government has to be dragged kicking and screaming to the table every single time when it comes to funding projects in North Queensland which they sign on to in the very first city deals. Why is it that the LNP federal government does not want to invest in the largest city in Northern Australia? Why is it that the federal LNP government is not following up on its Developing Northern Australia policy? It is simple. It is because the LNP does not care about North Queenslanders.

Many of us have spoken about the importance of addressing mental health issues in this parliament. On Friday night, Nikki, my electorate officer, lost her husband to the demons that have haunted him for many years. We as a collective need to do more to address this growing issue within our communities. We also need to be thankful for every day with our loved ones whom we sometimes take for granted.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Listening to the Deputy Premier's ministerial statements each week can be very entertaining and very enlightening.

Mr Krause: Fiction.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. 'Fiction,' he said straight off. Last sitting week we heard about how well our economy is going apparently, despite the fact that right across the state there are different peak bodies telling us how bad we are going and how lowly we are ranked compared to every other state in this nation.

Today we heard from the Treasurer and Deputy Premier that the people of Australia want a federal government that is like the Queensland government. If I have heard a more comical statement in this House, I cannot remember it. If the people of Australia vote for Bill Shorten, that is exactly what they will get. They will get a government exactly like this state government—a government that is bred, that is led and that is fed by the trade union movement. We do not have to go far to see how much this government is influenced and controlled by the trade union movement and how that would apply even more under a Shorten government if Australia were unlucky enough to have that result.

This is a government that thinks it is appropriate for unions to send CVs through private email addresses for positions on boards and other government positions and thinks that is a normal process and acceptable. This is a government that allows our railways to be totally and utterly controlled by the trade union movement—a union that has controlled the number of drivers to make sure that they get more overtime so that we have a situation where a driver earned \$190,000 last year.

This is a government that allows unions to be on interview panels for school principals. Can you think of any other workplace that allows union officials on panels to select managers and government employees? It is absolutely ridiculous. This is a government that wants our children to be indoctrinated by the trade union movement by bringing in programs supposedly about their work rights.

This is a government that has created an IR environment where over at the Queen's Wharf redevelopment we have a carpenter earning \$230,000 a year. This is a government that stacks boards with trade union lackeys. Board after board after board is filled with trade union lackeys. There is no greater example than a CFMEU heavy being on the QBCC board. Can you think of anything more ridiculous than that, Mr Deputy Speaker?

This is a government that is held captive by the unions, and that is what would happen if Bill Shorten were elected. This is also a government that is held captive by the green movement. We will not get dams built in this state under a Labor government because they are totally controlled by the radical greens down here when it comes to preferences, so we will never see those dams that regional Queensland so desperately needs. This is a government that is schizophrenic on coalmining.

Mrs Frecklington: They can't even say it.


Mr MANDER: They love the royalties but they cannot say that word. They cannot say the 'c' word because of their flip-flopping attitude on this.

Ms PEASE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I find that language from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition unparliamentary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I find that unparliamentary and ask that you withdraw it.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. This is a government that is also held captive by the Greens. That is why we will not see any action on shark control in the Whitsundays. The rest of the coast has shark control except the Whitsundays which for some reason do not deserve that type of protection. This is a government that is obsessed with ScoMo. They are frightened of ScoMo. All we saw today in their ministerial statements was statement after statement about ScoMo—a man who is connected to the Australian people. He is a man of the people who can have a beer and have a pie. He does not eat a sausage in the middle of a sandwich like Bill Shorten. The scariest four words in the English language—and we hope like heck it does not happen—is 'Prime Minister Bill Shorten'.

Cook Electorate, Health Services

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.20 pm): When it comes to health, Cook is clearly one of the most diverse electorates challenged by the vastness of the region. I have said this many times previously: Cook is not your typical electorate. The communities from Mareeba to Mossman and Port Douglas across Cape York Peninsula to the Torres Strait Islands are either separated by vast landscape or open sea. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges remoteness as one of the underlying factors influencing health outcomes for the region and is committed to strengthening health services to adequately meet the needs of people in communities.

The Cook electorate encompasses two different hospital and health services. They are Torres and cape and Cairns and hinterland. While a large majority of the communities in Cook sit in Torres and cape, other facilities which include the Mossman Multi Purpose Health Service, Cow Bay Primary Health Centre, Mareeba Hospital and Chillagoe Primary Health Centre are covered by the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.

The Cook electorate has three hospitals in Mareeba, Thursday Island and Bamaga with a multipurpose health service in Cooktown and Weipa, and public health centres and/or primary healthcare centres in the smaller regional and remote communities. The geographical make-up of the region underpins the type and level of service offered, supported by workforce requirements specific to the service level.

This year I had the privilege of visiting some of the hospitals and primary healthcare centres throughout my electorate to hear about service delivery in communities. One thing that remains certain was the commitment and dedication of our amazing health professionals in delivering quality health care to people no matter where they live. I had the pleasure of visiting Wujal Wujal Primary Health Centre early this year and heard about their wonderful patient care regime to ensure ongoing client care is achieved. In Pormpuraaw I visited on the day of their child health clinic and it was wonderful to see the line-up of parents with their children.

On Masig in the Torres Strait I spoke with a local person who was attending the primary healthcare centre to take advantage of the visiting dental clinic to have his whole family assessed. I recently visited the renal clinic at Thursday Island Hospital with Minister Miles and met locals who were receiving dialysis treatment. One local in particular expressed how happy she was to receive her treatment at home overlooking the beautiful turquoise water of the straits.

Quality service is clearly reaching communities in all corners of the Cook electorate, and it is the personal experience of people that really puts things into perspective. When it comes to supporting service delivery, no government understands this better than the Palaszczuk government. In Mareeba we delivered on our election commitment to build a \$1.5 million staff accommodation to attract more medical staff to the region. This government understands that to deliver a quality service we need the right people to do the job. The staff accommodation would not only attract but also support staff transitioning to regional and remote towns and communities.


It does not stop at Mareeba either. We are funding staff accommodation in Kowanyama, Bamaga, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Ugar and Dauan islands. When it comes to delivering holistic health care, no government understands this concept better than the Palaszczuk government. This is why we are

entering into a strong partnership with other key stakeholders to look at all aspects of health. Funding and entering into service agreements with key stakeholders is a reflection of a government that looks at health from all different perspectives.

Entering into a service agreement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils for the delivery of environmental health services, St John's Community Care to provide centre based dementia respite services over a range of locations including Mareeba, or Douglas Shire Community Services Association for delivery of the Housing and Support Program for people with mental illness exiting a Queensland Health facility are some examples of the wonderful partnerships currently in place. It shows that this government will leave no stone unturned for communities in my electorate.

I am proud to represent a government which delivers for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is committed to health in regional and remote communities in the Cook electorate. We are investing in jobs, infrastructure and service delivery, but most importantly we are investing in people to enhance health and wellbeing long into the future.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.25 pm): The health priorities of the Palaszczuk Labor government are all wrong, and there is no greater example than the debacle we have seen over renaming the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. What an absolute unmitigated disaster it has been from day one. The treatment of the Cilento family by the Premier and her clueless health minister has been nothing short of heartless and utterly disrespectful.

When the consultation process was first announced, the Cilento family first heard about it on the radio that morning. When the final decision was made, the minister had never even met with or spoken to the family and made this excuse on 21 September: 'I don't have that personal relationship with them; the person who contacted them does.' Everyone has had enough of this minister and his dog-ate-my-homework excuses. Queenslanders want Labor to be focused on better patient care. Improving the services provided to our sickest kids should be the priority, not wasting taxpayers' money renaming children's hospitals.

Last weekend the *Sunday Mail* featured an open letter to the Queensland Premier entitled 'Save the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital', a copy of which I table.

Tabled paper: Document, dated November 2018, titled 'Save the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital—Open letter to the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk' [1871].

It was a heartfelt plea to the Premier to listen to the people of Queensland and put patient care before politics. I want to read some key extracts from the letter into Hansard because they well articulate the issue at hand. The letter states—

Queensland's health system is stretched to the limit. Our state's sickest children are being treated in hospital kitchens and public areas because of a shortage of beds.

Women are still consistently under-recognised in public life, despite the significant contribution they have made to our state. Only three percent of public buildings and monuments across the nation are named after women.

Despite these facts, Health Minister Steven Miles has made the decision to tear down the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and rename it Queensland Children's Hospital, along with five of the hospital schools.

We are shocked and appalled that the Premier would sanction an action that is a blatant waste of public money that will run into the millions of dollars—not \$500,000 as claimed by the Health Minister—and discredit the name of one of Queensland's first female doctors.

Instead of celebrating Lady Cilento, her name is now to be physically ripped down because a small group of doctors and politicians are seeking to assert their own agenda. Therefore, we the undersigned are calling on the Premier of Queensland, Anastacia Palaszczuk, to reverse Health Minister Steven Miles's decision.

The letter goes on to detail the legacy of Lady Phyllis Cilento, a legacy which should be respected and celebrated, not torn down and admonished. The letter finishes by stating—

The rebranding of the Lady Cilento Hospital and its associated schools is heartless, sexist and completely illogical. It represents an extraordinary waste of money and the Queensland Government turning its back on the values of our nation was built on: egalitarianism and respect. The reputation of an inspirational woman is being dragged through the mud and hospital patients are suffering while the elite pursue cheap political gains.

Queenslanders deserve better, as does the Cilento family. They deserve a health minister who puts patient care as his No. 1 priority, not silly political games that waste taxpayers' money. They deserve a Premier who listens and acts when wrong decisions are made, and it is not too late for the

Premier to act. How much is this debacle going to cost the taxpayers of Queensland? It is money that should be put into improving the health care of our sickest kids. It is money that could be put into restoring important maternity services in Theodore and following on from the debacle we saw in Chinchilla that saw the hospital on maternity bypass for almost a year.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's health priorities are all wrong. Ambulance ramping continues to increase. Twenty-five per cent of all patients admitted to emergency departments are sitting in the back of ambulances for longer than the recommended time frame of 30 minutes. Our emergency departments are overcrowded. Twenty-eight per cent of all patients admitted to emergency departments are not being seen within clinically recommended time frames. Elective surgery wait times are blowing out. Almost five per cent of statewide elective surgeries are not done on time, and the medium wait time for treatment of 36 days continues to increase.

Instead, this health minister is wasting money focused on changing the name of one of our major children's hospitals. It just goes to show how arrogant and out of touch he is, and he clearly is not up to the job of administering Queensland's biggest public service—our \$17.3 billion health system. Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health system but the Palaszczuk government is not delivering. Labor's priorities are all wrong.

Jordan Electorate, Infrastructure



Mrs MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (2.30 pm): Last weekend I met with some new constituents who had recently moved into the electorate of Jordan. We gathered over nibbles and drinks at a welcome to the neighbourhood event in Spring Mountain. Spring Mountain may be unfamiliar to some, but it is the newest suburb in Greater Springfield and most recently was in the media as a suburb recording the highest one-year capital growth within South-East Queensland at over 103 per cent.

This growth may be seen as extraordinary but within my electorate of Jordan it is a reflection of the growth that is quickly becoming the norm. Over the next 25 years, South-East Queensland is expected to grow by two million people. Much of this growth is expected to occur in the south-western region, where much of the Jordan electorate resides. In fact, both Greater Springfield and the Greater Flagstone priority development areas are key parts of my electorate and they are growing steadily.

As the state member, I do understand the challenges and the concerns of my constituents when it comes to the infrastructure and services we need for our growing communities. Our government is certainly committing significant investment for infrastructure in this state—with \$48.5 billion over the next four years, and \$11.6 billion this year alone. This is an increase of \$2 billion on last year's budget and, sadly, almost five times what the federal government is investing in our state's infrastructure. We also know that this investment will drive our economy and support 38,000 Queensland jobs every year.

We are certainly seeing the benefits of this investment in our region. Major road projects, such as the \$78 million investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway and \$400 million for the Ipswich Motorway, will see greater movement through our region. I am also looking forward to the planning that will begin next year for the Logan Motorway to Yamanto section of the Centenary Highway. Of course, we should not underestimate the importance of the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail which will provide great benefits for our residents by opening up the rail network in South-East Queensland and it will ensure we can deliver significant rail extensions, like Springfield to Ripley and the Salisbury to Beaudesert rail lines.


The upgrade to the park-and-ride in Springfield Central will benefit our region and detailed design for this \$46 million multistorey facility is currently underway, with construction expected to begin next year. Public transport for new growth areas in Greenbank and Flagstone are also anticipated and supported through the Greater Flagstone priority development scheme.

Investment in education is so very important, and we will see significant infrastructure for key schools in our region, including \$9 million for Springfield Central State High School, \$4.9 million for Flagstone State Community College and \$4.7 million for Augusta State School. We are also opening a brand-new primary school in Spring Mountain in 2019, with construction almost complete and a new principal appointed. Land has also been identified for a new state primary school in Greenbank which is anticipated to be delivered as the population grows in this area.

Health continues to be a priority for our growing region. The most recent state budget confirmed significant expansions of key regional hospitals, with \$124 million for the Ipswich Hospital and \$281 million for the Logan Hospital. I am also a strong advocate for additional public health services in our region to cater for the growth, and I know our government is also actively considering future police, fire and ambulance services and facilities within the growing south-western corridor.

This year I have had the opportunity to meet with a range of ministers along with departmental representatives to discuss the infrastructure and service needs for my electorate and our broader region. I have been greatly reassured by the deep level of understanding shown by our ministers and by the active planning that is happening across our government in addressing these needs. I appreciate that we are a vast state and there are always competing interests, but I feel very confident that our region's needs are being heard and that is good news for our community and those fantastic new residents of Spring Mountain.

Police Resources

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.34 pm): Let me be clear: under the Palaszczuk Labor government, the police budget is down and crime is up. The government's No. 1 priority should be to keep its citizens safe, but the Palaszczuk government are failing miserably. Unfortunately, on that basic measure, they cannot deliver. This year alone we have seen a budget cut of \$44.6 million, which is \$8.3 million from the road safety budget and \$36.3 million from the crime and public order budget. I ask you, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart: how is public order and crime going in Townsville? We know for sure that it is going poorly, and this minister's response is to do nothing apart from talk about the numbers that do not exist.

We have an embattled police minister who cannot get his facts straight about the police numbers on the Gold Coast. Take the recent example where the Premier was asked a question on notice on 18 October about a decline in Gold Coast police numbers. The Premier's response was that there were 842 police officers on the Gold Coast, indicating a cut of 44 officers. Later that day, the Minister for Police revealed that the number of FTE officers was 856.65. Following that, the Minister for Police then reported that the number of police officers was over 1,000, which would include specialist squads that are centralised.

What we find as we look at these numbers is that the minister is hiding. He will not front up and he does not have a clue as to the exact numbers on the Gold Coast and in other areas. How can Queenslanders have faith in law and order if the minister cannot get something so simple correct? The police minister regularly hides behind a claim that issues are an operational matter, despite legislation clearly outlining his ability to receive reports and direct the commissioner about issues, including policy and priorities to be pursued and the number and deployment of officers. I will say that again: the number and deployment of officers. Turning around and saying, 'The Gold Coast doesn't need more officers. It's not my fault. It's an operational matter,' is clearly not correct.

The minister is the minister. He is the minister who is supposed to run the Queensland Police Service, and the buck stops with him. If crime is going up, then he needs to go back to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee and get some more money to increase the funding and increase the number of police. He needs to keep his election commitments, which have been broken all over the state. It is patently obvious that he is out of his depth and he cannot keep Queenslanders safe.

Let us have a look at some crime statistics from different regions. On the Gold Coast, common assault has skyrocketed 126 per cent. How do you feel walking down the street? In Mackay, robbery is up 216 per cent. In the Far North, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 52 per cent. In south Brisbane, rape and attempted rape is up 47 per cent. In north Brisbane, vehicle theft is up 30 per cent.

What else is going on in Queensland under this incompetent minister? We have found that the bikies are back. Labor's bkie laws have clearly failed. Under Labor, more and more bikies have emerged across the state. There are now 28 bkie gangs declared as identified organisations, which certainly suggests they do not have the bikies under control. We could ask the people in the electorate of Kawana if the bikies are under control, because there was a recent shooting there by bikies in broad daylight.

This is not the Queensland that I moved to in 1989. This is not the Queensland that we all want and deserve. We all pay our taxes—increasing taxes at that—and the priority should be the safety of our community. If Labor cannot keep the community safe, then they should not be in government in Queensland. Why is the budget being cut while crime is going up? We need to address this as a matter of urgency for the people of the Gold Coast and the people of Townsville—the people across the entirety of Queensland. The officers that were promised coming into the election should now be delivered. Even in my area, there were new police officers promised but the numbers have not increased. The numbers have not gone up. What we find all across the state is that police numbers are not keeping pace with population growth. The budget is down and crime is up.

Homelessness



Ms SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (2.38 pm): Last week I spoke at and attended the 14th Gold Coast Homelessness Symposium with a range of stakeholders in our community who are doing some incredible work for families who are doing it tough. The focus of this year's symposium was support for our ageing population, with the latest stats showing that more than 27 per cent of Gold Coasters are aged over 55 and, like everyone, they are facing high housing costs, an increase in cost of living and a tight rental market.

One of the Palaszczuk government's key mantras is that every Queenslanders deserves the right to a safe, secure and sustainable place to live. Our Queensland Housing Strategy is a \$1.8 billion plan to deliver more social and affordable housing. Through our Housing Construction Jobs Program, we are investing \$110 million over five years to build 392 new social homes on the Gold Coast. In doing so, we are partnering with industry and the community housing sector to ensure that we get the right places built in the right spots. Usually this means building smaller, more accessible properties—one- and two-bedroom apartments, close to critical infrastructure, transport and shops. This is important because we know that on the Gold Coast 62 per cent of demand for social housing is for one-bedroom apartments.

We are also transforming the way that housing services are delivered to better support people in need, with a focus on early intervention and prevention. For example, one of the key legacy outcomes from the Commonwealth Games which continues to this day is the Advance to Zero program. It is a collaboration between Gold Coast support services and the Palaszczuk government which has so far found homes for 66 people experiencing homelessness—19 of those since the games finished. Our homeless protocol for the Commonwealth Games set the benchmark for major global events. Its message was very clear: all people have a right to the enjoyment of public places and to participate in public activities and events. Extra services, free bus travel, expanded hubs and more beds were put in place to cope with any potential rise in homelessness. We learnt a lot from the games about how we can work together and respond quickly to help people in need.

In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk government allocated almost \$8 million in homelessness program funding to support seven services on the Gold Coast—organisations like the Salvation Army, UnitingCare Community and Surfers Paradise Anglican Crisis Care. They deliver beds, temporary supported accommodation and support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We are in our third year of running the Dignity First Fund—another \$2.5 million to make innovative community projects come to life which help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to live with dignity. This includes projects like food vans, mobile barber shops and mobile laundries and vending machines that provide free women's sanitary products.

Our Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation is also seeking answers from everyone—tenants, property owners and managers—about how we can improve the renting experience. We want to know why people are unable to find an affordable rental, what we can do about it and what we can do to help people sustain longer tenancies. The private rental market is tight on the Gold Coast and it is expensive. We are doing something to address that: expanding our package of private rental assistance over the next three years. The aim is to help people access or sustain their current private market tenancy or to help public housing tenants move into the private market, thus freeing up more government homes.

The list of initiatives provided by the Palaszczuk government goes on. Unfortunately, despite all the good work we are doing, the federal LNP Morrison government has decided to end 50 years of critical support to Queensland's remote Indigenous communities by ending its \$112 million per annum funding commitment. Because of this cut, Queensland has had to step in with a \$40 million remote housing construction program to protect local jobs. We know that all evidence points towards housing as being a critical building block in terms of long-term social and economic outcomes, and yet we continue to see funds slashed from this sector. This cut means that, without the federal government's contribution, Queensland will have to consider other options, including redirecting funding from essential social housing, affordable housing and homelessness services to cover this funding shortfall. We need national leadership on this issue, not funding cuts.

Today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* has also highlighted the devastating impact that the undersupply of affordable housing will have on victims fleeing from domestic violence. Vulnerable Gold Coasters deserve a lot better. All levels of government should be bringing about change to find more people a bed and a roof over their heads and to give dignity to those still searching for a place to live.

South Sea Islanders



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (2.43 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the disadvantage that continues to beset the South Sea islander communities. The Australian South Sea islands people were brought to Queensland as slaves and a cheap source of disposable labour to work the colonial sugar fields from the 1870s. Many died in the canefields establishing an industry which to this day remains a key tenet of the Queensland economy.

As I spoke about in my maiden speech, the White Australia Policy, enacted at the turn of the 20th century, along with the implementation of the Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901, led to many South Sea islanders being sent home. Tragically, if near immediate deportation was not harsh enough treatment, many did not finish the journey alive at the hands of those tasked with transport duty. For those who sought to remain on Queensland soil, especially those who had subsequently been born here, the list of parliamentary legislation enacted between 1901 and 1921 and through to the Aliens Act as late as 1965 is a sobering indictment of how nasty white Australians could be.

In 1903 the Sugar Cultivation Act sought to remove non-Europeans working in the sugar industry, whilst the Sugar Bounty Act of the same year paid more for cane cut by white workers. A series of openly racist acts of parliament restricted South Sea islanders along with a number of other races who could not pass a 50-word English literacy test from working for the local authorities, holding a mining license or seeking employment within the pearling, dairy or banana industries. At that point in time Queensland agriculture had benefited greatly from the Kanakas' service, as did the establishment of the railways and main roads which continued to offer up lowly positions involving the toughest of work. Despite this adversity, the South Sea islanders were a hardworking and happy people, presenting little threat to anyone, yet the rotten treatment tested their resolve to stay and contribute to a young, growing nation that in many ways was still refusing to accept them.

Sadly, to this day I do not believe the shackles of slavery have been removed. Based on my personal observations and from seeking the advice of others, I believe the South Sea islander people still face a range of difficulties such as establishing small businesses and being appointed to positions of employment beyond the menial grades. In general, their education and health standards continue to lag. I have seen this. I know that after what happened with the CAMS office in Mackay we can count less than 10 people in the South Sea island community in Queensland who actually own a mainstream business, and I think that is an absolute shame.

Within my local electorate of Mirani, the South Sea islander community is a well recognised feature of the district and is fortunate to have the support of the Mackay Regional Council—and also the Palaszczuk government—employing a community liaison officer with a South Sea islander background. For many decades the Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association has been proactive in seeking better recognition of the Australian South Sea islanders at both state and federal levels. As part of a recent listening tour conducted by Ms Marion Healy, formerly a Fatnowna, her diligent work has confirmed a statewide Australian South Sea islander body, which has been sought for many decades, is very much needed in our community.

The forming of a statewide Australian South Sea islander body will also provide a better level of assistance to the established regional groups, establish a recognised forum for discussion on socioeconomic disadvantage and provide efficient advocacy for all Australian South Sea islander descendants who are even more dispersed across the state. As such, I am keen to seek the formal support of the Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, the member for Sandgate, and to receive acknowledgment of the establishment and funding of a statewide Australian South Sea islanders council. This would be a positive step in finally addressing the legacy of a countless number of human rights breaches committed against the Australian South Sea islander peoples. This would finally establish proper socioeconomic equality after 150 years of disadvantage. This has been a long time coming. We would like to see bipartisan support for this. We would also like to see this supported by the federal government going forward.

Ipswich State High School



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.48 pm): Last week I was invited by Rheanna Leschke, music teacher at Ipswich State High School, to attend an external performance of her year 10 music class, who are gaining real-world experience whilst participating in the live music culture in Ipswich. The venue was Banshees Bar & Art Space in Brisbane Street, Ipswich and there were plenty of classmates and parents there in support. The students were a little nervous but super excited and their performances were outstanding.

The Ipswich State High School's music department is just one facet of what is a truly amazing school that allows its students to have the opportunity to excel in all aspects of school life whether it be arts, science or sport. Currently under construction is the school's new \$9.9 million performing arts building, which not only will provide new classrooms and performance spaces but will be home to the next generation of the school's singers, dancers and superstars.

I recently met with the principal, Simon Riley, and the federal member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, to discuss how we can achieve the next major building project at the school: a two-storey sports hall that will finally provide space to accommodate the entire school cohort and staff under one roof. Such is the quality of the players in the school's Rugby League academy that it is a bad year when only three students gain contracts with NRL clubs. Last month Ipswich State High School students competed in the annual western region innovative science, technology, engineering and maths—STEM—competition. Year 8 students Shayne Parsons, Haydan Murphy and Talia McGavin were fascinated by the need to recycle urine in space and decided to figure out a more energy efficient way of doing so here on earth, so they developed an innovative evaporation system that was energy efficient and provides pure, potable drinking water.

At the recent Ipswich State High School awards night Lilian Prochon was announced 2018 school dux. What is amazing is that the 17-year-old was homeschooled up until year 10, and to go from homeschooling to a school of over 1,600 students is truly amazing. But it did not daunt Lilian. She plans to take a gap year in 2019 before enrolling in agribusiness at the University of Queensland at Gatton, my alma mater. On Friday the school will hold its year 12 graduation ceremony. The 2018 valedictorian is Yolanda Baltasar, a mature age student who will deliver the valedictory on behalf of the year 12 class. Not only did 42-year-old Yolanda star in the school's 2018 musical *Matilda* but she also represented the school at the recent Rotary Club of North Ipswich Youth Speak 2018 and took out first prize.


The Ipswich State High School captains for 2018 were Charlie Hargreaves and Tayla Hunt, while Reece Mayen and Hannah McCarthy were vice-captains. They are all outgoing, friendly and talented students. Tayla Hunt is an outstanding dancer and starred in the school's musical *Matilda*. Hannah McCarthy has been a wonderful ambassador for the school and was interviewed by local radio station 94.9. I was so impressed by Charlie Hargreaves that I recently nominated him for the 2019 Ipswich City Council Junior Citizen of the Year award for his commitment to serving both his school and his community.

School vice-captain Reece Mayen's story is a stirring tale of resilience and heartbreak after the loss of his father. Not long ago Reece lived in a refugee camp in one of the poorest countries on earth, where he dreamed of accessing Australia's opportunities. He was born in South Sudan 20 years ago but moved to Kenya when he was five. Despite this move life remained tough in Kenya. The 2011 death of his father, a soldier, was the turning point in his life. He made a tough decision: if he wanted to make something of his life, leaving was the only option. In 2016 he left his mother and sisters in Kenya and, with his younger brother and older sister, made the journey to Australia. He hopes to attend university and study medicine. He wants to become a doctor and return to South Sudan to open up a surgery. Reece is one of 30 refugees at Ipswich State High School, and he is a wonderful example of what refugees can contribute to our nation.

In closing, I wish all of the students and staff of Ipswich State High School and all of the schools in my electorate of Ipswich West all the very best for a joyous and happy Christmas break.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 3401.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.53 pm): I am honoured to represent the electorate of Gympie in the 56th Parliament. I am humbled by the trust that electors have again shown in me. I will endeavour to represent and fight for the things that matter to them. I am immensely proud of the Gympie region and the values that its residents hold. During the last parliament I was given opportunities and experiences which I hope will stand me and my community in good stead in the next two years.

Mr Deputy Speaker, congratulations on your appointment to an office which carries a long and powerful history in the Westminster tradition. Elections always bring change and loss. Some choose retirement and some have it imposed on them by brutal arithmetic at the ballot box, such as the former member for Redlands, Matt McEachan; the former member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps; and my neighbour in Noosa, Glen Elmes. Thanks also to my party's former leaders: the former member for

Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg—someone I have known since my days in the Young National Party—and the member for Clayfield. Being opposition leader can be onerous and lonely, and I thank them for their service. I would also like to congratulate our new leadership team, the member for Nanango and the deputy leader, on their election.

Without the support of our family members none of us would be able to do this job properly. I would like to publicly thank my wife, Michele, and my daughters, Stephanie and Josie, for their support. They put up with a lot over the years with my absences and the demands on my time.

I would not be here without a team of supporters. We in the LNP rely on the hard work of volunteers and families. We do not have paid union officials and political operatives hiding under activist banners to support us. Our support base is transparent and there for all to see. Ordinary, everyday Australians who feel deeply about their state help us. Thank you to my campaign team and supporters including my campaign manager, Ray Currie; my SEC chairman, Guy Burnett; secretary and treasurer Kathy Worth; Wayne Plant; and all of the volunteers, friends, booth workers and local party members.

The years that I spent in local government politics have instilled in me an abiding belief that what matters are the basic common-sense policies grounded in our communities and the lives of everyday, hardworking Queenslanders. When we next face the ballot box, the Labor Party will have been in government for 26 years out of the past 31. That is more than a generation of government stacked with union officials and political machine operatives destroying our state and running up the credit card. They mislead, fabricate, dissemble, avoid, fudge and hide behind spin. Instead of addressing the serious issues they contract out work to reviews and inquiries. They focus on 'token gesture' politics and campaigns that demonise the values of decent, hardworking Queenslanders. They are beholden to masters in political activist groups and union thugs. They accept no responsibility for their actions. They blame everyone else: they blame us; they blame Canberra; they blame local governments. It is time they looked in a mirror and accepted their own responsibility and culpability for creating many of the problems that face this state.

Unemployment levels are a real and concerning issue in regions such as Gympie. Our unemployment rate is 8.9 per cent, which is 2.9 per cent above the state average. The Wide Bay youth unemployment rate of 23.5 per cent is almost double the state average of 13 per cent. Common sense would tell you that all government decisions cannot be isolated from their impact on our budget, our economic health and real long-term jobs. Many government policies have flow-on effects in the local jobs market. Every policy which does not equate to better employment outcomes, improved chances for finding jobs such as securing better qualifications and access to employers and supporting our local industries is wasting taxpayers' dollars. It is simply not smart.

Anyone who was here during the last parliament would know there are a number of issues that I have been pushing for Gympie: providing real job prospects; practical support for families and the Gympie community; greater investment in local infrastructure projects; the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities; and providing support and incentives for local business which will allow Gympie to thrive and grow. The Labor Party government's focus on a Brisbane-centric, ideologically driven agenda means that the needs of local families, workers, businesses and industry are being ignored. Practical common-sense policies will let Gympie achieve its full economic and lifestyle potential. We need policies which use taxpayers' money carefully and prudently. Unfortunately, that is not the Labor way.

There is no better example than the appalling waste of more than half a billion dollars of taxpayers' money on the failed Traveston Dam project. That \$500 million represents losses of more than \$318 million from the purchase and subsequent resale of properties and \$200 million from wasted reports, strategies, impact statements, management costs, design works and investigation. It does not even include losses from businesses which closed down or moved away. That fiasco is a prime example of a Labor government which arrogantly imposed a decision on a community with no consultation.

Gympie's challenges are addressing systemic high unemployment levels; providing infrastructure which supports future growth and business opportunities; upgrading and making our road network safer and more efficient; raising the education levels of locals so that they have better a chance to secure meaningful work; differentiating ourselves from other regions in attracting tourists; and providing quality facilities for health, education and sport.

Gympie needs common-sense policies such as granting the lease of an empty and unused TAFE building to the University of the Sunshine Coast; continuation of the Bruce Highway upgrade; investment in a multipurpose function centre; supporting local small businesses to provide real,

long-term employment opportunities instead of short-term subsidies; reducing pointless red and green tape, which is choking local industries; and family-friendly adventure and nature based tourism opportunities.

Gympie is a high-growth commercial and residential corridor in a strategic location, with over three million consumers within a two-hour travelling time. Our solid economy is one of the most diverse of any non-metropolitan region in Queensland, making it more attractive than regions that experience fluctuating peaks and troughs in industries like tourism and mining. The right investment will provide confidence in our economy by unleashing the potential of the private sector to value-add, borrow, invest, grow and generate jobs. That is why the LNP kick-started the Bruce Highway upgrades. Locals are eagerly awaiting the completion of the Gympie bypass. We recognise the need to integrate all our local transport corridors. That is why we made a \$2.5 million commitment towards a business case for a very fast train from Brisbane to Bundaberg; more specifically, \$13.2 million to improve safety, efficiency and capacity at 14 intersections between Gympie and Curra; \$10 million to upgrade the Coondoo Creek Bridge; and \$100,000 for a long-term strategic plan for the Gympie road network which will open up our region.

We need that lease of an unused, unwanted, empty TAFE building given to the University of the Sunshine Coast. For almost four years the University of the Sunshine Coast has been trying to secure a lease on something that even TAFE says it does not want. It sits across the car park from the University of the Sunshine Coast site. A lease will help locals who cannot attend university because of distance and financial factors, unemployed youth who want to gain skills and mature age students who are trying to upskill but are unable to move away because of work and family commitments.

A proposal was ready for signing in late 2014, before the change of government. The University of the Sunshine Coast has jumped through hoops. It has done everything that has been asked and has been submitting and resubmitting proposals and applications. How hard can it be? Meanwhile, the building deteriorates and taxpayers' dollars are wasted while a willing tenant is waiting. Constituents frequently tell me how appalled they are with the wanton waste. At the start of this year the new minister made some positive noises. We were cautiously optimistic. I even invited the minister to come and see for herself why it makes so much sense to lease the building. It is almost the end of another year and the lease is still to be signed.

The upgrade of the Coondoo Creek Bridge has become a political football. It is a state government bridge on a state road. Last year, when I announced the LNP commitment of \$10 million to upgrade the bridge and approaches to a one-in-50-year-flood height immunity, the local ALP branch spokesman said that the bridge 'will be built'. He let the Gympie electorate believe that it was on Labor's radar. Despite those misleading claims there was nothing in this year's budget, and the minister has tried all year to shift blame to Canberra—for a state road. In August the federal government generously committed \$5 million to the project. While we have heard the minister say that he supports the upgrade, there is still no mention of the state's \$10 million share. Responsibility stops here in Brisbane, not Canberra. It is time to stop treating Gympie residents as mugs, with disingenuous weasel words. We need an unambiguous and unqualified commitment.

This minister has form. For the past two years I have written and asked questions regarding the notorious Bells Bridge intersection, with constant replies that the government was waiting on Canberra. Canberra put up its \$11.2 million share in May last year. The minister then wrote to me saying that construction would start by the end of this year. Despite the design works being completed, we found hidden in June's budget papers that the funding has now been pushed out to 2021-22. The same document shows that the minister is spending \$17.3 million to extend 2.5 kilometres of a \$45 million three-metre bikeway in his own electorate. That 2.5 kilometres of bikeway could have funded both the Coondoo Creek Bridge upgrade and the Bells Bridge intersection upgrade, with change left over. Instead of blaming everyone else and engaging in misleading spin, the government should just do its job and fix our bridges. Ministers are quick to complain that Canberra is not spending enough in Queensland, yet Canberra is constantly having to pick up the tab on things that are state responsibilities.

Last year I secured LNP support for many local groups that enhance our community and plug the holes in missing government services. There is Little Haven Palliative Care, which needs funding certainty to meet increasing community demand for its services; Gympie Hydrotherapy Group, which is trying to fill the vacuum created by the closure of the pool at Blue Care Gympie Respite Centre; Cooloola Coast Medical Transport, which provides a door-to-door service carrying patients to out-of-town medical appointments; and the Gympie Show Society, which undertakes a massive task in putting on the third largest show in Queensland.

It was disappointing that in the redistribution the Gympie electorate lost the areas of Cooran, Pomona and Kin Kin to the south. However, the draft proposal brought out the fighting spirit of residents and business owners of the Cooloola Coast. The original plan was to excise Rainbow Beach from its neighbours and attach it to the Noosa electorate, effectively splitting the Cooloola Coast community. It was a tough task to get the commission to understand how ridiculous the proposal was and to change its mind. Thankfully, it did change its mind. Across Queensland almost one in every 12, or more than 120, submissions received were regarding the Gympie electorate.

Gympie has gained areas such as Widgee to the west and Curra, Gunalda, Glenwood, Bauple and Gundiah to the north. Improved health services are important for these outer areas. The Cooloola Coast's permanent population of 6½ thousand swells by thousands during the peak tourist season. Patients are forced to travel significant distances for many basic healthcare treatments that could be performed in a local community hospital. A multidisciplinary centre would ease the burden of patient travel and provide services that are available in towns with populations of only 2,000.

Glenwood is new to the electorate. It was previously in the Maryborough electorate. Locals tell me that previous requests to the member for Maryborough for an ambulance station were ignored. More than 6,000 people live in Glenwood and the surrounding towns, and they have to wait for up to 40 minutes for an ambulance to come from Gympie or Maryborough. The stretch of Bruce Highway going through the region is notorious for serious accidents, and an ambulance station can provide quicker response times to save lives.

The car park in Glenwood's local school needs an urgent upgrade. I am not talking about filling in a few potholes. I was appalled when I saw the state of the eroding car park. Despite previously being in Labor's Maryborough electorate, nothing was fixed. The car park is adjacent to the Bruce Highway. Drivers have to use an open space between the highway and the school gate, with the drop-off zone only three metres from the highway. Car parking is dangerously close to a two-metre drop which runs parallel to the highway. It is unsafe and it is appalling that students, parents and staff negotiate such a dangerous car park every school day. Requests for action have seen this issue being tossed from the state government to the Fraser Coast council. It is vital for the safety of everyone who uses this car park that something is done urgently.

In the last two months Gympie has been hit by both devastating bushfires and destructive hailstorms. The fires destroyed property including sheds, fences, equipment, livestock and fodder. The spread of the hailstorms has impacted numerous homes and property owners, landholders and primary producers, with many reporting significant losses. Producers of small crops such as strawberries, blueberries, lettuce, lychees, avocados, macadamias and beans have been hit. Some have lost entire crops and workers have been laid off. The loss is not just immediate. Owners will take some time to recover. For example, the loss of fodder is devastating as it has become more expensive and supplies are limited because of tightened drought conditions. Local economic activity will be hit hard, with losses trickling throughout the community.

This year I have been given the chance to serve on the opposition frontbench. I thank the leadership team for giving me this opportunity. I intend to hold the minister and this government to account. As a farmer and grazier, I live and breathe this sector. I have skin in the game. I will be positive but not at the expense of letting the government or the minister get away with spin and negligence in advocating for the industries and areas he is supposed to represent in cabinet. Agriculture is worth \$20 billion and employs more than 60,000 across 26,000 farm businesses. It accounts for 315,000 people employed across the whole food supply chain, yet this minister and the government have shown little genuine interest or understanding of the needs of those in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors.

One of the most pressing issues facing Queensland primary producers is the ongoing drought. It is relentless and unforgiving. The producers, their families, the workers and businesses in the towns are all doing it tough. It is important they know they are not facing this alone and that we do everything we can to support them. This also means government getting out of the way and allowing landowners to productively manage their properties in times of hardship and drought. The unfair vegetation management laws are making it so much tougher.

There is a complete lack of trust between workers, families and businesses in the sector and the government. Funding cuts to the School to Industry Partnership Program are the most recent example of why they do not trust this government. This is a hands-on education program that showcases where food comes from and highlights agricultural job opportunities to school students. Practicality and

common sense are needed to deal with the challenges facing this sector. I am talking about positive solutions such as the federal government's drought summit and a Future Fund, a royal commission into predatory pricing by supermarkets which is squeezing dairy farmers and our Agriculture and Energy Water Council which works closely with key agriculture industry groups such as the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Canegrowers, Cotton Australia, Growcom and AgForce. Let us hope that the minister soon has a light bulb moment and fights for the interests of regional and rural industries. There is much more to standing up than wearing a hat and some boots or racking up frequent flyer points.

The default position of this government is to increase regulation, licensing, legislation and bureaucratic intrusion into our lives. It has impacted everyone. We need to promote better government, not more government. This will only be achieved by real commitments in expenditure instead of lip-service and window-dressing measures which are for not much more than photo opportunities. It is unacceptable that this government thinks it can get away with rebadging, reannouncements and recycling. It is disrespectful to everyone and it diminishes our responsibility to the electors of this state.



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.12 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the address-in-reply debate of the 56th Parliament and, in doing so, acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered today—the Jagera and Turrbal people—and pay my respects to the elders past, present and emerging. At the outset I congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his elevation to the Speaker's role—a role I know he will and has discharged with professionalism and integrity by acting fairly and in the interests of all Queenslanders. Additionally, I congratulate the member for Townsville, Scott Stewart, on his appointment as Deputy Speaker of this parliament. While we come to this chamber representing different parties and ideologies, I also congratulate all 93 members on their election to this House, particularly those who have been elected for the first time including the 10 new Labor faces who sit on this side of the House and the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, who is the first Torres Strait Islander to be elected to the Queensland parliament or any parliament for that matter.

It is truly a great honour to have the support of your community—to be their voice in this place—and I trust that all members will strive daily to fulfil our pledge to well and truly serve the people of Queensland, as I know I will. I have always put the community first and I am sure that all members of this chamber will continue to strive each day to be strong parliamentarians for their communities and collectively for the people of Queensland. While every member will claim that their electorate is the best, I know that the Redcliffe electorate is the best electorate in Queensland. The Redcliffe electorate encompasses Clontarf, Woody Point, Margate, Kippa-Ring, Newport, Scarborough, Moreton Island and of course Redcliffe surrounded by the magnificent Moreton Bay. However, the Redcliffe electorate is more than just a collection of suburbs; it is truly a community, a community which thrives from year to year, and I am proud to have the honour of serving the Redcliffe community, particularly over the past 11 years both as the member for Redcliffe and the former federal member for Petrie.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful community and not-for-profit groups and organisations which work tirelessly day in and day out to ensure that everyone in our community receives a fair go. We have amazing community organisations like Chameleon Youth Housing, Redcliffe Area Youth Space, the Redcliffe Police Citizens Youth Club, Redcliffe Meals on Wheels, Redcliffe Lions and Rotary clubs, Coast Guard Redcliffe QF3, Quota, ROPE, Zonta Club of Redcliffe, Tuesday Club of Redcliffe, Encircle and Breakaway, the Breakfast Club Redcliffe, the men's shed and the Redcliffe Drop-in Centre, just to name a few. I thank the volunteers of these organisations and the many others in our sporting clubs, service clubs, P&Cs and P&Fs across the Redcliffe peninsula.

Redcliffe is certainly the place to be and the Palaszczuk Labor government is ensuring that our region has the support it needs to continue to thrive. Some of the highlights are 12 extra teachers, 11 extra teacher aides and two extra guidance officers in addition to approximately \$14.3 million in new buildings and extra classrooms across Redcliffe to give our next generation the education they deserve, including the Clontarf High manual arts block upgrade, the Woody Point Special School classroom refurbishments, extra classrooms for Redcliffe Special School and a new hall, administration block and sporting facilities at Redcliffe State High School as well as school maintenance and minor works at various schools.

There is \$22.1 million in extra hospital funding to support 25 extra doctors, 137 extra nurses and midwives, 23 extra allied health workers, 36 extra beds and three extra ambulances at Redcliffe Hospital. In addition, there is \$46 million for a new four-storey, 604-bay car park at Redcliffe Hospital to support patients, visitors and staff access the hospital. We are also investing in the redesign and equipment upgrade for the special care nursery, the birth suite and the paediatric ward at the hospital.

There is investment in both ramp upgrades and dredging works across the peninsula. There is a commitment to go to tender for the re-establishment of a barge service from the peninsula to Moreton Island. We are building 30 new social housing properties in Redcliffe over the next five years and there is a \$250 million investment in local roads, including the major upgrade works at the Gateway Motorway and Rothwell intersection upgrade. I thank everyone for their patience with the Gateway Motorway upgrade. I know when it is finally completed we will all see the benefits in being so close to the airport and to see the Redcliffe peninsula as not just a place where people go to retire but a place where you can live and work and still work in areas like the Brisbane city with that travel being convenient through the improvements to the Gateway.

Like everyone in this chamber, we are here because of the hard work of a number of people and I take this opportunity to thank my amazing volunteers and branch members for their support during the recent election campaign and indeed over many years. There are simply too many names to list, so I will not attempt it. Those who helped know who you are and I am forever grateful. I would also like to thank my hardworking electorate staff. Like many members and in particular ministers, we are away from our electorate offices for periods of time and our electorate staff are the backbone of our offices, ensuring that constituents on a daily basis have access to the information and services they need. I want to thank Karl and Jenny in particular as well as Ollie, who is a recent addition to our office, and Eddie, who recently retired from my office. I want to thank Eddie for his incredible service over the last term of parliament. I also thank my past and present ministerial staff for their dedication and tireless work on behalf of the people of Queensland. They make my job so much easier. I also thank the incredible department that I work with, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

I also pay tribute to the unsung heroes of my family—my husband and my two children who, for many years, have supported me in my role as the then federal member for Petrie and now the member for Redcliffe. They truly are the ones who make the greatest sacrifice. They know that I have attended more school events at other kids' schools than their own. They know that mum has missed many important occasions—have not been there for every sporting carnival and many important birthdays—but I have to say they have never once complained, they have never once chucked a tantrum and it has been like this for them from the ages of four and six. There have been tears of disappointment from time to time, but my kids have just been an incredible strength for me and I thank them so much, and my husband of course, who himself is a shiftworker. Our life has always been crazy. Whenever anyone asks me how we balance it, I say I just try not to overthink it because I do not know.

We just go day by day, week by week, and somehow make it work, as do so many other families—not just in this place but every day in the work that people do. Finally, I thank the people of the electorate of Redcliffe for again putting their faith in me. I end where I began by pledging well and truly to serve the people of Queensland but, more importantly, the people of the Redcliffe electorate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I see leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved the contents of my speech for incorporation and an electronic version has been made available to *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Palaszczuk Government vs Previous Government

I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk Labor Government delivering on our election commitments and restoring not only frontline jobs and services which were cut by the former LNP Government, but also the public's faith in their government, a government which has the best interests of all Queenslanders at its core.

And while Queenslanders have recently witnessed the chaos, confusion and instability which is the Federal Liberal and National Party coalition in Canberra, the Palaszczuk Government is providing stability for Queenslanders and getting on with the job of advancing Queensland's priorities.

It is no secret that when I became the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice on 16 February 2015, the justice system in Queensland was fractured and was suffering from three years of neglect by the LNP Government.

For those who were not in this chamber during those times, or for those who wish to forget, the Newman LNP Government took aim at anyone and everyone. And while I will not stand here and rattle off a list of the LNP's failures, here is a flavour: They used their huge one term majority to pass legislation based on ideology, rather than considered reasoning and science, which was later found to be un-constitutional. They closed down diversionary court programs which are aimed at breaking the cycle of offending and providing opportunities for people. They took aim at the legal fraternity and in particular our judges. They removed provisions in the civil partnership legislation in relation to ceremonies, for no particular reason other than spite and ideology.

They sacked the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. I outline these failures not to be negative or adversarial, but to paint a picture, a starting point if you like, of the challenges the Palaszczuk Labor Government was facing when we took office in 2015.

First Term Achievements Overview

Now let us fast forward from the days when those opposite sat on the Treasury benches to how the Palaszczuk Government has already delivered for Queenslanders.

During the last term of Parliament, in minority government, as the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills I introduced and was proud to successfully navigate the passing of 29 bills. And as many would know, some of these bills were not simple pieces of legislation, but enablers of strong reform to increase openness and transparency, tackle serious and organised crime, tackle alcohol-fuelled violence, restore front-line justice services, support equal rights for Queenslanders and strengthen our laws in relation to the prevention of domestic and family violence.

Openness and Transparency

We delivered on a key election commitment to restore Queensland's integrity with the passing of various electoral reforms, namely the lowering of the threshold for political donations to be made public, from \$12,800 to \$1,000 and these laws were made retrospective from 21 November 2013.

These changes were fundamental in restoring openness and transparency in our political system. Before then, someone could walk into any electorate office or candidate's office and give them a donation of \$12,799 and no one would be any the wiser.

And while we on this side of the House have complied with these new requirements, the record speaks volumes for those opposite, with the LNP challenging the legislation in the Supreme Court and when they did not get the outcome they wanted there, they have now taken it to the Court of Appeal. And while I will not comment further on this matter, as it is before the courts, it begs the question, what do those opposite have to hide?

LNP are also fighting the developer donations ban in the High Court.

Unsurprisingly, the Morrison Federal Government has jumped on the band wagon as well and have snuck in several amendments to their Electoral Funding and Disclosure Bill, which will try to override Queensland's \$1000 disclosure threshold and Queensland's ban on developer donations.

Absolutely shameful.

We also removed the draconian voter ID requirements which were implemented by the LNP Government. These requirements would have seen many Queenslanders unable to vote, as they, for many reasons may not have access to identification documentation.

I am proud that we introduced real-time donation disclosure rules, which allows the public to see in real time who is donating to their elected officials and candidates.

Gone are the days where Queenslanders had to wait until after an election to see who has donated to who and I thank the Electoral Commission of Queensland for their work in the establishment of this online system.

Queenslanders can be assured that Queensland has a strong and well-resourced Crime and Corruption Commission working daily to stamp out crime and corruption in our state. We only have to look at the recent public activities of the CCC to understand that they are serious about their job.

But the CCC can only be as effective as the legislation which forms the foundation of its existence and I am proud that as Attorney-General we passed legislation to strengthen the independence of the Crime and Corruption Commission to provide stability after the turbulent times of the former LNP Government.

This year we also saw an increase in the CCC's budget, with an additional \$7.4 million over four years to provide it with the resources it needs to undertake vital work and I commend the professionalism and dedication of the CCC's Chair Alan MacSporran QC and his team.

Keeping Our Communities Safe

One of the primary jobs of any parliamentarian, in particular the first law officer of the state, is to keep our community safe. And during the past four years, the Palaszczuk Government has been introducing a number of legislative and other reforms to ensure strong legal frameworks are in place, which can stand up to the scrutiny of our court system, if required.

The Palaszczuk Government took to this Parliament the toughest and most effective laws to tackle serious and organised crime and the Parliament voted to support those changes.

The changes delivered a package of organised crime laws that tackle everything from child exploitation rings to outlaw motorcycle gangs and fraudsters.

Queenslanders and visitors to our great state should be able to enjoy everything that Queensland has to offer, including our great night life, without fear of being harmed.

In opposition, we promised we would take action to tackle alcohol-fuelled violence, and I was humbled to work with maxillofacial surgeon and ministerial colleague, Dr Anthony Lynham and community stakeholders on delivering a suite of evidence-based reforms to make our safe night precincts safer.

If anyone is in any doubt why we needed to strengthen the laws in this area, I would urge you to sit down with Minister Lynham to hear his stories, his firsthand stories of how he, for many years, would see the trauma caused by callous and unprovoked attacks in our safe night precincts, as a surgeon. I take this opportunity to thank Minister Lynham for his tireless work in this area, over many years.

The prevention of domestic and family violence is everyone's business and we have strengthened the laws to help curb this scourge on our community.

In particular we have ensured that a circumstance of aggravation can be applied to all criminal offences when committed in a domestic violence setting.

A new offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation has been introduced in Queensland's Criminal Code. The code has also been amended to provide for a definition of "domestic violence offence" and to ensure that any offence that is committed in a domestic and family violence context is noted on an offender's record, while increasing the maximum penalty for breaches of domestic violence orders.

We also established the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court which was first trialled at the Southport court, but is expanding to Beenleigh and Townsville with circuits to Mount Isa and Palm Island, after a \$69.5 million investment over four years by the Palaszczuk Government.

This specialist court service will provide an integrated civil and criminal domestic and family violence court and is our hub of innovation for the development of best practice in the delivery of domestic and family violence justice services.

I am also very pleased that locally, upgrades have been made to Redcliffe Courthouse to provide more suitable facilities for vulnerable witnesses including for domestic and family violence victims. While these are strong steps forward, as legislators we know that the laws which are debated and passed in this chamber are just one element of ensuring peace and good order in our society. It takes everyone in our communities to take a stand and to no longer turn a blind eye to this violence.

Restoring Front-Line Justice Services

One of our primary goals is to be a responsive government. A government for all Queenslanders, regardless of their post code. We have reinstated the Drug and Alcohol Court by providing over \$20 million in funding over the forward estimates. This is in addition to \$43 million over five years for non-government agencies to provide drug and alcohol services across Queensland.

This court targets the underlying cause of crime and provides an intensive and targeted response to adult offenders with severe drug and alcohol issues.

It is important to realise that these are not 'soft options'. Addressing an addiction is a difficult and often painful process, but it is vital to breaking the cycle of drug and alcohol misuse and criminal offending.

We have also re-opened the Murri Courts, an important tool in diverting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the criminal justice system, where they remain over-represented in Queensland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who are involved in our diversion courts, in particular our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders.

Equality

Queenslanders, Australians indeed anyone across the globe should have the right to be treated equally.

That is why I'm proud the Palaszczuk Government reintroduced civil partnerships restoring equality and fairness for all Queenslanders, regardless of their gender, allowing them to celebrate their relationship with a civil partnership ceremony.

When it comes to the most important relationship in our lives, language and rituals are important and I am pleased that I was able to move and pass legislation in this chamber restoring a choice for Queensland couples that should never have been taken away.

We amended section 304 of the Criminal Code to remove what was known as 'gay panic' defence.

We have removed a longstanding source of discrimination from the Criminal Code by standardising the legal age of consent to 16 and have apologised to members of the LGBTI community who were convicted of historical homosexual activity in Queensland.

Training and Skills

If anyone has listened to my previous speeches in this place or knows my background, they would know that one of my strong passions is education and training.

One of our Government's proudest achievements upon coming to government was the restoring the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which was axed by the LNP Government.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has a proven track record of delivering real employment opportunities for Queenslanders. It provides skill development, training and job opportunities for unemployed, disengaged or disadvantaged Queenslanders through a suite of targeted skills and training programs.

And I note with pleasure the current Minister for Training and Skills Development's announcement on 5 September 2018 that 'more than 73 per cent of people who completed one of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects funded through the initiative in 2016 had reached a positive outcome found a job, taken on further training or returned to school.'

Creating jobs in a strong economy is one of the Palaszczuk Labor Government's Advancing Queensland's Priorities and I am pleased to have been involved in the re-introduction of this successful program.

2018 and Beyond

While there has been strong reform undertaken already, there is always more to do, to ensure our state is the best it can be.

As Attorney-General and Minister for Justice I will continue to strive to ensure that our communities are safer, and that Queenslanders have access to the services they need.

We have introduced a Bill which, if passed, will send a clear message that Revenge Porn is not acceptable.

We have also introduced and passed historic laws that make abortion legal after 119 years and make it a health issue, which it rightfully is.

The Government has raised and will continue to fight for fair consumer protection laws, including fairer rules around gift cards and for improved protections for those with lemon vehicles.

Ministerial Appointment

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the strong leadership of our Party Leader and Premier, The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk.

While the success of the government is made up of the collective contributions of many, our reform agenda and strong record of delivering for all Queenslanders has certainly been led from the top. I would like to thank the Premier for continuing to put her trust in me by appointing me as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House in the second term of government.

Leader of the House


As Leader of the House I would like to acknowledge my immediate predecessor, the Member for Sandgate, Minister Hinchliffe for his work as Leader of the House.

The Member for Sandgate is a font of knowledge when it comes to Parliamentary procedure and kick started some of the significant reforms to the business of this House.

As Members would be aware, reform is not just occurring to legislation and policy, but also the rules and procedures which govern the way this place, the people's House operates.

The 56th Parliament has considered and endorsed new sitting hours, bringing our Parliament in line with other jurisdictions. And recently it has introduced a new Business Committee model to assist in streamlining the work which occurs in this chamber.

We are all elected to represent our communities, but we must do that in a positive and considered manner and I am sure that with the recent reforms and the respectful will of all members, we will be able to make this chamber, a place of constructive and positive debate for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.19 pm): Today, I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen of Australia, her realms and territories, head of the Commonwealth, Queen of Queensland. I also want to acknowledge His Excellency the Governor in opening the 56th Parliament of Queensland and express my disappointment to His Excellency that it has taken a year for these speeches to be completed.

I am humbled and honoured to continue serving the electorate and the people of Kawana, although the electorate is a little different following the redistribution that occurred in 2017. Sadly, with the redistribution, I no longer represent the good people of Sippy Downs or Palmview, whom I have enjoyed getting to know since 2009. Of course, there are many amazing community organisations and groups within those areas made up of very generous individuals who continue their invaluable and selfless work to make my region a better place. I have no doubt that my colleague Brent Mickelberg, the member for Buderim, will continue to be a fierce advocate in parliament and beyond for the people of Palmview and Sippy Downs. I wish him and the residents of Sippy Downs and Palmview, whom I have enjoyed representing since 2009, all the best.

Although I have farewelled Sippy Downs and Palmview, I am delighted to represent now not only those residents who live on the western side of Nicklin Way in Currimundi but all the residents who reside on either side of Nicklin Way in this great suburb. I have many great and fond memories of taking my children to Currimundi Lake, to Coco's and the shops at the mouth of Currimundi Lake. It is a beautiful part of the Kawana electorate and the broader Sunshine Coast region. Again, there are many wonderful community based organisations in Currimundi with whom I have worked and look forward to continuing to support and work with, particularly the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake.

As I said, I feel extremely privileged to again be elected to this 56th Parliament as the member for Kawana, a position that I have now held since 2009. I have always affirmed that, as representatives for our constituents and electorates, we have an obligation to vote for policy and legislation that we believe is in the best interests of our constituents and, more broadly, the people of Queensland. I will continue to do that to the best of my ability.

I would like to acknowledge my former colleagues who no longer have the enormous privilege of representing their fellow Queenslanders in this parliament. I wish each former member the very best in whatever capacity their talents, interests and skills lead them. I would also like to welcome my new colleagues, particularly those representing electorates on the Sunshine Coast, including Dan Purdie, Marty Hunt and Brent Mickelberg.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the positive interjections from said members. Of course, I also welcome Simone Wilson to the electorate of Pumicestone.

The last election was another hard-fought campaign. It is a team effort in the Kawana electorate. The ongoing support that I receive from my campaign team and volunteers, as well as my family, is unrelenting and profound. Whilst I am speaking of my family, I thank my beautiful wife, Sally, and our three wonderful kids, Taylor, Madison and Jasper, for their support and unconditional love. Without this love and support I know that I would struggle to fulfil the responsibilities that I have to my electorate and the people of Queensland.

Recently, in a speech my wife made the point that partners of members of parliament often represent them and do their jobs when we are at parliament, such as at speech nights. My wife remarked that she has judged talent quests, laid wreathes and handed out awards to schoolkids. She asked in what other professions do partners do this? For instance, if an electrician cannot go to a job site, does that electrician send their unqualified partner to do the electrical work? If a lawyer cannot attend the Supreme Court, does that lawyer send their unqualified partner to the Supreme Court? The answer is no but, of course, we have partners, or spouses, who have not signed up for this—we signed up for this job—but who many times at the drop of a hat are helping us and doing our job when we are in parliament. It is a family job.

I would like to thank my parents, Peter and Christine. They very much like their local member for Glass House. They continue to provide guidance and support to Sally and me and their three grandchildren, who just adore them. To my extended family, including my in-laws, Julie and Alan Lennox, I thank them for their support, particularly over the past three years, and for always keeping me grounded with their honest and considered advice.

I must thank my legendary campaign team and the Kawana branch and SEC members for their hard work, perseverance and commitment, for without their tireless efforts and work I would not have had the boost in the vote in the Kawana electorate that we achieved. I acknowledge my Kawana campaign director, Mr Nathan Ruhle, and everyone involved in the Kawana campaign, particularly those members who have been with me since 2009. Those members are all too familiar with my love of grassroots campaigning. I thank those volunteers for wearing out the soles of their shoes, getting up in the early hours of the morning to set up on polling day, and manning the booths with the same energy, passion, endurance and enthusiasm that they have, and I have witnessed, since 2009. I never for a day take for granted my position in this House as a representative of the people of the Kawana electorate and I feel very blessed and fortunate to have a team that offers such support and tenacity on the campaign trail. In the Kawana electorate, we never stop working for the community.

I mentioned grassroots campaigning. For the Kawana electorate, the last election was really an election based on local issues: fixing traffic congestion on Nicklin Way by delivering the Mooloolah River interchange and upgrading the Caloundra Road intersection to stop it turning into a car park in peak hours and on weekends. I acknowledge the efforts of Mr Deputy Speaker, the member for Caloundra, in getting the congestion issues on Caloundra Road to the attention of the government. Another local issue was fixing congestion issues around Meridan State College to ensure the safety of students. These are just a few of the LNP election commitments that remain overlooked by this Labor government and that perhaps remain as the highest priority issues for local residents who have to drive on these roads day in, day out. The LNP even promised to fix local roads that the Sunshine Coast Council has failed to do, such as the congestion on the road at Meridan State College.

Kawana is a great electorate. Certainly, I would claim that it is the best on the Sunshine Coast and, indeed, in Queensland. It is home to the suburbs of Minyama, Buddina, Parrearra, Birtinya, Warana, Bokarina, Wurtulla, Meridan Plains, Currimundi, Aroona and Little Mountain. The Kawana electorate enjoys beautiful beaches with rich soft sand and beautiful waterways. Unfortunately, after finally accepting that my sea legs are probably more suited to the calm of the estuary, I have had to downgrade my Haines Hunter to a more modest tinnie. However, there is nothing that my family loves more than exploring my electorate's beautiful beaches, waterways and coastline, whether that be in our boat or four-wheel drive.

The Kawana electorate boasts the brand-new Sunshine Coast University Hospital and some amazing local schools: Talara Primary College, Meridan State College, Pacific Lutheran College, Buddina State School, Kawana Waters State College and Currimundi State School. I must make special mention and welcome Currimundi State School principal, Terry Janz, and his team. As a result of the redistribution, I inherited Currimundi State School from my colleague the member for Caloundra and that school is now part of the Kawana electorate. Earlier this year, Kawana State School hosted my annual Kawana electorate community awards. I am very pleased to say that everyone involved—from the school staff, student leaders, school choir and P&C—represented their school exceptionally well.

Another aspect that makes the Kawana electorate so great is the wonderful work of my electorate's community clubs, interest groups, disability services groups and sporting and recreational groups and I am so proud to be associated with many. Those organisations are spread throughout my electorate. Kawana Surf Club patrols the largest stretch of beach in Queensland. I am continually amazed at the effort and the growth of the Kawana Surf Club. Although every season they ask me to do my bronze, when it involves jumping in the water when I have such a fear of sharks, it is not going to happen. Unless the club can give me a bronze in a swimming pool on land, it is not going to happen, but I support all of those wonderful volunteers who get their bronze and work at our beaches to keep people safe.

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group does voluntary work to improve the environment of the Currimundi catchment. I am looking forward to the Lights on the Lake later in the year. There are also the Lake Currimundi-Kawana Lions Club and Neighbourhood Watch groups. There are so many organisations in my electorate that do such a great job. There is also the Kawana Island Residents Association, the Kawana Forest Residents' Association and local police and emergency service workers who fight to keep the communities in my electorate safe.

Since the last election the Leader of the Opposition and deputy leader have embarked on many tours of the state. They have travelled to the north of Queensland, through the centre, through the south-east and, indeed, on several occasions they have visited my region that I hold so dear, the Sunshine Coast, a region the Labor Premier and her Labor ministers ignored in the past term of government, ignored through the most recent election campaign 12 months ago and continue to ignore today.

On Melbourne Cup day it was fantastic to have the Prime Minister attend Corbould Park racetrack. Whilst Labor's Bill Shorten was living it up in the Birdcage with millionaire celebrities drinking Moët champagne our Prime Minister was at Caloundra. We can see where the priorities of Labor's Bill Shorten lie. The Prime Minister of this great country came to talk to the people of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast on Melbourne Cup day. I suspect the Prime Minister got an invite to the Birdcage to drink Moët with the celebrities but he chose the Sunshine Coast. That shows the commitment that the LNP and the federal coalition government have to the Sunshine Coast.

I assure voters that every day on the Sunshine Coast the LNP members are working hard. We do not pretend to hide from the fact that Queenslanders voted the way they did in the last two elections. As a party we have listened. We are working hard to rebuild faith in the LNP as the only party that can deliver positive results for Queensland. One theme I continue to hear from my constituents is that we have an invisible Premier: invisible when any tough decisions need to be made and invisible when any controversy surrounds her government—mostly in relation to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the former minister for energy. Indeed, the only time this Premier does seem to be visible is when she is promoting a sports star, a movie star, a celebrity guest or, indeed, holds royal court with royal visitors. The state needs leadership. The state needs a Premier who is willing to stand up in the hard times, not go to ground and refuse to front up in the challenging times. We all agree that Queensland is a great state, the greatest in our nation, but its future depends on a government's ability to provide vision, leadership and certainty.

In its second term of office this Premier and her government still do not have a plan for Queensland—that is, except for Cross River Rail which this government has become so obsessed with to the detriment of the rest of Queensland. Those opposite campaign on the mantra of jobs, jobs, jobs; now I hear today it is 'trend jobs'. Our unemployment rate is now the worst in the nation. The ANZ/Property Council survey ranks this government as the worst government in Australia for planning and managing growth. We have seen this government inflict \$2.2 billion of new taxes on Queensland families without conducting modelling on its impact on jobs. Our state economy is a sad fifth place in the nation's economic rankings. We have the continued disaster that is the rail fail that seemingly cannot be solved by the Labor government.

We have a Premier more preoccupied with changing names of football stadiums as well as disgracefully denigrating the Lady Cilento family name rather than concentrating on the 28 per cent of kids going to the Lady Cilento emergency department who are not seen on time. This is a Premier who misled Queensland parents over a plan to allow unions into state school classrooms. It is a government completely owned—lock, stock and barrel—by the union movement. This is a Premier who dumps 75 reports under the cover of Friday night darkness despite campaigning on a platform of transparency, openness and accountability. This Premier's integrity is in tatters and the most recent referral to the Ethics Committee is yet another example of that.

With business confidence down, the highest unemployment rate in the nation and an economy that has practically flatlined, it is clear that this Labor government has no positive plan for Queensland's economy or the people. As I mentioned a moment ago, those opposite certainly do not seem to have any plan for the Sunshine Coast or its residents. In my electorate of Kawana this government refuses to fund vital road projects that are critical to get mums and dads home safely and on time. Congestion has never been worse. Instead of investing in a solution like the Mooloolah River interchange this government continues to put its head in the sand. In fact, the minister says we just need another business case. I invite the minister to jump in his limo and travel to the Sunshine Coast for peak hour on Caloundra Road in the morning and afternoon—there is the business case he needs. He does not need to spend \$7 million; he needs to spend \$60 on fuel to get from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast. There is his business case. That will show why we need the road infrastructure projects that the Labor Party are neglecting and have always neglected.

When this Premier was minister for transport in the previous Labor government she promised to finish the rail duplication between Caboolture and Landsborough by 2012 and then extend it to Nambour, but it stopped at Beerburrum in April 2009. That is another example of Labor's disregard for investment on the Sunshine Coast. It has taken another nine years for Labor to commit to the duplication, but it will only fund it 50-50 with the Commonwealth.

Mr Powell: They will only do 80-20.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is exactly right. They will only put in 20 per cent. This side of the House has committed to work with the federal government to get it done. We have had successive Labor governments for all but three of the last 20 years and this government is scratching its head wondering why Queensland does not have the necessary infrastructure. It is because of Labor governments! This government has no vision for Queensland. In its second term it is simply making it up as it goes along. It has no plan to deliver better infrastructure and planning; no plan to pay down debt of over \$80 billion created by Labor; no plan to grow the economy and improve business confidence; no plan to reduce the cost of living; and no plan to govern for all Queensland.

We have ministers sitting on that side of the House who should have been sacked years ago, including the Minister for Transport and Main Roads with all his secrecy and mangocube email accounts. Anyone not having the protection of the union movement like he does would have been booted a year ago. He is protected by the Deputy Premier. It is the only reason he is there. When the Liberal National Party preferences the Greens at the next election and the Deputy Premier is not in here his protection will be gone. He will be on his lonesome and I suspect he will be gone too.

We on this side of the House will continue working hard to deliver the policies Queenslanders want to see to bust congestion, reduce the cost of living, deliver better health services and education results. I thank the leadership team of Deb Frecklington and Tim Mander for appointing me the shadow minister for education and industrial relations and manager of opposition business. I have an acute interest in education, with three children in the state school system. We will support independent public schools. Not only will we support them, we will continue them and increase them. We believe principals and parents should have autonomy to run the schools. I refer to the ridiculous article released today by a professor in education saying that school principals have this additional terrible power and they should stop suspending students. If principals are suspending kids then they deserve to be suspended. There is probably pressure from other parents in terms of behaviour issues. I will support the principals who are making those determinations in the school.

The LNP will air-condition every state classroom in Queensland. Labor has no plan to do it. They will ask, 'How are you going to fund it?' We will fund it out of the billions of dollars in the state budget that is handed down every year. NAPLAN results continue to go down under a Labor government yet investment in education by the federal government is going up. This government has its policies wrong. This government refuses to put phonics in our classrooms. The Catholic education system is trialling it


in Queensland this year and next year. Get on board. The teachers want phonics. The only reason Labor is not introducing it is because the Queensland Teachers' Union has said no to it. We should be finding out, like my young boy in the first two years of his education, whether or not kids are falling behind. If there is a test—and there is a phonics test—we should get behind it.

I look forward to holding this government to account in the education and industrial relations space, in particular when one sees that the union movement owns this government and that the Queensland Council of Unions is wanting to infiltrate a program into our schools. Even though the education minister stands up and says she knows nothing about it, her principal policy adviser is drafting the program with the Queensland Council of Unions.

We cannot do this job without the support of our campaign teams and our family, but also without our wonderful staff. It is our wonderful staff who on a day in, day out basis meet with our constituents. They often see quite agitated constituents who have issues that need sorting out. They are the front line of our offices in terms of dealing with constituent issues on a day-to-day basis. In particular, I pay tribute to my electorate officers from the past and also those who work with me currently, Aaron and Lelia. Both have been with me for nearly five years, which includes a bit of ministerial time served. I really appreciate the efforts that both Aaron and Lelia put into my office for the people of Kawana. We are not in our offices all the time. We are out and about, meeting with constituents; we are at parliament; we have shadow ministerial responsibilities. They are the front line when people come to our offices or call us. I pay particular tribute to Aaron and Lelia for serving me and, more importantly, the people of Kawana so well. We are lucky to have such great people in electorate offices right across the state.

Only the LNP has a positive plan for the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland cannot trust the Labor Party to deliver.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.40 pm): Before I begin my address-in-reply speech, I note that the member for Kawana and opposition spokesperson for education started out by talking about kicking kids out of school. That was his priority. The first thing that he touched on was the fact that he wanted to support more kids being suspended. That was a hell of a job from the opposition spokesperson for education.

I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet. I pay my respects to the Jagera and Turrbal peoples and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands, winds and waters that I represent, the Quandamooka people. I congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his election to the chair. I acknowledge His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey, the Governor of Queensland.

I am humbled and honoured to again be given the privilege of representing the good people of Capalaba in the Queensland parliament. I thank all those who put their trust in me through their vote at the 2017 election. In particular, I thank those who voted for me for the first time. It was a rewarding experience to come back into this House with a higher margin than in my first election. I feel that this is a recognition of the hard work that the Palaszczuk government and I have put in over the first three years of government. I say to those who did not vote for me and Labor at the last election that I will continue to work tirelessly for you over the next three years to do the best for you, your families and all the people of Capalaba.

I thank Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and the cabinet. I thank former party secretary Evan Moorhead and the head office team for running a fantastic campaign that was built on our three years of achievement in government. I congratulate Jules Campbell on her elevation to the position of secretary of the party. I congratulate all my colleagues who were returned to this House and extend that to all members of parliament who won the privilege of being their constituents' elected representatives in this place. I acknowledge those of my colleagues who won for the first time. Having listened to your maiden speeches, I have no doubt that our team is stronger with your arrival. I thank the entire caucus for putting their trust in me by electing me chief whip of the government.

I single out my good friend and new member for Redlands, Kim Richards. Being the first female member of parliament for the Redlands electorate is quite an accomplishment. Over two election campaigns, I have seen the member grow into a fantastic local champion. I have no doubt she will be in this place for a very long time. I also congratulate my good mate the member for Springwood, whose electorate now takes in parts of the Redlands. It is a fantastic result that three out of the four Redlands City electorates are held within Labor hands.

I say to my campaign team and office staff that I could not have asked for better warriors when it comes to election time. I thank Jesse and new staff members Alex and Chase, as well as those who have left me for greener pastures: Michael, Lisa and Reece. I thank the close to 150 volunteers who came out during my campaign to make up the red army. In particular, I single out Marj Anderson, Pam and Barry Lenthall, Tony Sweet, Ben McNamara and Tim Mills. I could name so many more who put hours upon hours into the campaign to ensure that not only I but also the Palaszczuk government was elected. I thank Wendy Streets, Garry Bullock and the teams from the Finance Sector Union and United Voice for their continued support and faith in me.

I thank my parents, Don Senior and Helen, who worked tirelessly at the prepolls and on polling days, making sandwiches and ensuring that the troops were well looked after. Probably they both worried a little too much and gave me too much advice, but I would not have it any other way. I thank them for all that they do in supporting me and my family in this role. I thank my parents-in-law, Ean and Michaela, for all they do for Mel, Oscar and I.

Last and certainly not least I thank my wife, Mel, who is in the gallery today. For three years I have not lived down the fact that in my maiden speech I spent more time thanking my campaign manager than my wife. Hopefully, this makes up for that. It was a whirlwind three years in which we went from being in a relationship to being engaged, getting married and having our first child, Oscar. That all happened within the space of my first term. It was definitely a roller-coaster ride. Mel, you have been my rock. As many in this place know, you cannot do this job on your own. I thank Mel and Oscar for always being there. Mel, you have been so supportive in my efforts to ensure that the community that I grew up in—and I can hear Oscar interjecting—and that gave me so much is an even better community for our son, Oscar. I love you both.

I entered parliament on a campaign to save Alexandra Hills TAFE. I have a strong belief in education as a key to unlocking an individual's full potential. Students with a certificate III and certificate IV are more likely to gain a job than those with a university degree. I have worked closely with fantastic local teachers such as Barry and Ellen to turn around the woeful enrolment numbers that we inherited when we came to government. There has been close to a 300 per cent increase in student enrolments at SkillsTech. That means that we are delivering real training, real apprentices and real jobs at Alexandra Hills. I want to build on that achievement. I appreciate our election commitment of \$10 million, which will go towards making the TAFE campus even better. I thank the minister for making that commitment during the election campaign.

There is a fantastic little school on the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus, the Sycamore School, which provides education for students with autism. It is the first private school of its kind in Queensland. I have worked closely with the school's founder, Cindy, to ensure that they obtained a learning space at Alexandra Hills TAFE. I note the work of the Attorney-General who was the minister at the time and I thank her for her help in that regard. We got them in a year before schedule. The engagement I see from the students at that school makes my job even more worthwhile. I continue to work closely with the school and its board. I am confident that, in the coming weeks, we will be able to detail the expansion of the school to cater for high school students, meaning that after year 6 students will not have to leave to attend another school.

In my maiden speech I talked about a mentor of mine whose son had unfortunately committed suicide a couple of weeks before. During my first term, I heard too many stories of kids from my local high schools who had taken their own lives. That is why I am proud to have worked with local champion Kerrie Keepa to bring about some meaningful change in this area. Kerrie is a local mum who lost her son to suicide after being turned away from the Redland Hospital. I was more than willing to ensure that Kerrie and every one of the 80,000 people who signed her petition were heard. I am thankful that they were heard by Minister Cameron Dick, who implemented across Queensland hospitals a training program for emergency staff to increase understanding of mental health patients who present to emergency wards. I thank him for that initiative and Kerrie for the change that she instigated. I know that it has already saved lives.

In this job you have to fight for what you believe is right and you have to stand up for those who have been wronged. In my first election campaign, my motto was 'fighting back'. I decided on that motto and directed it solely at the Newman government, but when you have it you have to live by it in all aspects. People see through fake politicians and fake mottos. They can smell a fraud easily. Therefore, when the Capalaba Sports Club decided to strip penalty rates and holiday rates from their casual staff by sacking them and rehiring them through a labour hire company, I knew I had to take up their fight, even if it meant making enemies within my local community. That was the right thing to do as those

workers had been wronged. I thank all those in my local community who felt the same way, signed petitions and came to our rallies. It was very rewarding to win back those penalty rates and, ultimately, the jobs for workers at the club. I would particularly like to thank Samara Wilson, who lost her job at the club during the final years of her law degree. She has finished her degree now. She now has a job taking up the fight for and representing hospitality workers. I have no doubt she has a promising career in front of her.

When it came to Rickertt Road in my electorate, I had the ability to take the fight up to the Brisbane City Council. This is a road I have grown up using and used for 30 years, and I have not seen too many changes to it. A couple of years ago the RACQ rated this road as the fourth worst road. I am pleased to see that as a result of our campaigning, rallies and petitions the Brisbane City Council is now getting on with upgrading part of that road.

That did not come about without a fight. There was a promise for four lanes. The initial plans from the Brisbane City Council included only two lanes and an extra set of lights. That would have meant longer waiting times for Redlands commuters. Through campaigning we ensured the federal government kept its promise, kicking in an extra \$5 million to ensure the road was upgraded with two extra lanes. The fight is not over. There is still a section of two-lane road that has no shoulder and is extremely dangerous for cyclists in particular. I will continue to take up that fight on behalf of my local residents to ensure that the Brisbane City Council does what the Redland City Council has done and that is four lane the entire road.

I took up the fight to make sure that Tingalpa Creek was brought back to a pristine condition. In my first term it was unfortunate to see seven wrecks dumped in the creek. This is a creek I grew up on. This is where I learnt to fish and where I launched my tinnie. We crabbed and fished on the mighty banks of that creek that divides Brisbane City and Redland City.

Through petitions and working closely with local councillor Paul Bishop and the Wynnum Redlands Canoe Club, I am pleased to have delivered the removal of seven of those wrecks. I thank Minister Bailey for his support in that regard. Unfortunately, a few more appeared. At the start of my second term we removed another five wrecks from that creek.

I was lobbying anyone who would listen to me. I am not the only person across Queensland who has wrecks in their estuaries and waterways. I am glad to see the minister's War on Wrecks initiative will be rolled out this term. I thank the member for Redlands who is taking up the charge in that regard. I hope that we can clean this up across Queensland and put more responsibility on boat owners to ensure that they are doing the right thing and not using our estuaries as a dumping ground.

The best thing about my job is working with people. I grew up in a household where my mum was the P&C president and the president of my local Rugby Union club. My father started up two cricket clubs. He is a life member of both of those cricket clubs. I note the Friends of Cricket were joined today by Sam Heazlett. He is a product of Muddies Cricket Club—my old cricket club—and Redlands Tigers Cricket Club. My father is a life member of both of those cricket clubs.

Growing up in my household, we did not just enjoy playing for the club; we got fully involved in working bees and making sure it was the best possible club it could be. I thank my parents for that life lesson. That is what I bring to working with my community groups. If they are delivering for our community then I am delivering for all the people in my community.

It has been a privilege to be the patron of the Capalaba Warriors Rugby League Football Club. They are getting \$500,000 for a new clubhouse. This will ensure that women in that sport have the same facilities as men. I thank the Minister for Sport in that regard. We also provided new cricket nets for my old club, the Muddies Cricket Club. I could name so many more successful local community groups, but I do not have the time.

It has been fantastic to put on grant writing workshops for my clubs, P&Cs and community groups. The member for Redlands and I are rolling out social media workshops so they can learn how to engage with their local volunteers, members or potential members to ensure that they have the best possible P&C, sporting club or community group.

There is a lot that we can do and I hope to do in this term of the Palaszczuk government. In particular, in the lead-up to the election we pledged to expand the emergency department at Redland Hospital by an extra four beds. I was pleased to deliver on the nurse-to-patient ratio with an extra 40 nurses in our first term of government. There is also a new water birth birthing suite for mothers in my


local area. This means that mothers have birthing options close to home at the Redland Hospital. I will continue to take up the fight for even more for Redland Hospital—expansions to the car park, more theatre services and an ICU.

With regard to transport, obviously Cross River Rail is a big commitment. It will ensure Cleveland line services are 14 minutes quicker, with services coming every six minutes. I will continue to fight for this. I appreciate the minister's work in starting to look at the corridor for the line duplication. It is only the Labor Party that is going to do both. We cannot have one without the other. It is no good getting more quickly from Cleveland to Manly if the bottleneck at South Brisbane still exists. I thank the transport minister for his work in this regard.

We are also delivering in terms of buses and roads. There will be upgrades to five intersections along Old Cleveland Road with the \$22 million Eastern Transitway. This will make it quicker for commuters and for buses. I note from recent studies that it is quicker to get on a bus at the Capalaba park-and-ride to get to the city than to commute by car. I encourage everyone to use that Capalaba park-and-ride.

We are also delivering with regard to education. There is \$4.25 million for Alexandra Hills State High School Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics. This means that the students at that school will get the skills and knowledge for the jobs of the future.

In closing, I thank the good people of Capalaba for putting their trust in me again to represent them in this place. I took up the fight for them in our first term and I make the pledge to take up the fight for them again in this term.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.57 pm): This is now the fifth time I have been given the opportunity to speak in this chamber in the address-in-reply, having secured the support of the people of Clayfield for every parliament since first being elected in September 2006. That being the case, I do find myself confronted by similar circumstances to Zsa Zsa Gabor's sixth husband. I know what I am supposed to do, but I do not quite know how to make it interesting. Nevertheless, I shall try.

For the first time in my 12 years in this place I also find myself in the somewhat unfamiliar territory of addressing the House from that most exalted of parliamentary positions, and that is the back bench. I say exalted because the position of a backbencher is one where traditionally considerable latitude is given to express one's views, free from the absolute adherence to the convention of cabinet or indeed shadow cabinet solidarity and indeed free from the absolute dictates of the party machine.

In exercising that freedom, there is a strong obligation to do so sparingly and hopefully wisely. I am well aware of the limits of such freedom and I intend to stay well within those limits. I also intend to follow in the tradition of former party leaders like Lawrence Springborg, Jeff Seeney and you, Deputy Speaker McArdle, the member for Caloundra, and offer advice only if it is sought and to do so privately and discreetly. I will not engage in running commentary or media displays. There is no shortage of commentators who already do that, often to no avail or for any benefit except an agenda that is not the agenda of the members of the LNP in this place.

I want to again thank the people of Clayfield for returning me to represent them in this place for the 56th Parliament of Queensland. I acknowledge His Excellency the Governor and in doing so I thank him for his address. I also reflect on the outstanding service of His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey since His Excellency's appointment in July 2014. Both have been outstanding representatives of the Crown and, more importantly, tremendous envoys for the people of Queensland. I have enjoyed working with His Excellency both in government and out of it, and Mary and I have enjoyed the hospitality of Government House on many occasions.

I also congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his unexpected elevation to the role of Speaker. I hope he has got over the shock of his unsought for change in position following the last election. In a spirit of conciliation amongst those members of the ex-treasurers club, I am available for completely confidential counselling sessions where I would encourage him to get all of his gripes off his chest, safe and secure in the knowledge that it will go no further!

I also congratulate the member for Nanango on her election as Leader of the LNP here in Queensland. Perhaps more than most in this place I have had the opportunity of working with and watching the member for Nanango. I am in no doubt as to her passion to build a better Queensland and of her determination to succeed to lead this state as premier at the head of an LNP government that will get on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders. Her history shows that it would be a mistake

to underestimate that determination, and I am in no doubt that she will put her all into the political battle ahead. In doing so, she is unwaveringly supported by her husband, Jason, and their three daughters—an impressive and dedicated family supporting an impressive and determined leader.

I also congratulate the member for Inala on winning the election. Of course I worked hard for a different result, but that was not to be. One of the great and enduring benefits of living in this great state is the peaceful and largely respectful way we go about changing government. I am proud to have played my part in that process. We accept the decision of the people no matter how much I wished it was otherwise. As leader of the LNP at the time, I accept responsibility for the outcome of the election. To the many members of the LNP who fought the good fight throughout Queensland, I say thank you for your hard work and commitment and I am sorry I was not able to deliver a different result for you.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the 55th Parliament for their support and encouragement during my time as opposition leader. Their hard work and commitment to the LNP cause and to the cause of building a better Queensland sustained and enthused me during that time. The first electoral test for our team came with the by-election for Toowoomba South in mid-2016. Despite the difficulties facing the local campaign in the wake of a long and tiring federal election and in spite of the naysayers, the outcome in Toowoomba South was a testament to staying the course, running a solid campaign and having a genuinely local and committed candidate. LNP party members turned out yet again to support their local candidate. They were joined by an enthusiastic crew of Young LNPers from South-East Queensland and MPs from across the state. Everyone pitched in to help—and we were successful.

Mr Powell: It was freezing.

Mr NICHOLLS: Since being elected on what was—and I take the interjection from the member for Glass House—a wet, windy and bitterly cold election day, David Janetzki has gone on to repay the faith of the party and his team with hard work and commitment to the Toowoomba region. He and Mel have also increased the local population with new son Samuel now just over a year old.

Amongst our achievements in the 55th Parliament, the LNP introduced 18 significant private members' bills—indeed, more than any other opposition in this place. I reflect on the comments from the Premier this morning in relation to introducing bills. We introduced 18. Half of the private members' bills in the last term of parliament were introduced by the LNP. Some were passed including the Bail (Domestic Violence) and Another Act Amendment Act, as well as Mason's law, which is a testament to the perseverance and commitment of the former member for Aspley, Tracy Davis, and the former member for Hinchinbrook, now councillor, Andrew Cripps.

Other bills we introduced were not passed but were nonetheless successful. They were successful because they forced the government to introduce its own legislation after ours dealing with the same matters. Whether that was dealing with institutional child sex abuse or domestic violence reforms, the tow truck industry or compulsory smoke alarms or, indeed, reshaping Queensland's planning laws, very real and significant changes were made in Queensland to deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders as a result of the work of the LNP opposition in the 55th Parliament.

I also acknowledge the former member for Mansfield, Ian Walker, who introduced legislation to finally ensure that the constant guessing game of when the next election will be held was put to an end. The only irony is that the 2017 election was the last one of those guessing games and, despite his outstanding work in his community, Ian was ultimately not re-elected.

To former colleagues Scott Emerson, Ian Rickuss, Glen Elmes, Tarnya Smith, Matt McEachan, Sid Cramp and Verity Barton, I say thank you for your hard work and dedication to the cause. While losing friends and colleagues was distressing and painful, there was also a very large upside to the 2017 election campaign. The LNP welcomed a swag of new members and regained seats where our supporters and branch members had been loyal and determined for many years.

In Nicklin, after many long years, Marty Hunt has been elected—a representative truly in touch with his community and already a ferocious fighter for his electorate. In Bundaberg we welcomed David Batt—again another new member with a long history of service both as a police officer and as a councillor. He has big shoes to fill after the mighty Jack Dempsey, but he is moving quickly to establish himself in this new role. In Buderim the election of Brent Mickelberg was a clear case of the electorate and electors seeing through the sham and self-interest of the former member and realising that it is the LNP, not the loons of One Nation, which can provide solid, dependable and sensible representation in the community's best interests on the Sunshine Coast.

Talking of the Sunshine Coast, the new member for the new seat of Ninderry, Dan Purdie, has justified my faith in him. From a standing start to full on campaigning in a very short period of time, Dan has already made his mark on the new electorate and it is a pleasure to have him in this place. From Pumicestone we welcome Simone Wilson. Simone did it tough campaigning in the middle of Labor territory and up against a sitting member that the Premier and Labor cynically supported right up to election eve. Despite slurs and vandalism of her signs and corflutes, Simone kept going and ultimately prevailed and was successful.

In the Lockyer, despite all the claims of the pundits and experts, Jim McDonald fought off One Nation and went on to win the seat handsomely. While I do not need to eat raw onions, I think I have sampled just about everything else grown in or around the Lockyer Valley.

At the Gold Coast we achieved success in the new seat of Bonney with one of the hardest working candidates I have seen. Sam O'Connor has shown that the LNP can, as it must, reach out to younger people and gain their trust while still honouring the tenets of the LNP. He and his extended family and friends worked tirelessly to show voters why he was the best choice to represent them in that new seat. Winning in all of those seats was never going to be easy. All were hotly contested, all had tight margins and some had been held by another party.

In Callide, with Colin Boyce we had a candidate who travelled thousands and thousands of kilometres across one of Queensland's most disparate and diverse electorates. His success is a testament to that hard work and that of his family. In the much changed seat of Broadwater and after some vigorous democratic debate, we have seen the return of the former member for Mundingburra, David Crisafulli. To all of those new and returning members, I say welcome and congratulations.

I also want to recognise all of our other great local candidates who ran for us in 2017—candidates like Casie Scott in Townsville who gave the sitting member in a traditional safe Labor seat such a close run, coming within 107 votes, and candidates like Nick Elston, who fought so hard in Ferny Grove and Belinda Kippen in Miller, as well as Jamie Forster in McConnel next door to me. The team in around Cairns included Penny Johnson, Karina Samperi, Sam Marino and Mario Quagliata, as well as our candidates in Central Queensland like Kerry Latter and Peter Blundell. These are just some of the terrific candidates who put their lives on hold while they campaigned to build a better Queensland. It was a pleasure to support them all and to campaign with them. While they may not have been elected, they have earned our thanks and respect for their willingness to stand and fight to build a better Queensland.

The year 2017 was also a year of significant loss for this place. On the LNP side we saw the retirement of two former leaders: Jeff Seeney, previously a deputy premier, and Lawrence Springborg, a former health minister—both friends, both in different ways mentors to many in this place and both who made a difference to the lives of so many Queenslanders through their dedication, service, resolve and hard work.

There were few who could match it with the former member for Callide when he was in full flight. There were few who could match his passion and his ability to look at a difficult question and come up with a compelling argument. I think it is fair to say that he was not necessarily everyone's cup of tea. He was never afraid to straighten you out when he thought you were heading the wrong way, and I think it is fair to say that 'tact' was not his strong suit. I am sure he would probably agree.

His motto was 'for country people and country towns' and he lived up to that motto for almost 20 years in this place. More than that, Jeff was a parliamentarian. He loved this place. He gave it his all. He sacrificed a lot. He fought for members of this place against all comers. He believed in the primacy of MPs and he never apologised for it. If you ever, ever needed someone to fight your corner, to stand with you when the shells were falling all around, when the numbers were against you, Jeff Seeney was your man. Many in this place, myself included, owe Jeff a tremendous debt.

Lawrence Springborg's story is well known. His commitment to the Nationals and then the LNP cause was and still is enduring. His calmness and experience helped and assisted so many members in this place over his 28 years as an MP. Even in his final year, he worked on dealing with the insidious effects of black lung disease with the member for Bundamba in an unlikely parliamentary committee partnership that exposed failings at many levels that are still being resolved today. The election did not allow for a valedictory for these members, but today I want to recognise and honour their service to our state, to our parliament, to their electorates and to the LNP.

While our shadow cabinet and MPs are the public face of the LNP, we could not do our job without the help, assistance and dedication of our staff. I thank all LNP electorate officers for their hard work dealing with the many and varying challenges of our electorate offices. In particular, I thank Sam and Katy in my office for their hard work. I also want to thank Nickie, who has come on board since the election and who is working wonders with my social media as well as for my constituents.

In the opposition leader's office, we were well served by an outstanding staff. Indeed, as I told them all at the end of 2017, they were the best staff it had been my great honour to have worked with in my time in this place. I particularly want to thank my chief of staff, Gerard Benedet, whose organisational skill and leadership, whose policy depth and whose calmness under pressure delivered outstanding policies to build a better Queensland and also an election campaign that ran faultlessly and to schedule. It was probably the best campaign run by an opposition in Queensland with only one fault—we did not win. Any failings in that campaign are mine and not his.

The policy team under Matt Jeffries provided policies that were both effective and responsible and, despite the best efforts of all of our opponents, policies that were bulletproof, that added up and that did not need any new taxes or charges being placed on the people of Queensland. My media team under Matt Fynes-Clinton and Shaun Rigby did an outstanding job. Up at all hours and dealing with the gentle souls of the parliamentary media gallery was no easy task, as I am sure many will agree. Our advancers, Julia Dixon, Katie Mickleberg and Pete Coulson, all worked incredible hours and made sure everyone was catered for, especially on the campaign bus and on the campaign plane.

Of course, my long-suffering and dedicated EA, Kim McInnes, together with Steph Fairley and Michelle Waugh made sure my diary was organised, my family knew where I was and the bills were paid. Kim's infectious laughter and wicked sense of humour were a much needed touch of the real world in the bubble of the campaign. I say thank you to all of them.

I also want to acknowledge the support provided by LNP headquarters. Campaign director Lincoln Folo and his staff barely saw their families and barely got home themselves. They managed candidates across the state, they got the mail out, they produced the material needed, they wrote the ads, they responded to opposition attacks and they played equal parts sergeant major and counsellor to members, candidates and campaign teams.

Our team was also supported by the president, Gary Spence, and the executive of the LNP. I must say we worked in an extremely constructive and cooperative manner during my time as leader. We did not always agree, but we always recognised the need to work out our differences and we did. The LNP works best when the organisational wing and the parliamentary wing understand and respect each other's roles and responsibilities and accept the principle of comity that should apply in that relationship.

I also want to thank all on the Clayfield campaign team who looked after the campaign for me in Clayfield. While I was on the road, I relied on my local campaign team, led by Mary Caroline van Passen, to cover the bases in Clayfield. Together with the hard work by the campaign treasurer, John Cotter Jr, the team was able to ensure that, even in the difficult circumstances of a significant redistribution and an often absent MP, we were able to retain Clayfield in the face of concerted campaigns by greens, anti-Adani campaigners, of course the unions and lastly the ALP. To all who worked so hard on the Clayfield campaign, I extend my sincere thanks.

Leading a major political party is a tremendous honour, and it was one I was aware of every day throughout my travels in Queensland. I want to thank all those Queenslanders who were so willing to engage in the great democratic debate last year. Invariably, Queenslanders were friendly, open, forthright and free with their advice—you would not expect anything else. As I travelled the state, I again marvelled at its beauty, its diversity and its people. It reinforced my determination to take to the people our plan to build a better Queensland, to create jobs across Queensland and better manage our finances, to build stronger families, to provide safe and livable communities, to deliver better government not more government and, as everyone on this side I am sure can repeat after me, to build the roads, the bridges and the dams that we need. Our policies and announcements—some 400-plus of them—were all designed to do that. I am sure members on this side remain committed to doing the best they can for their communities and for this state. I know I do.

Sadly, under this Labor government, mediocrity is the order of the day. We are still waiting for major projects to commence after four years. After four years, we are still waiting to see what this Labor government has to build for Queensland. They talk about and promote Queen's Wharf all the time, but


it was a decision of the LNP government. The second range crossing, which is the single largest inland road being built in Australia, is a result of the LNP government at a state level and a federal level. It gets more and more—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The cut-and-run minister—who could not cut it in council so he ran—talks about 1 William Street. Without 1 William Street, the rest of it does not happen. The only way he could build Queen's Wharf and get the 14,000-plus jobs that that will deliver is actually by building 1 William Street. I am sure if the minister wanted to vacate there would be no shortage of people willing and in fact probably more able to take his position in that building. Debt is worse at \$83 billion; it is up in the stratosphere. The fiscal deficits continue to grow, and the lack of financial accountability continues under this Labor government.

I want to talk about my family. People have heard me talk about them often. They are indeed the foundation of whatever success I have achieved. I am eternally grateful to Mary for her support, patience and perseverance as I have for the last 18 years pursued my chosen vocation. As many know, Mary is an OT with Education Queensland and has been for 25 years. She works with kids with substantial disabilities and is a caring, compassionate and dedicated person—she would have to be to be with me. Hopefully, with a little more time on my hands, I can help Mary fulfil some more of her ambitions.

The three kids have all grown up around politics. I am pleased to say none have turned and all are dedicated supporters of their dad and the LNP—hopefully in that order. Jeremy and Duncan have now both finished school and are at uni, or more realistically are enrolled at uni but usually at the pub. Kate, who is in year 10, continues to be the shining hope of her father but is showing worrying signs of being more interested in politics than is good for her. Truly, we cannot do this job without our families. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.17 pm): I thank the House for the opportunity to deliver my second address-in-reply in the Queensland parliament. I want to begin by recognising the traditional owners of this land and pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. I want to congratulate the member for Mulgrave on attaining the high office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland parliament. I thank him for his support and guidance as part of the Far North Queensland Labor team.

I want to congratulate all returning members from all sides of this House and welcome new members to this special place. All of us have stories of how we came to be here and what made us run for politics. Whilst those beliefs, reasons and ideologies will differ greatly between members, we must remember that, whilst this House is where those ideologies clash, this is democracy and it has existed for many generations before us exactly the same. We must respect and value our democratic rights and preserve these for future MPs who enter this place.

I want to thank and mention my two new fellow parliamentary colleagues from the Far North. I congratulate the member for Cairns, Michael Healy, on being elected to this House, as well as the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui. As has been mentioned a number of times, she is the first Torres Strait Islander elected to any parliament in this country.

I was delighted to get the call-up by the Premier to join the cabinet for the 56th Parliament and even more delighted to get allocated the portfolio of Fire and Emergency Services. Ever since joining the Country Fire Authority in Victoria as a young fellow, I have had a special regard for the firefighting family worldwide. I served 20 years in many ranks. It is this service that put me on track to be in this House today.

Since being sworn in in December last year, it has been a busy period of time for my department. Storms, cyclones, wind, rain and floods hammered various parts of Queensland for months. As a ministry, we had to mobilise fast to be abreast of the unfolding events. As a minister, I had to fulfil my role to ensure that our staff and our volunteers were able to deliver the services effectively.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is made up of tens of thousands of staff members and volunteers. It is a combination of many years of service and development from a number of areas ranging from civil defence that we see nowadays as the SES, farmers bounding together to fight fires on each other's land that we now see as the Rural Fire Service, and urban firefighting dating back to

the brass and copper days of the London Fire Brigade that we now see as the modern-day Fire and Rescue Service. Wherever the origins, what we have now in Queensland is a modern-day, world-class Fire and Emergency Service.

I want to recognise our people. I want to recognise our career firefighters: thousands of full-time firefighters working in fire and rescue stations in Queensland, mostly on 10/14 shifts—two 10-hour day shifts followed by two 14-hour night shifts. They respond to thousands of calls a year. They are on shift while you are asleep. They cut you free from car accidents. They pull you free from raging floodwaters. They check inner-city alarms that activate. They enter buildings on fire when everyone else is running out. It is a dangerous job. Firefighters around the world die on the job.

Firefighting has a very low attrition rate. In fact, in Queensland only 1.1 per cent of career firefighters leave QFES every year, many of them due to retirement and very few of them because they do not like the job anymore. Many staff stay employed for over 30 years. For many of our people on 10/14 shifts, four-on four-off or on A, B, C or D shifts at any station, one officer and three firefighters on a pumper is their life; it is their family; it is their friends.

I want to recognise their union, the United Firefighters Union—steeped in tradition, strong in their representation and straight in their aim. I also want to recognise the Retired Firefighters Association Queensland, a strong and committed group of ex-firefighters who still have a passion for the welfare of their own as well as the welfare of firefighters nearing or entering retirement.

Queensland Fire and Rescue also has over 2,000 auxiliary firefighters who crew our urban stations in support of staffed appliances or sometimes without. They support the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service. Our auxiliaries are required to attend incidents and train regularly. We set a very high standard; we expect a very high standard. In return, we retain those firefighters by paying them for their time to respond and train.

I want to recognise our volunteers from across the Rural Fire Service, the State Emergency Service, our marine rescue environment—which is undergoing a review at the moment—and our surf lifesaving families as well: tens of thousands of volunteers, thousands upon thousands of hours. For them, duty calls. It is training; it is rain, wind and smoke. It does not stop. As a parliament we are forever in their debt. Recent fire threats and current storm season in Queensland show us that our crews, staff and volunteers will be out there for many months yet to come.

Turning to my campaign, I want to recognise my campaign manager, Carolyn MacDonald, who did an outstanding job on the Barron River campaign up against a strong campaign from the ALP but also a strong campaign from other areas including One Nation and the Greens. It is great to see that Carolyn has gone on to lead the federal Labor campaign in Leichhardt as well. I am sure she will do outstandingly well there.

I want to thank our branch members for the tireless work they do. Many members in this House rise and speak about branch members. I think we are all on the same page in recognising the people who give up their time to help us get elected into this place irrespective of the colour of the shirt they wear.

I want to thank the union members in Cairns who rallied behind my campaign and other campaigns. Particularly, I want to thank United Voice, the general secretary, Gary Bullock, and all of the staff and volunteers from across the massive UV movement—an amazing family and an amazing number of friends.

I also want to thank my wife, Rosie. I know a number of members in this House have thanked their wife. I think everyone values their partner. Whilst I do disagree often with what the member for Kawana says in this House, I want to recognise the opening remarks he made this afternoon in his address-in-reply when he talked about our partners representing us at events; he was bang on the mark with respect to that. I probably could not say it better myself. To my wife, Rosie, I say I love you very much. Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to our amazing future. On that, I also need to put on record that I still owe my wife a Vietnam holiday that I had to cancel due to being sworn in as a minister. It is on record now so she can collect.

I also want to recognise my EOs up in Barron River and also my ministerial staff, who put in a huge amount of time down here. As I said earlier in my speech, when we started the Fire and Emergency Services ministerial office it was literally in the middle of a time when Queensland was getting pounded from all sides. We had to very quickly tool up to combat what was ahead of us.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Speaker has reviewed and approved the contents of my speech for incorporation and an electronic version has been made available to Hansard.

Leave granted.

As the State member for Barron River, I am delighted this Government is delivering for people across the Far North.

In this year's Budget, we committed \$253.3 million for road infrastructure in 2018-19 for Far North Queensland as part of another record investment—for the third year in a row.

After my strong advocacy, I am particularly excited this budget committed funds to begin construction of the \$152 million Smithfield Bypass—delivering on yet another of our commitments in the region and ensuring we provide the infrastructure that will service our growing communities well into the future.

Our Budget committed \$17.5 million to begin work on the project to construct bypass route continuity on the Captain Cook Highway between Yorkeys Knob Road Roundabout and McGregor Road Roundabout. This project is 100 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk Government.

I am proud to be part of a government that is supporting our key industries by investing in Cairns and the Far North in areas that truly matter to local residents.

We continue to boost the local economy, create jobs and inspire confidence, building on the work that has been done since 2015 to support this region.

Since the 2015 election, the Palaszczuk Government has improved frontline health and education services in Far North Queensland by employing an additional 143 doctors, 364 nurses, 182 teachers and 86 teacher aides.

Our 2018-19 Budget committed \$10 million to renew Tropical North Learning Academy—Smithfield State High School and Trinity Beach State School over four years starting in 2018-19, and \$109,000 to refurbish Block 7 home economics at Kuranda District State College.

More than \$26 million is allocated to support job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works across local councils in Far North Queensland as part of the Works for Queensland program.

As someone who appreciates just why the Great Barrier Reef is such a priority for this government, I applaud the \$6.3 million commitment in 2018-2019 to achieve this government's targets for uptake of best management practices by farmers in pursuit of Great Barrier Reef water quality targets.

This is another important step for the 69,000 people who rely on the reef for their livelihood and it is important for the range of industries it supports, from tourism to commercial fishing, that inject \$6 billion into our regional economies.

The Palaszczuk Government has been, and will always continue to be, committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders.

That's why we handed down a record \$702 million 2018 Budget investment for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—promising to deliver jobs and upgraded frontline services, facilities and equipment.

Nowhere in Australia is more at the mercy of natural disasters than Queensland, which is why we have the best emergency services teams in the world and why the Palaszczuk Government is committed to maintaining their lofty standards.

Queensland is growing, and the operational response of our emergency services needs to grow with it.

QFES provides a vital frontline service to Queensland communities and it is important we show our support, allowing our emergency services to continue their great work within their local communities.

Our record funding commitment in 2018-19, including budgeted staffing for more than 3300 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel—delivers on the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to enhancing community safety right across the State, well into the future.

We have committed \$29.5 million over four years to provide 100 frontline firefighters and 12 extra fire communications officers—ensuring communities continue receiving quality services. This delivers on an election promise made by the Premier.

I've already announced the first deployment of 25 of these new firefighters—with QFES allocating eleven to the North Coast Region, five to the South Western Region, and one in Cairns in Far Northern Region.

Another eight will be posted to the Northern Region when they finish recruit training in December.

We are investing \$82.3 million this financial year into fire and emergency services facilities, vehicles, information and communications systems and equipment.

Our budget allocated \$7.6 million in 2018-19 to the commencement and delivery of new auxiliary Fire and Rescue stations in Childers, Rathdowney, Richmond, El Arish, Esk, Gracemere, Kilkivan, Wooolin and Yarraman.

Gracemere will receive funding for a \$2.1 million state-of-the-art station, recognising Central Queensland's increasing demand for services.

Building modern facilities means the community can feel at ease knowing our fire and emergency services are properly equipped and ready to respond at a moment's notice.

The new station will assist the critical work of first responders, ensuring they have both the capacity and capability to support Gracemere's current population and further expected growth.

A further \$2.5 million will ensure Fire and Rescue stations in Loganlea, Mount Ommaney and West Logan receive appropriate upgrades in 2018-19.

Replacing or upgrading ageing facilities will improve response times, deliver enhanced services and support community growth.

Planning is also underway for the construction of a multimillion-dollar auxiliary fire and rescue station at Yarrabilba in coming years.

The 2018-2019 Budget also includes more than \$1 million of the \$3 million committed during the election campaign towards the commencement of a new QFES complex in Maleny that will accommodate the local Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Service (SES) and Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Service.

About \$2.7 million has been allocated in 2018-19 to the commencement or completion of joint RFS and SES facilities in Howard, Horn Island and Mount Isa.

Cairns and Rockhampton will receive \$3 million worth of upgrades to their communication centres in 2018-19, boosting the ability of the regions to respond to life-threatening incidents.

This investment will help build on the first-class work already being undertaken by emergency services personnel to combat the threat of severe weather events in the state's far north.

Community safety is also a priority in Weipa, with \$400,000 allocated next financial year for the commencement of a \$1.2 million Emergency and Disaster Centre.

We've also committed \$44.3 million in 2018-19 for the replacement and delivery of 180 new urban and rural fire appliances.

New cutting-edge vehicles will soon be rolling out the doors of new fire and rescue stations under this important initiative to boost the operational capacity of firefighters state wide.

The projected delivery of 61 new Fire and Rescue vehicles, as well as 119 Rural Fire Service vehicles, will go a long way in bolstering firefighting efforts across the state.


The 180 new appliances due this financial year are on top of the more than 100 already delivered under the government's Capital Works program for 2017-18.

That will be a total of more than 280 over two financial years, and even better the appliances are being completed locally, through Queensland-based companies.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to building a safer, stronger Queensland and supports our fire and emergency services personnel and volunteers as they go about their important work of keeping Queenslanders safe.

Our firefighters often work under demanding conditions and we ask a lot of them, so it is only right they have adequate resources to perform their lifesaving work.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Before I call the next member to speak, I would like to acknowledge the presence of Councillor Graeme Scheu from the Goondiwindi Regional Council and his wife, Coral, in the gallery. I welcome both of you to the parliament.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.25 pm): I rise to speak in response to the Governor's opening speech for the opening of this 56th Parliament. In common with my other colleagues I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate all new members to the House. I was perhaps a little more enthusiastic about those on my side of the House. Nonetheless, I acknowledge the hard work and effort of all who have joined the ranks here for the first time and I congratulate them.

I want to add my thanks and acknowledgement to our former leader, Tim Nicholls, and wife, Mary, and family, who sacrificed so much in the last campaign and worked so tirelessly towards what we had hoped would be an LNP victory. Nonetheless, we are here; there are 39 of us. We can be proud of our efforts across the state under very difficult circumstances. Thank you, Tim. I also want to recognise and congratulate our leader, Deb Frecklington, and deputy leader, Tim Mander, on their re-election and their subsequent appointment as our leadership team. The team on this side of the House are diverse and have broad experience, unlike many of those on the other side of the House who come from very strong Labor union backgrounds. It is that experience on our side of the House that I believe puts us in great stead to be a strong opposition and to take up the challenge on so many day-to-day issues. I also want to congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his elevation to the office of Speaker.

Most importantly, I want to thank the people of Southport for my re-election. As I have said on many occasions in the House, Southport is where I was born, where I grew up and where I have raised my family. For me it is an incredible honour and incredibly humbling to today be the member for

Southport. Sadly, with the boundary changes, my electorate office will be moving—I believe next year. I am a little bit sentimental about Chirn Park because back in the seventies my mother had the fish and chip shop across the road from my current office. Chirn Park has long been a very special part of my life and that of my family. Nonetheless, I am looking forward to moving at some point into what is now known as the official CBD of the Gold Coast—CBD Southport.

All of us here know elections are hard work and none of us arrive here without significant support from our families, friends and members of the party. I want to start by thanking my family, who have stood by me in every election since I first ran for council in 2004. I am particularly grateful to my four sons, David, Timothy, Matthew and Andrew, who have rallied at each election—sometimes enthusiastically and sometimes not so enthusiastically—to lend a hand. Now they are all grown men and I am immensely proud of each of them who, in spite of some interesting and sometimes prolonged gap years and a few false starts, are making their own way in life.

Since my very first election campaign my eldest son, David, has graduated as a rural health specialist and is now a doctor in Emerald. He is married and has become a dad. We are very blessed to have welcomed Maddy into our family as our beautiful daughter-in-law as well as our first grandchild, Zoe. My second son, Tim, and his girlfriend, Sarah, are about to move into their first home in Burleigh Waters. Since the last election Tim has graduated as an engineer and is working for Multiplex. Matt, my third son, who we never thought was going to complete his engineering degree, has also just graduated after completing a thesis on—of all things—concrete block retaining walls. It was a fairly challenging exercise to write some 6,000 words about that. Nonetheless, he got there and I am incredibly proud that he, too, will graduate. My fourth son, Andrew, is still working out what is next. He will be off for the mandatory gap year next year. After a year of playing in bands like Syrup, Go On; the Cherry Pickers; Skank Salad; and Nudist Blog, who knows what Andrew's future holds, but I am sure it will be all right.

I also want to thank the rest of my family, particularly my partner, Lucy, who helped out through the campaign cleaning graffiti off banners, helping out on roadsides, handing out how-to-vote cards and providing incredible hospitality to all of the volunteers; my older brother John, who came out with me almost every day in the month before the campaign; my sister Connie; my nephew Peter, who helped with the pre-poll; my niece Lynda and her husband, Cliff; and my adopted aunt and uncle Liisa and Ken Stanley, who have been tremendous supporters over many years.

I want to thank my campaign team, the many members and volunteers from the Southport LNP SEC, the Southport Bowls Club and the broader community. In particular, I want to thank campaign team members: Ken Magoffin, Chris Mamouzelos, Reg Williams, James Kennett, Roger Emmerson, Fran Ward, Jan McMaster and David and Tania Lister. I want to acknowledge my electorate office staff: Sam Hawthorne and her husband, Nathan, and Leanne Reynolds and her husband, Pat, who also helped out during the campaign at various times.

Some of my best volunteers are Judy and Hamish McBean, who are very new to the world of politics but they stood out there on pre-poll every day for two weeks at the Southport Bowls Club. I am grateful to them and Howard Edwards, and of course Bruce and Muriel Duncan, who have been there for every single election that I have run in the state parliament. No campaign would be complete without a few good old mates: Geoff Smith, Steve Lutz, Allan Godbee, Paul Jaffar, Mark Westcott, Simon Brook, Peter Yeomanns, Rob Ffrench, Gerald Brennan and Shane Watson, just to name a few of my mates who turned out at various times to help out on weekends.

I want to reflect very briefly on some comments that I made in my maiden speech. I said—

While Southport's prominence may have waned a little in recent years compared with the apartment boom along the foreshore areas of the Gold Coast, it is today a sleeping giant.

Those were my comments in 2012. I continued—

As we prepare for Southport's Centenary in 2018 and the Commonwealth Games that same year, we have before us a unique opportunity to leverage a new future for Southport and the Gold Coast and, with that future, more permanent jobs and greater economic prosperity. As the new local member, it is my sincere hope to lead that fight for Southport's revitalisation from the industrial areas of Ashmore and Molendinar to the health and knowledge precinct around Parklands and Southport's central business district.

I am proud of what has been achieved. While it would be inappropriate for me to take credit, there has been a tremendous amount achieved because of the efforts of people from the Southport Chamber of Commerce, the Committee for Southport, the Gold Coast City Council and local councillor Dawn Crichlow. All of us working collaboratively have seen a tremendous transformation. Through Jeff

Seeney's office in the Newman government Southport was declared the first priority development area in Queensland. Since then we have seen an incredible revitalisation of the CBD. At the same time, Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate and the councillors saw fit to declare Southport the CBD of the Gold Coast in the new city plan four years ago. We have seen a new fishing club built on the foreshore—one of the oldest fishing clubs in Australia—and president John Ford has been an absolute fighter and champion of that over many years. We have seen new boat ramps, foreshore works and boat-launching facilities. We have seen significant upgrades to the Broadwater Parklands to better accommodate the many sporting events that occur within the Southport precinct.

We have also benefited from the Commonwealth Games. There is no doubt that everyone is happy with the incredible Gold Coast Aquatic Centre and the new Gold Coast Hockey Centre at Labrador. I am particularly proud of the fact that we made the decision when in government to move what were to be temporary facilities for the Commonwealth Games at the Broadwater Parklands to Coomera and Carrara. We now have that magnificent indoor sports centre at Coomera which is getting so much use, and we also have incredible new facilities at Carrara as a result of deciding not to waste money on temporary facilities but rather work with council to invest in new permanent facilities for the games.

There is so much else happening in Southport. We have seen an \$8 million renovation of the Gold Coast TAFE campus in Southport. It is now one of the busiest and most successful TAFEs in Queensland. There have been continuous recreational improvements both in the Broadwater and at The Spit. We have seen tree plantings and road upgrades. We have seen a sewer put into The Spit to facilitate upgraded and improved toilet facilities. On top of that, we have seen some \$600 million in road improvements throughout the Southport electorate over the last four or five years with upgrades to Smith Street, Ferry Road, Olsen Avenue, the Ross Street interchange and of course Bundall Road.

In today's address-in-reply it would be remiss of me not to re-state my belief that Southport is not the appropriate place for a second casino on the Gold Coast. I have spoken about this previously in an adjournment speech in this current sitting of the parliament. Carey Park is an important recreational and car parking space that supports the Southport CBD, the Broadwater Parklands and various activities there. From talking to residents in my local community I know that the last thing anyone wants to see is public land in Southport sold off for a global tourism hub or casino. More importantly, nor should we put at risk clubs like Club CSI, which is the former workers' club, Southport Sharks or the Southport RSL, which have worked so hard through very challenging years to re-establish their clubs and meet community expectations within Southport.

All that said though, there is still more to be done. I am pleased that the current council is conducting a planning scheme review of the Southport CBD with a view to creating overlays to support the legal precinct within the core of the Southport area with the long-term hope of facilitating more legal services, professional chambers and ultimately, as the city continues to grow, to facilitate more court services for the Gold Coast.

Like so many in this House, I also believe that the continued expansion of light rail is a priority for our city. I am pleased that while we were in government we were able to plan stage 2 of the light rail to Helensvale. While it was not us who were able to deliver it, I am pleased that it was delivered in partnership with the state government, local councils and the federal government in time for the Commonwealth Games. That extension has been a boon for the Gold Coast and the local business community.

One of the great challenges in my electorate that I do want to discuss in a little bit of detail is the growth in our local schools. I have some 18 schools in my electorate such as Benowa State High School, Southport State School—which I attended as a child—Keebra Park State High, Bellevue Park State School, Musgrave Hill State School, Southport State High School, Ashmore State School and a number of private schools. One of the challenges is that with so much infill development happening as a result of the PDA, town planning and the Commonwealth Games village, we are going to see more pressure on those schools.

One of the things that the principals of these schools have said to me is that it is incredibly important to preserve the green space of those schools because many of them are on fairly constrained land areas. They have limited green space and it would be easy to simply put more temporary buildings into those schools, but what we need to see over time is a very clear and concise plan to redevelop some of the existing footprint of those schools. Perhaps they could go up in some cases or multipurpose facilities could be built, but there is a significant need for all of the schools to be expanded in the coming years.

Of particular note, there is a desperate need at Keebra Park for a sport centre of excellence. That is something we have been talking about and are hoping to get some preliminary designs for so that we can start to lobby. There is certainly a need for more classroom space at Ashmore State School. It has been put on the record here many times the incredible growth and success of the first independent public school, Southport State High School, which has received some funding for more classrooms. That school continues to grow and continues to be under significant pressure.

There are many other challenges that I hope to address in the coming years. They are challenges not just for me but for all of us in this House. With regard to Smith Street, there is no overpass into Molendinar from the west. As you head east along Smith Street you can take an off-ramp into the industrial estates of Molendinar, but as you come from Brisbane and head east there is no off-ramp and no overpass; nor is there any access from the industrial estate to the light rail station at Parkwood. My hope is that in due course we will be able to build a business case for both of those projects and we will see greater access provided into that industrial area.

Now that things are on track and we are starting to see new commercial space developed—the old hospital site is now available for redevelopment; it was cleared, all the old buildings were demolished and it has subsequently been sold—there is a need for all of us as a business community to work on business attraction into the CBD of Southport. There are so many great opportunities.

As a local business group we have identified and are quite passionate about the need for further crisis accommodation not just for victims of domestic violence but also for young people. It is my sincere hope that the government will deliver a youth foyer for Southport along the lines of the one that was developed in Logan five or six years ago. It is an excellent model. It is actually a more cost-effective way to manage young people who do not really want to live in a residential care facility. It is a model that provides great support for those young people at a level that is appropriate—giving them the freedom and the support they need to get on with their lives, to study, to find a job or to complete an apprenticeship. I am looking forward to that project being developed in Southport in the coming year.

I could not let this opportunity pass without touching on the issues of domestic violence and child protection. As many members know, I have a longstanding involvement with Bravehearts. Just last weekend we had our annual strategic review. It breaks my heart, as I know it does many in the House, that, in spite of all our best efforts, in spite of all the hard work of successive governments, we see rates of abuse, rates of neglect and rates of sexual abuse continue to spiral in our state and our nation. I call on all members and colleagues to continue to not only work on improving outcomes for our young people and our vulnerable but also work harder to close the Indigenous gap, particularly in Far North Queensland. I believe that we need to establish a child advocacy centre here in Brisbane and in regional centres, and we need a very strong reconciliation action plan to close the gap, particularly for Indigenous young people in Queensland.

I know that all of us face challenges. It is not always easy being a member of parliament. Like all members, I am incredibly honoured by and grateful for the great privilege that the people of Southport have bestowed on me to be their representative in this House. It is my goal to continue to hold the government to account. Like my colleagues, I find it incredibly frustrating that we continue to have the asset sale debate, even though the LNP has never sold a single asset and all of the assets that have been sold in the history of Queensland have been sold by previous governments. My appeal to the House is for some integrity around these issues. The people of Queensland have spoken. We have certainly heard that message in the past.

What the people of Queensland need is a strong plan and a strong vision to build a stronger Queensland. The LNP is the party that is pro business and pro enterprise. We are the party that wants to support farmers, mining, development, economic growth and private job creation. We believe in fewer rules, fewer restrictions, a big Queensland, more tourists, more international students, more mining, cheaper electricity, more dams, more farming and more livestock. I will work with my colleagues to stand up for Queenslanders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Members, there is an increasing level of conversation in the chamber. Can we keep that at a reasonable level? It is getting harder to hear.



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (4.45 pm): I start by acknowledging the traditional owners and paying my respects to elders past, present and emerging. It is a privilege to continue to represent the electorate of Stretton in this House. I place on record my thanks to the people of Stretton for their support. I promised in my first speech in this House that I would always be their faithful servant. I am very happy to remain their faithful servant. It was an honour to be elected in 2015 to represent my local community.

It is an even greater honour to be re-elected to serve my local community again after working with them over the previous three years. It is also wonderful to be part of a majority Palaszczuk Labor government. I congratulate all honourable members who were elected or re-elected to this House and wish them all the best for the 56th Parliament.

I made our local area my home over 20 years ago. I have lived in and around our local area for most of my life since then. Notwithstanding changes to the boundaries of the electorate and the most recent census results, Stretton continues to be the most multicultural electorate in Queensland. Of all the electorates in Queensland, the electorate of Stretton has the highest proportion of people born overseas and the highest number of people speaking a language other than English at home. As I have said before, my local area is a place of great cultural celebration and you can eat your way around the world in my local community.

As members would know, elections are a very busy time. It is important to keep things in perspective, although this can be challenging. In this light I would like to reflect on a phone call I received in the final week of the election campaign from Michael Glaros of Sunnybank Hills. He told me about what happened to his son Alphaeus, who was minding his own business one day in Sunnybank when he was stabbed. Michael told me how his son ran for his life across oncoming traffic onto Mains Road to flee his attacker. He also told me about how he and his wife, Athena, were out of town at the time they got the call that their son was in hospital and how they had to drive with grave concerns about whether their son would make it—a true nightmare scenario for any parent. I said to Michael back then, in the week prior to the election, that I would do what I could to support Alphaeus and the Glaros family. I visited Alphaeus in hospital prior to his discharge. He is a remarkable young man with a big future. The matter is currently before the courts, so it is not appropriate for me to go into further detail except to say that, whilst the injuries to Alphaeus were extensive, his condition has improved significantly and he is well on the long road to recovery. Unfortunately, while so many good things happen in our community, bad things do happen to good people. Bad things happen to good families. We need to do all we can, in this House and beyond, to prevent these things taking place.

I want to mention my first full-time boss and mentor Con Sciacca, who passed away last year. Con gave me my first full-time job in his law firm when I started work as an articled clerk. He was a huge source of advice to me, both professionally as a lawyer and in politics. I always knew that I could call Con at any time for advice. His style was always direct. I always found him to be a hard man but a fair man. Con Sciacca moved my admission as a lawyer and he spoke at my campaign launch before the 2015 election, so it was strange not to be able to receive his advice, wisdom and support before the 2017 election. I miss him and I know he is deeply missed by so many other people. He was a unique product of his background and era, and I doubt we will ever see the likes of him again. I think those two stories of the Glaros family and my mentor Con Sciacca really do help to put our work and our political differences in perspective.

On a positive note, I would like to turn to some thank-yous. I firstly want to thank my family—of course my parents and also my brothers, Cameron and Graham, who swung into action, as always, as soon as the campaign was underway. My Aunt Islay has worked on all of my campaigns, and I thank her for all the work she did to support me. Of course, our partners do so much to support us and I want to thank my partner Nicole for all the things she has done and continues to do to support me.

I want to acknowledge my hardworking staff who worked with me at various times during the last term—James Martin, Eddie Lei, Emily Hansell and Ruby Chen. I also want to thank David Pass, Clinton DeBruyn, Merric Foley, Sam Killorn, Monique Bielanowski, Helena Langton, David and Meripa Weir, Teng and Michael Murray, Les Dawson, Peter and Tammy Fitzgibbon, Deb and Anastasia Hodder, Andrew Soter, Hamza Al Ansari, Lyn Cassar, Sam Yang, Luke Moroney, Hamish Bright, Dhaval Patel, Sue Copeland, Carmel Wilcox, Jason McAulay, Vince Kartelo, Sam Sciacca, Ganesh Selva, Donna Russel, Louise Nann, David Kelly, Johnson Chen and Lewis Lee OAM. We got strong swings across all the booths in the electorate of Stretton, so I thank everyone involved in the campaign and also all Labor Party members and union members who campaigned so hard for a Palaszczuk Labor government.

The final vote of thanks I want to give are to our local federal members of parliament. Many members of this place would not be able to say they have a great local federal member in the area that they represent. In the electorate of Stretton there is not one great federal member but in fact two local federal members who have been great supporters, advisers and long-time friends of mine. I have known Dr Jim Chalmers, the federal member for Rankin, since we were at Griffith University together 20 years ago. He has done a tremendous amount of work for the community in the time he has been in the

federal parliament so far, and I look forward to working with him into the future. Graham Perrett, the federal member for Moreton, is a fantastic representative who is truly in touch with our local community and has provided me with invaluable advice over many years. For the sake of my community, this state and the nation, I hope that they will soon be serving our community in a federal Labor government.

With those thankyou's completed, I now want to turn to three important policy issues affecting my local area, our state and our nation. The first of these issues is one that is near and dear to my heart. I have always believed in the transformative power of education and have seen that in my own life. I am a proud product of state schooling and I come from a family where my parents instilled in me and my four brothers the value of an education. One of the challenging things in educating our young people is trying to look at what skills they will need for them to reach full potential in our society. We live in a rapidly changing world and it is vital that the education our students receive equips them to fully engage in the 21st century.

One key area of this is foreign languages. Learning a foreign language, and in particular Mandarin, is vitally important for our young people. It provides an international perspective and allows the speaker to engage with other cultures in ways that monolingual speakers cannot. The most recent available data shows that Mandarin is currently offered in 134 Queensland state schools, which represents about 11.3 per cent of the total number of non-special state schools in Queensland. This is up from 121 Queensland state schools or 10.2 per cent of non-special state schools in Queensland in 2014. I am very pleased to see this upward trajectory and I hope it continues because providing our young people with the opportunity to study Asian languages, and particularly Mandarin, is very important in my view. To increase the number of students studying Mandarin requires not just the language being made available to study but also teacher, parental and peer support because it is not an easy language to learn. We also need a culture shift from the business sector, which needs to recognise, foster and promote second language learning in early career graduates. I know firsthand after studying Mandarin at the Institute of Modern Languages before I was elected to this House that it can be very challenging to learn. However, I think it is vitally important that we encourage our young people to persevere and learn this wonderful language.

I now want to turn to the second of the three policy areas I flagged. Earlier I mentioned the fantastic federal members we have in our local community. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the representation my community received from the Brisbane City Council in relation to the closure of Illaweena Street. The Brisbane City Council caused an absolute traffic nightmare in my community when it made the decision to fully close Illaweena Street. The decision by Councillor Owen and Lord Mayor Quirk to fully close Illaweena Street caused traffic chaos in my local area that was inflicted day after day on my community due to their ridiculous decision. I had mothers come up to me in tears because they simply could not drop their children off to school in time and still make it to work in a reasonable time.

I want to provide the House with some background. On 3 August last year Transurban issued a works notification stating that there would be a single lane traffic flow arrangement on Illaweena Street on school days. Just before works were due to commence, Councillor Owen issued a letter dated 8 September 2017 stating that Illaweena Street would be subject to a full closure. At a subsequent P&C meeting soon after this decision, Councillor Owen stated that the decision was based on an assessment and consultation with stakeholders. Neither Councillor Owen, Lord Mayor Quirk or anyone from the BCC provided details of this assessment process or even the stakeholders consulted, and one would have thought that the Stretton State College community and local residents would be important stakeholders, but seemingly not.

As I said, when school resumed, they caused an absolute traffic nightmare in my community. Many students were late to school and parents late to work. Vehicles which would ordinarily use Illaweena Street were now forced to use other local roads, causing major congestion on Beaudesert Road and Trinity Way, so it affected people across the entire traffic network. The one positive to come out of this ridiculous decision from the LNP BCC was that our community rallied strongly together. We had community rallies and petitions circulating that received a total of over 1,000 signatures. The Stretton State College P&C and the local community did a fantastic job.

I have tabled many documents in relation to Illaweena Street, but it took me over a year to get this one particular document. I had to put in an RTI request and then it was refused. I had to go to the Office of the Information Commissioner. About a year on I finally got this document, and I table it.

Tabled paper. Email, dated 2 August 2017, from Councillor Angela Owen to Ms Jacqueline Neill regarding Illaweena Street closure [\[1872\]](#).

It is an email from the Calamvale Ward office to Jacqueline Neill signed by Councillor Angela Owen. She states in the bottom paragraph—this was the redacted paragraph that took me so long to get—

For the best interest of my constituents I feel that longer term certainty by way of month to month permit for full closure—that is, full closure—

will provide ample capacity for behaviour modification by drivers through appropriate route selection for vehicles in the logistics industry and localised residential traffic.

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr PEGG: The member for Toohey is laughing, and I know he is doing it in an ironic way because this is the email the BCC tried to hide for so long. Councillor Amanda Cooper went to a full council meeting on the record and said that there was an assessment done. She has not apologised and she has not resigned. If one of our ministers was in that same situation, those opposite would be calling for their resignation endlessly. Councillor Cooper should resign, in my view. It gets worse, because this decision happened while Councillor Quirk was overseas. Deputy Mayor Adrian Schrinner was the Acting Lord Mayor. He allowed this decision to occur. He helped maintain this fiction that there was supposedly an independent assessment process when we found out there was not.

I keep hearing that Graham Quirk may pull up stumps early in that he may not serve a full term if re-elected at the next election. In the event that that happens, with Adrian Schrinner in his short time as Acting Lord Mayor in terms of the chaos he inflicted in our community, his refusal to review his decision and his refusal to see common sense, it terrifies me if he ever becomes the Lord Mayor of Brisbane or ever becomes Acting Lord Mayor again. Unfortunately, Lord Mayor Quirk had ample time to review this decision and to reverse it, and it took a huge community campaign, traffic chaos and a traffic nightmare inflicted on our community for that to finally change.

There is one final point that I want to turn to, and that is the issue of inequality and the relation of inequality to the fragmentation of politics. In my first speech I spoke about how the rise of Pauline Hanson and One Nation was one of the main reasons I joined the Labor Party back in 1998. I want to put on record how proud I was that once again Labor took the principled position of putting One Nation last on how-to-vote cards. Labor was the first party to take this principled position. Sadly, the LNP did not adopt this position to support our diverse communities. In the vast majority of electorates, the LNP did not put One Nation last. The end result is a One Nation member elected to this House.

Although it is true that One Nation has just one seat in this House, in my view, that is one seat too many. The reality is that it is extremely difficult for One Nation to gain seats in this House if it does not receive preferences from either of the major parties. The reason there is a One Nation member in this House is that the LNP put that member's name above the Labor candidate's name on its how-to-vote cards. Indeed, the LNP preferenced One Nation above Labor in the overwhelming majority of seats. I did not hear the member for Clayfield mention that in his speech earlier. Of course, the LNP preferenced me above the One Nation candidate in the Stretton electorate and did the same in the Toohey electorate, which are the two most multicultural electorates in the state. I can only assume that was an attempt to hide the fact that the LNP was preferencing One Nation above Labor in the vast majority of seats. I say to the member for Clayfield that the community did not fall for this ruse. They saw the LNP preference arrangements for what they were.

We know that the political landscape as we once knew it is undergoing fundamental and, in some cases, alarming change. We have seen a raft of unexpected election outcomes—from the Brexit referendum result, to the resurgence of One Nation in Australia, through to the Trump victory in the US presidential election—that have changed the global political dynamic and challenged the certainties that many of us took for granted. Any one of those results on their own would be the cause for analysis, but to have three of those results occur in recent times have left many people grappling to find a reason for these results.

On the progressive side of politics there is a need to not only ascertain the reasons but also find a way to address those concerns. As a representative of the most multicultural electorate in Queensland, it is clear to me that some of those outcomes were driven in part by anti-immigrant and racist sentiment, which I believe it is incumbent upon all elected representatives to oppose. However, the issues driving those results require a more complex and nuanced analysis.

Although there have been significant improvements in real net disposable income over the past 20 years, the level of economic inequality continues to rise. Figures reveal that the top 10 per cent of households in Australia now own at least half of Australia's total household wealth and, by some

estimates, more than 53 per cent. In comparison, in the US, that level is 76 per cent. In the 10 years after 2000, the richest one per cent of the population increased in wealth from one-third of everything to half of everything. Although things are not quite that bad in Australia, the CEOs of some of Australia's top companies were paid the average annual earnings in just the first week of 2017.

To combat the rise of Trump, One Nation and Brexit-style politics, in my view, growing inequality is something that the progressive side of politics needs to deal with. In recent decades, progressive parties have made huge gains in environmental outcomes and social equality issues. However, it is vitally important that addressing economic inequality continues to be a real focus, with concrete policies put in place to address the issue.


This is not an easy issue. For instance, I ask members to consider the reaction to the television series *Struggle Street*, which was labelled by one critic as publicly funded poverty porn. Although *Struggle Street* was indeed confronting and, no doubt, some critics felt uncomfortable that some people in modern Australia were forced to live in such conditions, simply ignoring the issue or pretending that it does not exist will not do anything to address growing economic inequality. Fortunately, already some policies have been developed to address this important issue. Bill Shorten took a very brave policy of restricting negative gearing and reducing the capital gains tax discount to the last election and almost pulled off a stunning upset victory. I note that federal Labor is also taking changes to dividend imputation to the next election.

In Queensland, the Palaszczuk government has made a significant investment of \$240 million over four years in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. Importantly, the government has put in place legislation to clean up the labour hire industry and address issues such as insecure employment, which I spoke about in my first speech. A secure job is important. A secure place to live is also important. I am very pleased to see this government undertaking a review of the state's tenancy laws as well.

Another way in which our state government is fighting back against inequality is by providing a just outcome for injured workers. In my first speech in this place, I spoke about the unfairness that had been inflicted on people in this state who had been injured at work. In the last parliament, I was very happy to see that wrong put right and, indeed, serve on the committee that inquired into the laws that were put forward to restore fairness for working families in Queensland. I was disappointed that the support for this legislation was not bipartisan, but I was proud to be part of a government that did the right thing by people who have been incapacitated and left with permanent disabilities through no fault of their own. To address the future challenges of inequality, progressive parties need to adopt and build on these initiatives. Bill Clinton's successful presidential campaign strategist, James Carville, is famous for coining the phrase, 'It's the economy, stupid.' I believe that the mantra for the foreseeable future should be, 'It's inequality, stupid.'

In conclusion, once again, I congratulate all the other members of the 56th Parliament who have the honour and privilege of representing their respective electorates. I congratulate the member for Mulgrave on being elected Speaker and wish him well. I wish all the other members of the 56th Parliament well. I look forward to continuing to work with them.

Finally, once again, I thank the people of the Stretton electorate for their support. I will always be their humble servant. As I said in my first speech to the people of the Stretton electorate, you are my boss and you are still my boss. I will not hesitate to stand up for you on important issues in this House. I look forward to continuing to serve them.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.05 pm): Firstly, I would like to say that the honour of being re-elected in no way diminishes the second time around. At the outset, I would sincerely like to thank those many volunteers who helped in my campaign for election to the seat of Traeger. They include Alice Nolan, George Tipping, Susie Paterson, Garth Power, Shane McCarthy, Wayne and Diane Reeves and Bill Rutherford. Importantly, I would also like to thank my family. My mother has always been a very big help to me in all my work. I also thank all her friends and party members in Charters Towers. My wife has also been very supportive of me when I have had to spend time away. I am very grateful to all of those people. I also thank my extended family, my cousins and everyone else who helped in the election campaign and on polling day. I am very grateful.

I am overjoyed to be joined by my colleague the member for Hill, Shane Knuth. After the redistribution, he had to seek election to another seat. He had a huge win and has established himself there. That is reflective of his terrific representative of people. I am very pleased to now represent his old patch and be the beneficiary of much of his hard work. I also would like to pay tribute to our new

colleague, Nick Dametto, the member for Hinchinbrook. What a powerhouse we have from Ingham! I think it may be unprecedented that, after a 3½-week campaign and a very small amount of campaign dollars, someone who was not a member of one of the major parties and who had no political experience won from scratch. That was a huge win.

I was lucky enough to be returned with a very handy majority in the new seat of Traeger, which now includes the town of Charters Towers. I would like to attribute that win to those who have supported me and who had a big part to play in the many outcomes that were procured by Shane Knuth and me for the KAP in this state parliament. Most importantly, I would like to thank those many people in those communities who were affected who drove the majority of these initiatives so that we could enjoy these wonderful results.

I would like to recap some of the achievements of the KAP in the last parliament as a result of taking advantage of the make-up of that parliament. I think that some of those initiatives that were procured in that last parliament were very beneficial to the state. The \$40 million western roads package that was handed down in the first budget of the last parliament was tailored to help many remote councils in all the western regions, including the electorates of Warrego, Gregory and Mount Isa, as it was then known, and also to a lesser extent the Cook electorate. That western roads package acknowledged the drought that was occurring at that time. The councils in those western areas were in dire straits. Road maintenance was identified as one of the best ways to stimulate the communities in those areas. That western roads package was a terrific outcome.

There was also the \$70 million drought package, which was an outcome of the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce, which I chaired. Many initiatives were contained within that package, such as \$12 million for education to help people in the drought and money to drive multiperil insurance. One initiative arising from that task force was for a rural industry development bank. Although that initiative was unsuccessful, it drove some change in that area. There was more investment in rural offices of government departments and more drought assistance in the form of PIPES. That funding of \$70 million was a big outcome.

A landmark piece of legislation that was passed in the last parliament was one of two private member's bills in relation to the sugar industry. That was a hallmark achievement for the KAP in the last parliament. There was legislation passed to assist the taxi industry in its fight against the illegal encroachment of ridesharing and Uber into the market. There was the first successful ethanol mandate in Queensland's history. After both Labor and LNP had voted it down in the last attempt in the previous parliament, it was brought back in the last parliament and got the full support of the House which was a wonderful outcome. We saw \$1 million invested into the ailing dairy industry following the pressure brought by the KAP's Fair Milk Mark Bill. The bill was voted down by both parties, but following that there was \$1 million invested in a similar type of initiative. It was not enough, but at least it was something for the dairy industry. There was the introduction by the KAP of the blue card bill to assist many in Aboriginal communities to work. There was the introduction of the pub licence fee bill to help bush pubs stay alive.

I mention again that there were nine private members' bills put through. We played a pivotal role in blocking the Labor attempt to drive harsher vegetation management laws in the last parliament. Had the KAP held the balance of power in this parliament we certainly would not have had those laws changed again. Crucial funding was achieved for the Hann Highway, one of the great inland routes of Australia. The billion dollar banana industry is cut off when the Bruce Highway floods. The US Army built the Hann Highway back in the forties because they acknowledged that Australia needed an inland route that was away from the super wet belt and was flood proof. We have not sealed all of it but achieved \$20 million worth of works during that period. There was money also for Punchbowl Bridge and the new Julia Creek Hospital. There was funding achieved for a bitumen seal up to the Age of Dinosaurs in Winton, a wonderful legacy for the late—and I might say great—mayor Butch Lenton. It was something he courageously pushed for. We were able to get a bitumen seal up to that wonderful tourist attraction. I might segue into a quick tribute to mayor Butch Lenton who did a wonderful job in his community. It was with sadness we saw his passing last year.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr KATTER: There was over \$1 million for critical dredging in Karumba to keep live cattle exports going from this port. Karumba is an absolute economic powerhouse. Per person it is arguable that there would be no stronger performer in the Queensland economy than Karumba. It is a wonderful place. It has mining activity, commercial fishing and tourism. It swells from about 600 people to about 4,000

people every year. It has a live export facility, which is a big part of the cattle industry. For a tiny population of 600 people it is a wonderful contributor to this state. We were able to help in a small way to maintain that dredging channel which is one of only two ports in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

We oversaw critical assistance for Mount Isa Mines to keep the business healthy through the downturn. It is certainly not the only large mine in the north-west, but it is a very big player. Sulphur is taken off the copper smelter in Mount Isa and made into sulphuric acid that feeds the phosphate fertiliser plant up the road that employs about 900 people, mostly from Brisbane and Townsville—hardly anyone from the north-west is employed there. The output from that goes to the copper refinery in Townsville which employs close to 200 people. If the copper smelter is not operating in Mount Isa there are some big problems in the state's economy. It was wonderful that we could turn fortunes around there and keep that copper smelter open.

KAP played a significant role in the gas pipeline from the NT going through to Queensland instead of South Australia. It is now connected providing an alternative energy source to the North West Minerals Province. Optic fibre cable funding has gone to Burketown and Karumba so that they can be connected and there is a default route if there are breakdowns in the optic fibre cable network. Finally some of these remote places are catching up with technology. Businesses in Karumba now do not have to write IOU notes to the tourists as they used to when EFTPOS systems regularly shut down. They will be able to avoid that.

The Education office in Mount Isa is again occupied. All the jobs performed in that office have been moved over the years by both LNP and ALP governments. It used to be a fully occupied two-storey building in Mount Isa which was a place where people would take complaints. There was regional autonomy provided by having management there. That was fully empty until last year when people were put back into that office, albeit in another form, but it was good to see that opened.

It is worth noting that in the last parliament nine bills were put to the House by KAP and two were passed. There have only been 13 in Queensland's history. I heard comments in addresses in reply rather unkindly saying that a vote for minor parties delivers nothing. I am not saying that we are terrific, but I think it is fair to say we play a part. I think we played a significant part in the last parliament. Some of the comments made in addresses in reply were unfair. What is more, it is irreconcilable with the evidence. Quite frankly, I think it is a line people are sick of hearing. From my observations during the campaign, there is deep dissatisfaction in voter land. Some of the rhetoric is getting worn out. More and more people are seeing the major parties bow to special interest groups and scrambling to spend taxpayers dollars to buy people's votes. Cross River Rail and the Townsville sports stadium definitely fit that mould.

I would like to paint members a picture of the Traeger electorate. The social and economic landscape in Traeger remains very challenging. If we do not get the gold medal for continued adversity then we would definitely be on the podium. It is a place of extremes. A quick snapshot of some of the following indicators paints a clear picture of the adversity faced by Western Queenslanders and gulf residents. Some of these are pretty concerning. A person in the electorate of Traeger is 47 per cent more likely to suffer an avoidable death in rural centres than in major urban centres. A person is three times more likely to die because of a transport accident than those living in major cities. Residents close to cities are seeing an 85 per cent growth in professional health services, however, in rural and remote areas they have only grown seven per cent. The most recent removal of birthing and dialysis services has seen a further decline in the livability of regional Queensland.

In relation to economic indicators, the unemployment rate in Brisbane city in the last quarter was 3.9 per cent while in outback Queensland it is 11 per cent. Youth employment in outback Queensland is at a staggering 39.1 per cent and has been hovering around that same number for years.

Looking at social factors, crime rates in North Queensland across a number of offences, including assault, are the highest in Queensland as the government is still yet to respond with some long-term solutions in this regard. Indigenous women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-Indigenous men and women. Our first Australians have enormous problems in relation to alcohol, unemployment and family dislocation.

When it comes to the environment, prickly acacia, a species introduced by the government, I might add, and encouraged back in the forties, fifties and sixties to be planted on the Mitchell Grass Downs, one of our greatest natural assets, is an estimated 20 million hectare infestation. It is the cane toad of woody weeds and proportionally nothing has been done. I hear a lot about the reef and tree clearing, but one only has to drive out on the Flinders Highway and have a look at it to see that it is a

big problem. Graziers are spending \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year on eradication. Some of these people are as poor as church mice and trying to get by. They are doing the job that the government should be doing. They are getting very little help dealing with what is a big problem.

Returning to crime statistics, Mount Isa has six times the rate of domestic violence than the rest of the state. In Mount Isa, the rate of assaults per 100,000 people is 10 times that of Brisbane and sexual offences are five times that of Brisbane, yet we are still understaffed by almost 20 officers, as it gets harder and harder to encourage people to move to Mount Isa.

The city of Mount Isa continues to be a sinkhole for the region. There are alcohol bans in the Northern Territory, alcohol management plans on Mornington Island and issues with the blue card system. If anyone has a problem, they will come to Mount Isa. We do not get funded by the Northern Territory. Quite frankly, a hopeless job was done with the census, which did not record a lot of the itinerant people in Mount Isa. That places a big burden on our services. Our problems are pretty big. In the past five years, in outback Queensland the population has dropped by six per cent. Over the same period, in Brisbane city the population has increased by 11 per cent.

In the north-west minerals province and Mount Isa, industry power prices are 40 per cent higher than on the coast. That is a big difference. If energy is 40 per cent of the running costs of a mining operation and we are paying \$150 a megawatt hour and in Townsville you can be paying \$80 a megawatt hour, there is a huge difference. When talking about a lot of the new imposts and costs and introducing things across the state, the government needs to bear in mind what we are paying. Through the Mount Isa Water Board, we pay to the state a \$2 million to \$3 million dividend on top of the residents' bills. Outside of Gladstone, no-one else in the state does that. It is a handy little tax that we also pay.

There is a rail fail in Mount Isa. At least \$2.5 billion worth of minerals from the north-west minerals province goes through the Townsville port. Currently, they haul about 3.5 million tonnes on the rail line. Primarily because of the Queensland Competition Authority the rail line is trying to look like a competitive marketing environment, but it is not. The guidelines are hopeless. All that is needed is to talk to industry and unpack this QCA stuff. The roads are now very busy and the trucks do a lot of damage because of the volume of traffic, yet we have a perfectly good rail line that is getting less and less use because fixed costs are applied back on the user. In Queensland, that is the only piece of track that is not subsidised, apart from a little bit in Brisbane. That means that every new bit of cost goes back on the user. The problem is getting worse. If you need an example of terrible government management of an asset, look no further than that piece of rail line. It needs some work. It is a travesty. It is so disappointing to watch business go off the rail line and on to the road, when something could easily be done.

The cost of flights is an enormous issue. I can tell the House that it is pretty hard to find anything in the state that compares to this in terms of an impost on residents. Take a young single mother who is working hard in Mount Isa. If she wants to visit family or sick parents in Brisbane, on any day of the week she has to pay \$1,000 for a return flight. People cannot afford that. We are being absolutely ripped off. People are exploiting the market and no-one has done anything about it. There has been nothing done by this House. Not a finger has been lifted to help the people. They have just delayed the Senate inquiry for another six months. We feel like we have been left out in the cold and that no-one cares. It is a terrible reflection on the government that that has been allowed to happen.

If I took one message from the last campaign, it is that people intuitively do not want bells and whistles. They do not want school halls, new sports stadiums or traffic tunnels. People know the difference between industry enabling infrastructure and social infrastructure. People know that it means jobs in the end. They know that bills have to be paid by the government. They know that by looking after the rail, water and power, we can build a good economic base that can pay for those things that people deserve. We are happy for a rail tunnel to be built in Brisbane, but let us make sure we can pay for it first. If business in the north-west minerals province is not working well, you cannot afford stuff down here. The government needs to get out there and fix the hard stuff because people know this intuitively. The government needs to listen to what is happening in my electorate. People want a government that will pay attention to these things. There are no votes in it. There are not a lot of people out there who will directly benefit, but they are listening and they are tuning in. They want to see a government that will take the brave steps to try to fix these things.


We can connect Mount Isa to the national electricity grid and bring down our power prices from \$150 a megawatt hour to closer to \$80 a megawatt hour, and then watch how we thrive. Let some water licences go in the Flinders, Einasleigh and Etheridge rivers. There are some wonderful opportunities up on the Gilbert and Einasleigh rivers. Kenny Fryer is kicking goals up there, as is Corbett Tritton at

Richmond. We can show the government what we can do for the economy if it just gives us some access to water, but without that access being shrouded in 10 tonnes of regulation and costs. My father got the federal money through for the Hughenden irrigation project, which is a wonderful project that we can make happen in the Flinders area. Richmond and Cloncurry have dam proposals that would help enormously in drought times. I can talk about Indigenous communities, title deeds, AMPs and mini ports in the gulf area. There are wonderful things that we can do in the electorate of Traeger, but the government has to listen.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.


DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING

Unparliamentary Language, Ruling Vacated

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Honourable members, earlier today I ruled an interjection made by the member for Everton as being unparliamentary and asked for a withdrawal. With the benefit of considering the *Record of Proceedings*, I concede that that ruling was in error. Personally, I found the debate generally referring to parliamentary staff and one staff member in particular distasteful and I was very uncomfortable with those references, and the interjection added to my feelings. My ruling was probably coloured by my opinion on that matter. I vacate the ruling and apologise to the member for Everton.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Matter of Privilege by the Member for Surfers Paradise

 **Mr SPEAKER**: Honourable members, I refer to the Deputy Speaker's ruling just given. I was monitoring the chamber in my rooms this morning when the member for Surfers Paradise rose on a matter of privilege, questioning the earlier ruling by the Deputy Speaker. The tone taken by the member was not one of genuine query but, in my view, one of defiance.

When the Speaker or Deputy Speaker makes a decision or a ruling on a matter, points of order or matters of privilege seeking clarification or restating the issues risk actual disrespect to the chair. In this regard, I stress that the tone taken by the member is significant. Regardless of the merit of the point, I warn the member and all members that disrespect for the chair will not be tolerated in this parliament.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I apologise to the Deputy Speaker and to the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Surfers Paradise.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OXLEY AND YERONGA PDAS) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.27 pm): I 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'

Over more than nine years, I have had the great honour of representing the communities of the Glass House electorate. At four elections now, they have bestowed on me the enormous privilege of representing and fighting for their interests in this House. Above any political or personal motivators, the first and foremost reason that each and every one of us is here is to represent the people of our

electorates. The trust that our communities confer on all of us is immense. From the first words in our maiden speeches—just as I said in mine on 22 April 2009—we acknowledge and recognise our sacrosanct responsibilities to the communities that have trusted us to represent them.

Regretfully, the sole reason we are here today debating this disallowance motion is because a member opposite has forgotten the most fundamental reason she sits in this House. It is not for her party or for her ideology. It is certainly not for her career or her own self-interest. The fundamental reason she has the enormous privilege of being a member of this parliament is because of the trust that 30,000-plus electors of Mount Ommaney have bestowed on her. However, the reason we are debating this disallowance motion for the Oxley PDA is because the local Labor member for Mount Ommaney has sold her own community down the river.

I gave notice that I would move a disallowance motion related to the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation 2018 on 1 November due to the overwhelming request for help from community members whose local MPs had turned their backs on them. The Oxley site is the site of the former Oxley secondary college, which is owned by the state government.

At this point, I note that that school was closed by a Labor government. This morning there was an inference from the Premier, the member for Inala, that it was the LNP that closed schools down. No-one is going to hide from the fact that we closed down five schools, but let us not forget the record of successive Labor governments prior to that where we saw seven schools on average closed each and every year for 20 years. Seven schools a year were closed.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education, the member for Glass House is not taking your interjections. I ask you to cease interjecting.

Mr POWELL: Furthermore, in answer to question on notice 1146 asked by the member for Coomera on 6 September this year it has been confirmed that under this Labor government there have been an additional six schools closed. They are: Ryeford State School; Helens Hill State School; Bambaroo State School; Tannymorel State School; Mackenzie River State School; and Yowah State School.

Let me pause in the midst of this debate to make sure that everyone listening throughout Queensland knows that the closure of schools is a regular occurrence under Labor governments. To suggest that it is something exclusive to an LNP government, which closed five schools over the course of less than three years, when their record speaks for itself—seven a year for 20 years—is outrageous.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, your interjections are not being taken by the member. I will ask you again to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr POWELL: It hurts, does it not, when the people of Queensland are told the truth rather than the mistruths propagated by those opposite? The Oxley site is the site of the former Oxley secondary college which was closed by a Labor state government in 2000. It is a 19.21 hectare site with substantial native vegetation and green space nestled near the banks of the Brisbane River.

When the Labor government first proposed to sell and develop the site in 2016 community outcry was enormous. In response to the deafening outcry of a community that did not want yet another intensive development in one of their few remaining green spaces, the government, forced by then member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, commenced a consultation process. Unsurprisingly, the overwhelming consensus from the community feedback received, as published in Economic Development Queensland's report, was that residents did not want the site to be intensively developed. Let me repeat that: they did not want the site intensively developed.

What happened next is a damning indictment on the way this Palaszczuk Labor government operates. As Oxley resident Brian Fuller stated to the *South-West Satellite* in this article, which I table, what happened next was, 'The government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an LNP member they come back with a plan that ignores the opinion of the people of Oxley.'

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 4 November 2018, titled 'Shadow Minister calls Oxley PDA consultation a "sham"' [1873].

Ms PUGH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. LNP member—

Mr POWELL: That was a direct quote. Let me repeat it: 'The government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an ALP member they came back—

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

Mr SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Can I ask you to resume your seat, member for Glass House?

Ms PUGH: I am personally offended to be referred to as an LNP member, if that is what I just heard. Can you please clarify?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, do you find the comments personally offensive?

Ms PUGH: And inaccurate. I was just referred to as an LNP member.

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not appropriate to debate the issue.

Ms PUGH: Yes, I find them offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, can I assist here? In error I inadvertently referred to the member as an LNP member. Trust me, we would not have her. Let me again reflect on—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member has found something you have said personally offensive. Can you please withdraw?

Mr POWELL: I withdraw. The quote was—

The Government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an ALP member they come back with a plan that ignores the opinion of the people of Oxley.

Just this morning we had the Premier lecturing this House on consultation while her own Labor member for Mount Ommaney, until very recently, has been refusing to meet with extremely concerned stakeholders about this proposed development. Disgracefully, it has taken media attention for the member for Mount Ommaney—

Ms PUGH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The member is misleading the House. I have not refused to meet with—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, if you have a concern about a member potentially misleading the House I ask you to write to me. It is not appropriate to rise to a point of order to request that. If you have something else to raise while you are on your feet I am happy to hear it.

Ms PUGH: No, that is fine.

Mr POWELL: Disgracefully, it has taken media attention for the member for Mount Ommaney to even re-engage with the many concerned residents in her own electorate. Instead of standing up for the people who have entrusted her with the great honour of representing them, she has literally sold them out to pathetically toe the Labor Party line.

This is the same Labor Party line that is forcing 176,800 new homes into existing Brisbane suburbs while reducing infrastructure investment. This is the same Labor Party line that is investing less in infrastructure and essential services while forcing local suburbs to accommodate more people with less support. This is the same Labor Party line that has set a record infill target of 94 per cent, with existing communities paying the price. This is the same Labor Party line that has resulted in an ANZ/Property Council report ranking the Palaszczuk Labor government as the worst state government in Australia for planning and managing growth. This is the same Labor Party line that ratcheted infill development to a record 94 per cent yet cut \$9 billion from infrastructure investment. This is the same Labor Party line that is forcing Queenslanders into a daily battle with congestion filled roads and forcing them to wait longer for community services and enjoy fewer green spaces and less affordable housing.

While the member for Mount Ommaney may refuse to meet with members of the Oxley community, I took the time to meet with Brian this morning to listen to more of his concerns. With Brian was Bill Thirkill, the president of the Oxley Progress Association, and Ian Eugard, another concerned local resident. What they told me both shocked and horrified me. They said that they had seen their local member, the member for Mount Ommaney, openly state in the *South-West Satellite*—

I have not had one person mention to me they were unhappy with the decision to include aged care in the development.

They said that was completely untrue. There was not even a shred of credibility to this wildly outlandish statement made by their local member they said. They even provided me with written evidence that what their local member, the member for Mount Ommaney, had said to a journalist is far from true. I table a copy of a consultation document that was directly handed to the member for Mount Ommaney on a Saturday in June 2018 that clearly has written on it 'No retirement homes please'.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Former Oxley Secondary College Site' [1874].

From one member of parliament to another, the member for Mount Ommaney would do a lot better if she actually listened to the community she represents instead of selling them down the river. I think the least that she could provide to the Oxley community is an apology for the misleading statements she has already made in local media. Even better, she could start to stand up for them. If she needs some advice on how to do that, she need look no further than the former member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, who during the previous Palaszczuk government when learning of the decision by the Palaszczuk Labor government to sell off this property, informed her community of what was going on. In a letter, which again I am happy to table, she says—

I appreciate the time many local residents from across our community have taken to fill out my community survey and share your concerns and views on the future use of the site.

Due to this action, and the media coverage from local media, we pressured the Labor Government into holding community forums regarding the future of the Oxley State High School site.

Unfortunately, in the days following the forums, many local residents have contacted me feeling underwhelmed by the 'Consultation' process and manner in which it was undertaken by ... (EDQ). The concerns raised included the format of the EDQ forums, the way the consultation was conducted and the concern with leading questions in the EDQ survey.

At that time the former member had received 143 responses, with an overwhelming 82 per cent of local residents being opposed to any residential development on the site. I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the then member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, to Mr B Fuller regarding the former Oxley State High School site [\[1875\]](#).

That was followed on 23 June 2017 by another letter from the then member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, who concluded—

To your questions regarding our plans for the site—

that is, the LNP's plans for the site—


provided the site has not been sold or repurposed, I will be guided by the advice received during my consultation where I received over 1,000 comments, suggestions and draft plans ... from local residents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 June 2017, from the then member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, to Mr B Fuller regarding the former Oxley State High School site [\[1876\]](#).

If the current member for Mount Ommaney wants to know how to stand up for her community, she need look no further than those tabled documents from her predecessor. There was a member for Mount Ommaney who stood up for her community and who realised the concerns of her community when it came to the Oxley PDA and was willing to stand up to this Labor government to ensure that what is being proposed did not happen.

What is being proposed? It is a complete disgrace. It is a complete disgrace that the current member for Mount Ommaney is still insisting that the Oxley community's preference is for an intensive six-storey development on the old secondary school site. It is outrageous that Labor continue to ignore local planning concerns and ram through regulations that only serve to further their own self-interest. The Palaszczuk government owns this site and its consultation process was a sham—the outcome a foregone conclusion. Labor's push for development on urban infill sites is changing Brisbane for the worse. The Palaszczuk Labor government's horrendous planning policy is in desperate need of fixing, and fixing it can start today by stopping Labor's plans for the Oxley PDA.

I call on the community to help. Go to www.oxleypda.com.au, sign the petition and give this government yet another clear message that what is being proposed is not what the community wants. If the member for Mount Ommaney refuses to take a stand to fight for the community that elected her, I, along with my LNP colleagues, will. Only the LNP has a plan for growth. An LNP government will stop Labor's overdevelopment agenda. We need to protect our suburban streets and ensure our children have parks to play in. The LNP will make housing more affordable by opening up greenfield development sites with new infrastructure like the second M1. Unlike Labor, the LNP listens to locals. We will actually undertake meaningful consultation through the planning development process and we will stand up for our communities.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.43 pm): I barely know where to start, but I rise this evening to condemn this motion and to stand up for my beloved community of Oxley. The member's new-found interest in the Oxley PDA is nothing more than political muckraking. When my committee recently held public hearings into PDAs, *Hansard* will show that not only did the member for Glass House not attend to find out more but the only member who asked any questions about the Oxley PDA was me. That is right: the LNP did not ask a single question about PDAs. I, however, asked a number of questions, as *Hansard* reflects, because that is what effective local members do. They ask questions, they research

and they talk to their community. They do not dash off half-cocked press releases without speaking to a single member of the Oxley community panel. I am deeply offended on behalf of my community and particularly the community panel members who have had their hard work not just dismissed by the shadow minister but denigrated. They have been called political hacks. Their hard work during the two-year consultation process has been called a sham by the shadow minister.

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms PUGH: Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mount Ommaney, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms PUGH: What concerns me more though is that the shadow minister is so ready and so willing to throw mud at Oxley residents simply because they have the temerity to stand up and represent their community because they care so passionately. When I ran for parliament I knew what I was getting into. For better or for worse, parliament has a reputation as a combative place. These community members did not sign up for that, and I will not stand by and let the member for Glass House smear their efforts in the local paper. They cannot come into this place and defend themselves, but I can.

These community panel members worked tirelessly and over a number of years to get the best possible outcome and provide EDQ and the community with the best possible research on tricky subjects like subsidence on the site and the historical value of the site. They were able to show that the bushland on the site is over 100 years old—native virgin bushland. The panel members all had different areas of expertise. We had contributors who were local residents, members of the C&K—that is the beloved Yuingi currently located on the site. I have thanked them before, as I have spoken many times on the Oxley PDA already this year, but today I want to mention them by name.

The Oxley community panel is comprised of Colin Hall, Shealagh Walker, Paul Garnsey, Meg Jones, Ed Parker, Theresa Rich Hoyle, Gavin Seipelt and Wai Giffen. I cannot imagine how they must have felt waking up to read the front page of the local paper where it was claimed that the two-year community consultation that they worked so hard on and was painstakingly conducted and hard fought for by our local community was a sham by a member of parliament who had not attended a single community consultation session. If the member had, he would be aware that it was the furthest thing from a sham. It was the blood, sweat and tears of hardworking community members fighting to get the best result for our beautiful community.

Interestingly, the petition page—and I have had a look at it—that was started to turn this PDA over uses the exact same word: 'sham'. It also features that beautiful LNP sky blue in its design. I think if members had a look at the page they would agree that it looks very much like a political flyer, but it is missing an authorisation. I am not saying that the member started this petition page, but if the colour scheme and the words are the same it must be one heck of a coincidence! A very clever media adviser must have worked hard on this.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, you were listened to in relative silence whilst being somewhat combative. I ask that you show the same courtesy to the member for Mount Ommaney. She is not taking interjections.

Ms PUGH: Thankfully Theresa Rich Hoyle did not need a media adviser to tell us how she felt on the Oxley secondary school Facebook page last week. I will read her response now, which I will table. She states—

This makes me super cranky. For the shadow minister 2½ years later to chime in and say that the community consultation was a sham and that the development was a foregone conclusion. Whilst the plans thus far are not the 100% idealistic outcome the community sought, the community consultation made a dramatic difference in the final outcome. I believe the compromises that have been achieved are nothing short of phenomenal especially in light of when I think back to the first meetings where filling in the oval to make it above flood level, small lot affordable housing and engineering the landslip slopes were all discussed as "on the table".

We now have a huge chunk of bush land preserved and to be utilised, appreciated and enjoyed by the community, sporting grounds, recreational space, rejuvenation and protection of the landslip zones, fairly minimal low density residential development, an aged care facility that will provide ongoing jobs, flood free relocation of Yuingi childcare and a brand spanking new community centre.

In my view this would not have been achieved without the THOUSANDS of hours our community pulled together and worked WITH EDQ to achieve.

... this is a pretty cheeky comment and a bit of a pot calling kettle black response. I'd love to hear a promise from the Liberal Government on what they'd achieve with the site because they sure weren't willing to promise anything at election time either.

Mr Mander: We wouldn't have sold it. We wouldn't have closed down a school.

Ms PUGH: Well, you had the opportunity to put that on the record. The quote continues—

No outcome was ever going to make everyone happy and I certainly would have loved several other options however the compromises achieved meet many requirements from the wider community and likewise the governments agenda to develop the land according to state law requirements.

Rant over.

Tabled paper. Extract, dated 8 November 2018, from social media post, titled 'Oxley PDA "sham"—South-West News' [1877].

Members can see that the community is absolutely unhappy with being verballed by the Johnny-come-lately member for Glass House.

I will provide a little bit of history. The future of this site has been up in the air since 2014 when, spoiler alert, Campbell Newman as premier vacated the site, evicting its tenants at the time, including a local ballet school where the now Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, once learned ballet as well as the fire ants workforce. They were booted off by Campbell Newman without a word of complaint from the former LNP member for Mount Ommaney—no doubt in preparation for asset sales. Then in 2015 Newman lost and all of a sudden the former member for Mount Ommaney could not say enough about the site. She mentioned it three times in parliament in her next term, although she did have a few facts confused, claiming the site was only 22 acres when it is in fact 19 hectares.


In the meantime, the Palaszczuk government simply got on with the job of consulting the community, with EDQ conducting many community consultation meetings, with letterbox drops, Facebook posts and of course that vital correspondence with the nine-member Oxley community panel. As the candidate and then as the member, I worked with my community to rise above the political baiting that we see today and simply concentrate on getting the best possible outcome for the community.

The final outcome for the site includes a community hub, the relocation of our beloved Yuingi childcare centre to higher ground out of the flood plains, sport and playing fields, and 74 large-lot residential homes on an average block size of 800 square metres—hardly high-density housing. This is in keeping with other beautiful local developments like Edenbrooke in nearby Sinnamon Park. I doubt the member could even point out Sinnamon Park on a map.

The aged-care development proposal for the site is proposed to take just 1.45 hectares of the 19-hectare site. I found that out in a press release—very secretive! It was in an article published by the minister. Apparently, the LNP are very concerned about this six-storey proposal, but they have never said a word about the myriad other high-rise developments throughout Oxley approved by the LNP council.

At the end of my street, Dowding Street in Oxley, there is a council approved development for 170 multiple dwellings at 242 Englefield Road, which was bushland. These are 9.5 metres in height and are three- and four-bedroom small-lot dwellings on a vastly smaller parcel of land. This is a true story, Mr Speaker: I found this development proposal on a walkway through to an unused industrial estate. By contrast, we have kept the community updated every step of the way.

Small-lot housing abounds across Oxley under the LNP council, and that is why I campaigned so passionately for the PDA. I wanted to ensure that the entire site was not overtaken by more of the same townhouses and unit blocks all over this beautiful site. I sent out flyers in addition to those sent by the EDQ to ensure that community members were kept up to date. I have worked with Steve Griffiths and the independent councillor in the Oxley area, Nicole Johnston. I have spoken with them and met with them every single step of the way. I am proud to put on record and match my commitment to this site every step of the way. This motion is a sham, and I stand shoulder to shoulder with my community in condemning it.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.53 pm): I stand to support the shadow minister's disallowance motion this evening. As a member with a South-East Queensland electorate, I have found that the biggest issues in South-East Queensland are congestion and overdevelopment. People have absolutely had enough of it. This side of the House is not anti development but we are anti bad development. The people who live in the suburbs of Brisbane are sick and tired of development taking place that is causing congestion and affecting their lifestyles. Development that takes place in this city should be consistent with the character of the suburbs and it should be sustainable. Appropriate infrastructure should also be implemented and delivered to cope with the extra populations. We are not getting this, and this Oxley PDA is a classic example of this.

Why is this happening? We have a larger problem here because we have a South East Queensland Regional Plan that has been forced upon regional councils and across South-East Queensland, and the poor councils get a bad rap for this. They are the meat in the sandwich where they have to go and implement unrealistic targets—

Mr Powell: Infill targets.

Mr MANDER: Infill targets. I will take that interjection from the shadow minister. The state government runs and hides and says that it is the council's fault. With this Oxley PDA, there is no doubt who is responsible for this. This is the Labor government's responsibility. The people of Oxley and the surrounding areas do not want this development to take place.

The member for Mount Ommaney said that the residents are now happy with the compromise position they have had to come to. It is because they had no choice. They knew that this was a fait accompli so they had to get the best result they could, but that is not what they want. The government's own engagement strategy in 2016 said that people want open green spaces. They do not want infill development, and that is what has been proposed here.

I can talk from personal experience in my electorate. Overdevelopment is a huge issue. I have the Warner Investigation Area in Warner, Eatons Hill and Brendale; I have a development taking place down the road from my office at Everton Park where Mirvac are going to develop an iconic piece of land, colloquially called Murphy's Paddock, into about 130 units; and I have development happening in Albany Creek as well. People have had enough of it. They are not against development either, but they want that development to be sustainable and they want the appropriate infrastructure to come with it. They do not want to be constantly playing catch-up, which is what is happening in this state. We cannot have these unrealistic targets for increased households and at the same time have an underspend of \$9 billion in infrastructure over the term of this Labor government, and that is what is happening.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer in her own words said that we had an infrastructure crisis. The reason we had that infrastructure crisis is that she was the minister responsible for it and Labor have been in government for the majority of the last 20 years. These things do not just happen suddenly. They happen over a period of time because of a lack of investment.

I would counsel the member for Mount Ommaney to do what I have done and to consult with my community and to fight back and say, 'No, this is not acceptable. We won't accept this.' They need to go to the local councils and in this case the state government and say, 'We don't want this development to take place because we don't believe it is consistent with the character of our suburb.' I have to take the point that the shadow minister made about the irony of this. We would not be having this discussion if the Labor government did not sell Oxley secondary college in the year 2000.

Mr Powell: Shut it down.

Mr MANDER: Shut it down—that is what they did. They have done that for about 140 schools over the last 20 years, and they think nobody notices. They think—

Ms Simpson: Fudge it.


Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Maroochydore—fudge it.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, no, you will not take that interjection. She is not in her own seat.

Ms Simpson: They're fudging it.

Mr MANDER: I now take the legitimate interjection from the member for Maroochydore, as she is now in her seat—fudging it.

I cannot emphasise enough how much of a hot topic this issue is for the people of Brisbane. People do not want Brisbane to be clogged up and become another Sydney or Melbourne. One has only to visit either one of them to realise how bad they are. Our streets are already clogged up. I know this is a situation happening not just in my electorate but right across Brisbane. We are determined to make sure that the development that does take place is appropriate and is consistent with the character of the suburbs, that there is proper community consultation and that the community actually does have a real say in this and it is not just an exercise in ticking boxes. Also we will ensure that the appropriate amount is invested in infrastructure so that we do not have clogged roads and so that we do have the bridges, the turning lanes, the intersection upgrades and also a public transport system that can cope with the increased population. I commend the shadow minister for bringing this disallowance motion to the House. I fully support it and I would ask all my colleagues to do the same.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.00 pm): I rise to speak against this disallowance motion. It is a wonderful day when we can stand here in parliament and be lectured by former ministers in the Newman government on how to conduct a consultation process! It will be a poor day when we take advice from ex-Newman government ministers on how to run a nice consultation with the community.

Mr Dick: He wanted to close a school in his own electorate, Everton Park State High School.

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection; he wanted to close the school.

I acknowledge the hard work of the member for Mount Ommaney on the Oxley PDA. It is very clear that she knows this subject. She has the best track record on it. She has asked questions about it in estimates and during question time she has asked questions of the Minister for State Development about it, unlike the LNP. I think we have seen tonight that the LNP are opportunistic and irregular in their protest on this matter. I think they are showing that they have no real understanding of PDAs and what they actually do. They show they have limited knowledge and very little empathy for the real needs of the community. The member for Mount Ommaney does have that empathy, and that knowledge and I advise them to take her lead and listen to her. The member for Glass House has been seemingly running this motion as an attack on the member for Mount Ommaney, and I think that is regrettable to see.

Like the member for Mount Ommaney, I support the interim land use plan for the Oxley priority development area. The Oxley PDA will provide a diverse range of housing to cater for the changing needs of the Oxley community, and that includes affordable, accessible housing, ageing in place and intergenerational living opportunities. I know the area. I lived in Jindalee for a while. I spent a lot of time in Oxley and going through the Oxley station as well. My mother appears regularly at the Oxley senior citizens centre and members of my family live in the area. My niece goes to Corinda State High School as well. I know this area. It needs this kind of redevelopment. This area was developed in one big hit between 40 and 60 years ago. There is not that diversity of housing. The housing stock is pretty similar in each street. We know that the residents need different styles of housing to cater for their needs. They need the housing that allows them to age in place. This site really offers the local community a great opportunity to do exactly that.

This is for those residents who have lived all their life in this community. They do not want to leave. It is a real wrench for them when they get to the age when they feel they have to move. What is wrong with helping older Queenslanders stay in the community that they love? What is proposed with the Oxley PDA is a master planned community with around 75 residential lots and an aged care retirement facility as well. This development is going to support the government's housing strategy, and that is new stock, new choices and a new lease of life for members in the community and families in the community as well.

One of the big winners of the interim land use plan will be the parents and families who use the C&K childcare facility on the existing site. As part of the redevelopment of this site, C&K Yuingi Child Care will move to another location within the precinct, out of the flood zone. That is a great outcome for this particular development. In moving this disallowance motion, the opposition are saying no to that move; they want to keep this childcare centre in the flood zone. We heard great outrage today from the leaders opposite about how they want to protect children, but here is a motion that would prevent the relocation of a childcare centre out of a flood zone in South-East Queensland and they are saying no.

I also note that the buildings on the site at Oxley have been abandoned, they are subject to vandalism and they are imposing a great cost on us, the Queensland taxpayers. I refer to an article from January 2018 which talks about a fire on the site and the ensuing concern about asbestos. I will table that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 7 January 2018, titled 'Asbestos risk after abandoned school fire in Oxley in Brisbane's south' [1878].

It is very clear from reading this article that in moving this disallowance motion the opposition is saying yes to vandalism; it is saying yes to those continued risks that this place poses for adjoining residents. I ask: why do the LNP want to keep these buildings in the same place? Why do they want to not do anything with this site except to let the buildings stay there and fester? The local community do not want this site left abandoned. They feel they have been forgotten under what the LNP are proposing. It is very clear that the LNP are not speaking for the community; they are speaking for political benefit, their own assumed political benefit.

It is very clear that the Oxley community wants the revitalisation that this PDA will bring to the community. The PDA will help transform this disused area into a livable, connected and environmentally responsive community. Once again, through this motion, the LNP are saying no to that. We want the

LNP to listen to what will be achieved for the community through this PDA. They clearly have no real knowledge about what is going on locally. Let me point out that the current sports fields will be retained; the identified landslip-prone areas throughout the site will be stabilised and remediated as part of the site's rejuvenation; and the interim land use plan will lead to the preservation of significant bushland vegetation. That is along with community gardens, sporting fields and a community centre. Once again, this disallowance motion says no to all of these things that will help revitalise this community.

The redevelopment will see 60 per cent of this site dedicated to public open space, recreation and environmental protection, roads and community use. That is 60 per cent. Twenty per cent will be used for private open space and only 20 per cent of the site will be covered with buildings. I ask the member for Glass House: does that seem intense to him? I ask the member for Everton: does that seem intense to him, especially when we heard from the member for Mount Ommaney that the Brisbane City Council had approved a site close to this one with 170 small dwellings? That does sound intense. Not only will this site be revitalised; it will be transformed and led by community consultation. I think the member for Mount Ommaney has spoken very well about the community consultation that has already occurred. We can see very clearly from this motion that the LNP do not like, nor do they understand, a true community led consultation. They have shown once again their true colours. They would like to impose their will, once again, and the only opinion that matters here is theirs.

Let's not forget these further facts about the PDA proposal. There will be a maximum of three proponents. Registration of interest to deliver a retirement village was released on 17 September and closed on 8 November, and it is expected that a development partner will be selected by about mid-2019. EDQ will soon commence a drafting of the proposed development scheme for the PDA, and it is targeting public notification in early 2019 with adoption of the final development scheme by 2019. The local community in this process will have the chance to continue to shape the development onsite as the development scheme is prepared. The community consultation will keep going to allow people to have a further say. I pay tribute to the minister for economic development for getting on with this exciting proposal and getting on with the job.

What is the LNP policy on PDAs? Except for tonight, we have not heard them talk about PDAs in the parliament. There was hardly any mention in estimates. There have been virtually no motions in our committee. They have no track record on PDAs. They are a bit confused.

Mr Molhoek interjected.


Mr WHITING: I hear the member for Southport talking about this. I point out that earlier today the member for Southport said that the PDA in Southport revitalised Southport. This is what it can do. Once again, we do not know the true feeling of the LNP regarding PDAs.

The sad truth is that this motion is purely political posturing. Let me explain to the LNP that PDAs are a great planning tool which are often implemented by the state in partnership with councils. Of the 14 priority development areas that have been declared since the act was passed, nine have been at the request of, or in close cooperation with, local governments. Councils love PDAs. When they have huge, complex applications in front of them that touch on different aspects of development, councils come to us and say, 'We need this PDA. We need your help.' We need the great outcomes that are brought to the fore by PDAs in Queensland.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. That is another example of a great outcome delivered by a PDA here in Queensland. The LNP does not understand PDAs. They do not care what the community needs, and they are using this for political gain—

(Time expired)

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion as moved by the Liberal National Party shadow minister for state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning. I have heard the Labor members before me, the member for Bancroft and the member for Mount Ommaney. This is really about proper consultation with local communities and sustainable development. One of the major issues that is raised with me in the electorate of Moggill and more broadly across the western suburbs of Brisbane is overdevelopment and inappropriate development. The fact is that Labor has a failed South East Queensland Regional Plan process and a failed urban planning process. In particular, there is inadequate or inappropriate infrastructure to match what Labor expects in relation to infill and population growth. The member for Everton clearly articulated the

principles that people in the south-east corner of Queensland are looking for. They are looking for sustainable development, development which is consistent with the character of the area and forward planning in relation to the resultant outcomes, particularly in relation to traffic congestion.

This is the last sitting week of this year. In fact, this should have been the second-last sitting week of 2018, but because those opposite have chosen to have an early holiday or an extended break, an early mark, here we are in the final sitting week, nearly 12 months to the day since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected, having to discuss another example of Labor's failure, this time with respect to development and urban development processes. The lazy and arrogant 'do as we say' and 'we know what is best for you' approach of this Labor government continues unabated. Sadly, it is the good people of Oxley this time who are the latest to suffer from this terrible approach to government by Labor. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government could hold a straight face as they run roughshod over the interests and wishes of local Queenslanders by forcibly imposing their preferred outcome and then proudly proclaim that in fact it is the result that the community has asked for. We have seen it time and time again. In fact, sadly we have seen it too many times before.

We have seen it recently with the Carseldine Urban Village development, which was foisted onto the residents of Carseldine and surrounding suburbs with absolutely no meaningful consultation whatsoever. In fact, consultation—if you could call it that—was actually a mere afterthought. There was a shoddy attempt at face-saving by the Deputy Premier, who was all too happy to call in the television crews and announce the development as a fait accompli, but after that the Deputy Premier went to ground, never once agreeing to meet with residents and/or hold any meaningful consultation whatsoever. Instead, the Deputy Premier farmed out the belated and, quite frankly, embarrassing consultation process to others at the time. All the while Labor, aided and abetted by the new member for Aspley in that part of Brisbane, continued the shameful façade of suggesting that this development, in an area that is already overcrowded and suffering from this government's inaction on local road and transport infrastructure, was not only in the community's best interests but in fact what the community was asking for. In other words, 'Do as we say because we know what is best for you.'

History is now repeating itself as the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to use the same playbook and read from the same script when it comes to the Oxley Priority Development Area. As my colleague the LNP shadow minister for state development has rightly argued, the Palaszczuk Labor government's consultation process on this priority development area, such as it was, was an absolute sham. Just as we saw with Carseldine, the outcome was a foregone conclusion. I will give credit where it is due, and in this case it is to a number of community members who raised concerns. I believe that Oxley resident Mr Brian Fuller nailed the government's modus operandi when he told Quest Newspaper's *South-West News* that the Labor government ignored residents despite entering into a two-year consultation process and engaging a community panel. Brian Fuller said—

The panel said they wanted the area to remain undeveloped and not to go for housing.

The Government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an ALP member they come back with a plan that ignores the opinion of the people of Oxley.

The only green space will be the flood-prone and slippage areas.

This is really the same playbook and the same script from the Palaszczuk Labor government. Labor has always had a predetermined development outcome. The Labor government simply engages in sham consultation. The community tells the government that they do not want their space developed. The state Labor government then returns with an elected ALP local member to say, 'Congratulations! You are getting the exact opposite to what you asked for and be thankful for the fact that you were consulted.'

Particularly for the residents of Oxley, and even Carseldine, it is little wonder when the Premier says, 'It is my way or the highway' that residents are forced to accept Labor's preferred outcome, because the alternative, the highway—in this case the Centenary Highway—continues to be neglected and congested due to inertia and failure by the Palaszczuk Labor government. When we will see this government learn that consultation is a two-way process?

I am genuinely concerned, as I am sure all of us on this side of the House are, that the only genuine consultation that has taken place by the Labor government is in front of a mirror or an echo chamber. How else can you describe this shoddy exercise for planning and investing in Queensland's future? Countless reports from respected institutions continue to expose this Labor government's shameful economic ignorance and woeful lack of any infrastructure plan for Queensland.

We know that unemployment here in Queensland is the worst of any mainland state in Australia. Debt is to increase to \$83 billion by 2021-22 and there are five new taxes, but the only plan that any of those opposite have is to wait until they are exposed yet again for failing to get Queensland moving and, once exposed, blame it on local or federal government just as we heard in question time today. It is never the Premier's fault; it is never the state Labor government's fault. It is always someone else's fault when it comes to that.


Is it too much to ask the Labor government to provide a real infrastructure plan—not special projects announced sporadically—for Queensland's future? That would be a terrific Christmas present for residents in my electorate of Moggill. A real plan would give certainty to business. A real plan would work to actually decrease our unemployment rate. A real plan would bust traffic congestion and build the roads and public transport infrastructure we so desperately need across the western suburbs of Brisbane. We need a properly funded plan to deliver the primary and secondary school infrastructure that families of the Moggill electorate and other electorates in the western suburbs of Brisbane so desperately need, as well as resolve ambulance ramping, longer emergency department wait times and growing surgical waitlists.

Christmas will soon be upon us, and in the spirit of giving let me offer those opposite a gift—a head start in their planning for the western suburbs. For my electorate of Moggill, in this place and in the media I have consistently called for a comprehensive, integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane. Just like me, local residents in my electorate and across the western suburbs of Brisbane are sick and tired of the Premier and Labor minister after minister duckshoving responsibility and always passing the buck onto anyone else but themselves.

In relation to this development, what we are talking about is appropriate and adequate consultation with local residents. We are talking about sustainable development, and when this does not occur it is always someone else's fault. It is always someone else that Labor continually blames. As we have seen a number of times, not only today but in the previous sitting weeks, Labor always tries to blame someone else: the federal government, Brisbane City Council, the opposition leader, business, commuters, patients, students—anyone they can think of in relation to their inaction, failure or lack of proper and adequate consultation. All the while they will sign another letter saying, 'It is not my responsibility.' They happily allow local residents across the western suburbs of Brisbane to sit in traffic congestion because of their failed regional planning processes and not investing in the public transport services that are needed not only in my electorate of Moggill but across the western suburbs of Brisbane.

The Oxley Priority Development Area is yet another shameful result of Labor's self-inflicted planning crisis stemming from its own arrogance. With two years to go before the next election, I am afraid it will not be the last debacle for Labor.

I fully support the disallowance motion moved by the shadow minister. I ask all members of this House who support the principles of accountable government, engaging with and consulting local communities, and having sustainable development, sound planning processes and proper consultation to do the same. There is no doubt that if the former Liberal National Party member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, was still the local community representative then proper consultation would have taken place. I believe that the current member for Mount Ommaney is misguided in her approach in that there has not been adequate consultation. Certainly that has been reflected to LNP members. I congratulate the LNP shadow minister for bringing this disallowance motion before the House today. I certainly support it, as do all members on this side of the House.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.20 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion. Tonight we have heard that consultation only counts if it agrees with the ideas of the LNP. Anybody else's ideas are thrown out the window. The member for Mount Ommaney outlined the consultation she undertook. Because it does not line up with the ideas of those opposite it does not count. That is quite shameful.

On 9 August 2018 the Governor in Council authorised the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation 2018. The regulation provides for the declaration of priority development areas over two parcels of land currently owned by the state and surplus to requirements. Economic Development Queensland, EDQ, is the state's specialist land use planning and property development unit within the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. EDQ engages with state and local government, the development industry and the community

to identify, plan, facilitate and deliver property development and infrastructure projects to create prosperous, livable and connected communities. This is a noble objective and it is one that this disallowance motion seeks to undermine.

The Oxley PDA Interim Land Use Plan is a step towards that aim. As the member for Mount Ommaney has indicated, it is a plan that has already been subjected to considerable community consultation and feedback. She has worked hard with her community. The plan provides for a master planned community to be developed that includes 74 residential lots. The development scheme will also provide for the implementation of a six-storey aged-care facility. These high-rise aged-care facilities are very popular in my area as well. It is important for us as parliamentarians and for our community to recognise that our state has not only a growing population but also an ageing population. Therefore, it is important that our planners and developers make provision for a diverse range of accommodation options for older Queenslanders. As EDQ always seeks to do in its master planned communities, the development will support the government's housing strategy.

I find it confusing that the member for Glass House and his colleagues are opposing this PDA. Perhaps it is because those opposite simply do not get what a priority development area is. I know that in my community of Mackay the Leader of the Opposition was embarrassed by her own media release. On 30 May 2018 she issued a media release titled 'Will Labor's Budget match Mackay's PDA hype?' The media release bemoaned that 'the Mackay PDA will need hundreds of millions of dollars of funding to get off the ground' and said 'if there's no money for the Mackay priority development then it's not a priority at all'. What the Leader of the Opposition clearly did not understand was that the PDA was declared by the state at the request of Mackay Regional Council. The council's own website states that the PDA will support its 'visionary project that will unlock the true value of Queensland's Bluewater Edge and transform the city'. The PDA is a great example of how streamlined planning tools available through the declaration of a PDA can be used by councils to facilitate local priorities. Subsequently, I have received considerable feedback from my community about the PDA. My community is fully engaged.

The Mackay region lived through 10 years of chaotic construction boom due to the coal industry. We experienced out-of-control growth. Housing estates popped up all over the place. Investors threw money at projects to construct apartments and commercial buildings. There was such a rush to create accommodation and commercial buildings that there was no real thought for the needs of the community in terms of lifestyle and facilities. Now we as a community have the opportunity to get involved and think about what we want—how we want to live, work, learn and play. We have the opportunity to put our ideas forward to shape the colour and energy of our city and say how we want to use our spaces and facilities.

Everyone I speak to has called the Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area a game changer. It will build on Mackay's natural, cultural and heritage assets. There will be opportunities to redevelop the Pioneer River, the only truly blue river in Queensland, and the Binnington Esplanade waterfronts; establish a precinct for innovation and knowledge-based industries; promote the city centre as a key business hub; build on the city's already great livability; establish a must-see waterfront tourist destination; increase investor confidence and development in the region; and build on the region's sustainability.

Throughout all the phases of the Mackay PDA there has been a focus by the Mackay Regional Council on community consultation, just as has happened in the Mount Ommaney community. They have made it easy for everyone to get involved—whether an investor or just a mum-and-dad local. They have also collected ideas and submissions online and have set up stalls at the local show and festivals, with staff from council taking direct comments from the community.

State government and council are working hand in hand. The mayor, Greg Williamson, just last week reported how pleased he was with the way the state government has been so responsive and collaborative in the preparation of the proposed development scheme. The PDA has the backing of the Mackay chamber of commerce. They are keen to see investment opportunities open up for their members. The Mackay branch of UDIA has been very active in the PDA space. Mark McGrath, Paul Thompson and Michael Jewell met with me to discuss their vision. They are keen for one of their members to be on the council's PDA steering committee. As an organisation they see opportunities in all five of the PDA areas. Their members have already started engaging with EDQ. They also held a special briefing for their members on the PDA on 17 July. Listening to experts and listening to the community is what has happened with this PDA, just as it has in Mount Ommaney.

Developer Vic Vassallo has on many occasions expressed his excitement about the many possibilities the PDA will deliver for tourism and high-end residential development. Vic has said that the PDA is a catalyst for tourism and development in Mackay. He has his own great plans for his participation in the PDA.

GW3, the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday economic body, is right behind the PDA. It can see the immense benefits it will bring in the planning for attracting new business opportunities in our region. The chair of GW3, Garry Scanlan, agrees that it will be the game changer Mackay needs.

Earlier today in his address-in-reply speech the member for Toowoomba North moaned about Toowoomba Regional Council's PDA, approved in 2014, not doing anything for the city. He should not just moan about it; he should get on board. He should get his community and organisations to work with council. Surely he has contacts within his economic organisations. Bleating about it is not being a leader. He should take on the opportunity, roll up his sleeves and help his council and developers get started.

As the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning has pointed out previously to the House, the Leader of the Opposition took the media release off her website after both the mayor of Mackay, Greg Williamson, and I pointed out on the evening news that the PDA is a planning instrument. The Leader of the Opposition then realised she had led with her chin. It is this sort of laziness in terms of policy detail that also led to the member for Glass House issuing a media release during estimates stating that the finalisation of the Mackay Showgrounds refurbishment had been delayed when in fact the minister had been in Mackay just the week before to officially open the \$2.3 million state funded project. The member for Glass House's media release is one of those that mysteriously disappeared off his website.

What this disallowance motion demonstrates to me is that the opposition do not learn from their own mistakes. They continue to lead with their chin. They think the public will forget their mistakes. We in Mackay have not forgotten their mistakes. Public sector workers have not forgotten that they were told they had nothing to fear. As has been outlined by the member for Mount Ommaney, Economic Development Queensland has worked hard to consider the views of the people of the Oxley community.

(Time expired)



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.30 pm): I wholeheartedly support the disallowance motion moved by the member for Glass House in respect of opposing the regulation to the extent that it relates to the Oxley PDA. I oppose it because if we are going to have local government as planning authorities then local government and the local community need to be trusted to make decisions about planning matters. It is about hearing local voices and the expression of that through their local councillors and local government and their local planning schemes.

Priority development areas should be very exceptional because we have a system where local government is supposed to be the decision-maker in these things. As it is, local government planning schemes are already extraordinarily hemmed in by state planning policy, and the matters that they are able to exercise a degree of discretion on are very much hemmed in by those policies as well as legislation. I have had these concerns expressed to me on many occasions by people in the Scenic Rim who have concerns about density requirements under their local planning schemes. In fact, they have a draft planning scheme out for comment at the moment. They are worried about density requirements, but those density requirements are largely because of the SEQ Regional Plan impacts on that local planning scheme, which of course are imposed on local government by state legislation and state instruments.

This disallowance motion relates to the Oxley site which, as other members have noted, is the former Oxley secondary college, which is owned by the state government. It was previously operating as a secondary college and was closed by the Labor Party in years gone by. I might add that it is not the only school that I am aware of that has been closed. There was one closed in my electorate as well, Rosevale State School, in 2009. Earlier I heard the Minister for Education stating that the government only closes schools where there are no students. To the best of my knowledge, there were students still at Rosevale State School when the Bligh government shut it in 2009. That certainly had a massive impact on that community, and people still complain to me and express their concerns to me about the fact that that was closed.

The former Oxley secondary college was first proposed for development by Labor in 2016, but before that there was other development that went on at that site because from recollection it was where the army of employees from the state government who were meant to eradicate fire ants around 2001

or thereabouts were based. There were dozens and perhaps even hundreds of people working out of the old Oxley secondary college supposedly eradicating fire ants. Eighteen years on or so since the first infestation of fire ants we still have them, but that is another matter for another day.

As I said earlier, we need to have local government and local involvement in planning schemes, and that is clearly not what is occurring in this case because the local community rejected the types of plans that have been put forward in this PDA. Just as we have seen in other parts of South-East Queensland where the SEQ Regional Plan and state policies have foisted inappropriate development onto areas like in the Scenic Rim, the infrastructure that needs to go with those developments is not locked in with the planning. We get all the planning and development that goes ahead as a result of it put on people by the state, but infrastructure always lags behind. There is no better example of that than a couple of priority development areas around my electorate: the Yarrabilba PDA and the Flagstone PDA—both put in place by Labor governments, both put in place in what were at the time almost exclusively rural areas detached from existing infrastructure absent any investment in real roads and other infrastructure necessary for the type of development that was being imposed on those communities by the PDA.

When I was elected in 2012 the Yarrabilba PDA was a paddock with trees. There are now over 7,000 people living there, yet there has been little to no investment by this government or the government before that that imposed that PDA on the community—against the wishes of the local people, it should be said—in the infrastructure necessary to take all of the people and to take all of the planned growth in that area. That is an example of why PDAs need to be very exceptional, because history shows us that infrastructure does not keep up with the growth that goes with them.

I want to compare another state intervention in planning matters with the Oxley PDA, and that is the example of the Cedar Woods development in the electorate of Cooper. We know that in the 2015 election campaign the then candidate for Ashgrove, Kate Jones, took a promise to the people to intervene—to call in—the Cedar Woods development because there were density issues.

Mr Bennett: Ferny Grove.

Mr KRAUSE: There were density issues around Ferny Grove as well. There was a promise given to call that in and to look at it because there was meant to be too much density there. On this occasion, when it comes to the Oxley PDA the member for Mount Ommaney is defending a process that is all about increasing density in her area. The member for Mount Ommaney is being sold a pup, and that must make her feel pretty bad because the member for Cooper got her way in terms of being able to reduce density in Cedar Woods—although I think in the end it did not make much difference, but at least she went out to the people promising to try to make a difference—whereas the member for Mount Ommaney stayed silent during the election campaign and has now been forced lock step behind the government's process to ram six-storey developments and inappropriate development that the community does not want—her community does not want—through the priority development area process.


There are other examples of this as well. I know that the member for Mackay just waxed lyrical about how great the PDA process was for Mackay, but that is not the example that many communities have when it comes to PDAs. It takes away their local voices, and there should be a clear involvement and an accession to the process by local government when it comes to declaring PDAs. There is another site in my electorate which is an industrial precinct owned by EDQ, also under the remit of the minister here tonight, which is located at around Willowbank or Ebenezer in the west of my electorate. It is under the auspices of the Ipswich Planning Scheme at the moment, but I have heard that there is going to be another PDA there—that is, the state is going to come over the top and remove the Ipswich City Council as the local planning authority in that respect, although of course the council is run by an administrator at the moment so there are no local voices having input there.

The government wants to take it another step further and pull it back from Ipswich and make the decisions about the development that it owns through EDQ. It wants to make planning decisions about its own property, which is what is happening at Oxley. It owns the block and has taken it off the council and wants to make planning decisions about its own property, presumably to develop it for as many dollars as it can because it keeps spending and spending and spending and it needs to get as many dollars in the door as possible.

As the member for Everton and the member for Glass House have pointed out, our side does not oppose development, but we oppose bad development and we want development that is consistent with the character of suburbs and the character of adjoining areas. If you have an area that is rural land,

do not plonk a development that is going to have 50,000 people in it with no connection to anywhere else unless you are prepared to stump up up-front with the cash to deal with the infrastructure that needs to be put in place to connect those areas to those around them.

It just does not work. It creates areas that are completely removed from the jobs market and any sense of connectedness to the rest of South-East Queensland. We need to keep councils and the local community involved in the process to avoid issues that come with poor planning and poor investment and infrastructure. Locals need a say through the planning process. In our system of government they have that say primarily through their councils. That process needs to be the norm and the application of PDAs should be the exception. This PDA should be rejected. I support the disallowance motion moved by the member for Glass House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.40 pm), in reply: I rise to oppose the motion moved by the LNP. In my time in this House, I have heard some pretty lowbrow arguments from the LNP, but tonight the LNP has set an even lower standard. That is saying something.

I will start with some facts. The LNP is entitled to its own opinion, but it is not entitled to its own facts. Earlier in the debate the shadow minister, the member for Glass House, talked at length about how the community was so deeply concerned about the Oxley PDA. He talked about a community website that had been established so that the community's voice could be heard. He said that the community website would be a place where the community's voice could be heard. That website, where the member for Glass House is encouraging people to go to click an online petition, is called oxleypda.com.au. A quick search of whois.net, which is a search of internet domains, shows that the technical contact name for oxleypda.com.au is Andrew Powell. Furthermore, the registrant is the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. I wonder how many 'Andrew Powells care of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland' there are in the world? Of course, this domain name is another front for the LNP. I table that search of domain names.

Tabled paper: Web page, dated 13 November 2018, WHOis.net, domain name search result [\[1879\]](#).

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, if you wish to interject, please be in your allocated seat. Members, I ask you to ensure that your interjections are kept lower. I have difficulty hearing the minister.

Mr Bennett interjected.

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

Mr DICK: All the LNP members ever do is stand up for themselves. Tonight, we heard a strong, passionate and eloquent contribution from the member for Mount Ommaney, who stands up for her community. This is not some sham or fake website put forward as the voice of the community of Mount Ommaney; it is just the voice of the member for Glass House. I will say a little bit more about the member for Glass House later.

I turn to some facts about the priority development area. On 10 August this year, on my recommendation, the executive council approved the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation. It appears that the Yeronga PDA is okay with the LNP, but not the Oxley one. That shows the political approach the LNP is taking to community development. The amendment regulation declared the Oxley and Yeronga priority development areas and their interim land use plans.

The amendment regulation to declare the Oxley PDA provides the planning framework for the much needed revitalisation of the Oxley secondary college site. This college closed in 2000 and was declared surplus to the requirements of the former department of education and training in 2001. The site was subsequently purchased by the former department of natural resources and mines in 2001 and declared surplus to its requirements in 2014, remaining in government hands. Prior to commencing community engagement in 2016, Economic Development Queensland reconfirmed that the site was not required for schools.

This is a good opportunity to talk about the LNP's policy on schools. Tonight we have heard a lot about schools—about how the LNP was the champion of schools. The LNP's policy on schools is this: keep open those schools that do not have students, that have not had students for years, but close those schools that have students. How do we know that? The prime example is a school in the

electorate of the deputy leader of the LNP, Everton Park State High School. As soon as the member was elected in 2012, he could not wait to close that school. He took his riding instructions from the greatest school closer in history, Campbell Newman, and said to his own electorate about this school, that had students and had been educating students for years, 'We don't need this facility in my community. We'll close it down.' Thanks to the magnificent work of the magnificent seven who were then in opposition, who stood up for schools and stood up for state education, the member for Everton was forced into a humiliating backdown in his own community and had to keep that school open.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DICK: I take that interjection from the member for Yeerongpilly and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The former LNP government closed Nyanda State High School in the electorate that the minister came to represent, which is a Labor electorate. The former LNP government was happy to close state schools in Labor electorates, but it had to make a humiliating backdown in relation to a school in its own electorate.

Since the school has closed, the Oxley secondary school site has had a number of temporary government uses. I thank those public servants who worked hard on the fire ant eradication program, which was based at that college. There has never been a definitive decision about the future of this site. As the member for Bancroft indicated in his contribution, its continued vacancy poses a risk of fire, vandalism and other unlawful activity. In its current form, the site represents a risk to the community. That is the truth. We need to find a way forward on this issue. In January 2018 a fire created an asbestos risk that threatened surrounding residents. The remaining buildings on the site are largely dilapidated and unsuitable for re-use.

We heard from LNP members in their contributions the endless complaint about consultation. I will go through some facts about what happened on this site in consultation with the community. Since 2016, my department's lead agency in property development, EDQ, has been investigating the future use of this site and engaging with the local community to ensure that the site can again become a functional and vibrant place for the Oxley community and secure the best return for the Queensland taxpayer. In 2016, EDQ started consultation with the community—before the PDA was, in fact, declared—because EDQ was genuine in its engagement with the community, as the member for Mount Ommaney has been genuine in her engagement with the community.

This engagement included three newsletters to more than 9,500 homes and business, multiple newspaper and school newsletter advertisements, two surveys, four information sessions, a meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives, and a meeting with community organisations. Since her election the member for Mount Ommaney has been deeply engaged with this project all the way through to shape the future of this important part of her electorate.

Given the high level of local interest, an independent community panel was established to help design and run a community knowledge session. Along with the member for Mount Ommaney, I want to thank that panel for its contribution. I want to thank the chair, Theresa Rich Hoyle, for her leadership of that group—not the member for Mount Ommaney, not me as the minister for economic development, but a community leader leading her community through this development process and talking to her community about how this site should be used. The panel held a public session on 14 July 2016 and then met with EDQ officers on 18 July 2016 to present the findings of its engagement.

The first step was to get an understanding of local issues and what the community would like to see reflected in any plan. Six key themes emerged from the initial engagement with the Oxley community. There was the protection of bushland and open space and the provision of community facilities, including a community centre, community garden and moving the childcare centre out of a flood area. Only the LNP would oppose moving a kindergarten out of an area that is prone to flooding. That is exactly what this motion would do. It would stop this development and stop a C&K kindy moving out of an area that is prone to flooding. Further themes emerging from the initial engagement with the Oxley community were understanding the impact of flooding and landslip; traffic and car parking issues; no high-density resident development—there was some support for lower density housing and special housing for seniors; and the development to be complementary to the suburb's character.

Following this engagement, EDQ undertook some initial investigations, particularly around landslip, and worked up a draft concept plan which was presented at two information sessions on 31 May and 2 June 2018. It was a very detailed process to work through all of the issues about the use of this land. The member for Mount Ommaney—who was a great advocate for this project and I want to thank her again—attended all of those information sessions and worked closely with her community.

Of course, the Oxley PDA Interim Land Use Plan, which establishes a vision for the PDA, responds to that consultation process to ensure the development: firstly, respects the existing urban and natural environment; secondly, protects significant vegetation and preserves wildlife habitat; thirdly, delivers protection from flood and landslip risk; fourthly, delivers sustainable communities with a strong identity and access to facilities that meet the needs of the local community both now and in the future; fifthly, manages traffic impacts by limiting through traffic and improving street connections; and, sixthly, promotes high-quality urban design and open space including best practice tropical design.

This vision for the Oxley PDA has been a community effort. It recognises the need to balance economic development and development for community purposes in accordance with the Economic Development Act. As the chair of the community panel, Theresa Rich Hoyle said—

The community consultation made a dramatic difference in the final outcome. I believe the compromises that have been achieved are nothing short of phenomenal.

In my view this would not have been achieved without the thousands of hours—

Let me repeat that—

the thousands of hours our community pulled together and worked with EDQ.

That is what you get when you take community seriously, which is what Labor governments do and what the LNP has not done by tabling this motion. I again repeat the words of Theresa Rich Hoyle in her Facebook post that the member for Mount Ommaney put on the record tonight. This follows this sham campaign, and let us face it, it is a sham campaign started by the member for Glass House with a website purchased and put up on the internet by the member for Glass House. The chair of the community consultation panel said—

This makes me super cranky. For the shadow minister 2½ years later to chime in and say that the community consultation was a sham and that the development was a foregone conclusion. Whilst the plans thus far are not the 100% per cent idealistic outcome the community sought, the community consultation made a dramatic difference in the final outcome. I believe the compromises that have been achieved are nothing short of phenomenal ...

I want to thank Theresa again for her contribution. So outrageous is this proposal that it is delivered under legislation Jeff Seeney put into this parliament. That is how bad the Economic Development Act is, according to the opposition. They were not complaining about the Townsville Waterfront PDA that the LNP government declared, or the Southport PDA, or the Parklands PDA, or the Toondah Harbour PDA, or the Weinam Creek PDA, or the Maroochy PDA or the Toowoomba Railway PDA. There were no complaints from them about those. For political purposes and the sham community campaign the LNP started they now want to complain.

Can I say a little bit about consultation, picking up some of the comments made by members of the government? Imagine the government being lectured to by the LNP on consultation. What about the reassurance from the leader of the LNP the public consultation that he took forward to the community before the 2012 election, that no public servant had anything to fear from an LNP government? Do members remember that consultation? There were 14,000 people sacked; 14,000 workers lost their jobs.

Did Jeff Seeney consult with the Sunshine Coast Council when he used his ministerial powers to re-zone a privately owned caravan park to benefit an LNP mate? Was there consultation there? None. Did the LNP minister for health consult with the patients and families of the Barrett Adolescent Centre when it was closed without a replacement against expert advice? There was no consultation there. What about the gag clauses those opposite put in for community organisations that were funded by government? There was no consultation when they did that. Every step of the way they disrespected the community and their views because that is what the LNP does.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Apologies for interrupting, Minister. Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is not taking your interjections, and I note that a number of members have failed to heed my advice earlier today with regard to personalising interjections with the word 'you'. Those interjections will cease.

Mr DICK: As we have heard from the member for Mount Ommaney, the motion moved by the LNP has galvanised her community through the consultation group and others against this foolishness that the LNP wants to put forth in the House tonight. Instead we are delivering an authentic and constructive approach of consultation and delivery for a better outcome for this part of Mount Ommaney.

I am not sure, but this might be the biggest own goal by the shadow minister since the Leader of the Opposition came into this House and moved a motion written by the member for Maiwar. Remember when she did that last session? She came in here and sought leave to move a motion written by the Greens member for Maiwar. That is her type of leadership. It should come as no surprise. Do members remember when the shadow minister stood in Toowoomba and argued that the government was pork-barrelling to lure Qantas to locate its first pilot training facility to Mackay? What happened? The Premier and I stood up with the CEO of Qantas and announced it would be in Toowoomba. We are still working with the member for Mackay to deliver another one for Mackay.

The shadow minister and member for Glass House put out a media release bemoaning delays in the delivery of the Mackay showgrounds redevelopment. He said it was terrible. I visited Mackay the previous week and opened the showgrounds! This is the sort of high-quality political and policy analysis we get from the member for Glass House, who should stick to writing and securing domain names to put forward sham consultation processes. When the member for Glass House was the environment minister he axed the waste levy and made Queensland the rubbish dumping ground of Australia. We need to see more of the member for Glass House in marginal Labor electorates. Our vote is going up because of what he is doing.

In conclusion, I thank the officers of Economic Development Queensland who do fantastic work each and every day shaping better community outcomes across Queensland. They work so hard. Their work has been recognised through some of the most significant awards that developers can receive. I thank them because they engage with the community and work extremely hard for the community. I also again thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her commitment and passion for her community. Many of us had to be put through the experience of the previous member for Mount Ommaney. It was no surprise that after consistent campaigning in two elections the member for Mount Ommaney was elected to this House. She is someone who comes from her community, who is connected to her community and stands up for her community. Long may that be the case.

The community of Mount Ommaney will see through this sham website, this sham argument and this sham case the LNP has put forward in this matter. This motion is nothing more than political grandstanding by an LNP still sore about losing Mount Ommaney to the new member for Mount Ommaney, a person whom we want to see in this House for many years to come. I say to the member for Glass House that you have seriously underestimated the capacity and the ability of the member for Mount Ommaney.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Minister.

Mr DICK: Her constituents will know exactly what she has done to deliver a community-shaping outcome for her community through this PDA. The motion should be opposed.

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

AYES, 39:

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, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 50:

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.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: C. O'Rourke, Sorensen.

Resolved in the negative.

ADJOURNMENT

Northern Gold Coast, Traffic Congestion



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (7.04 pm): Just one of the huge issues for people living on the northern Gold Coast is something that affects their everyday life, that is, traffic congestion. I cannot describe it better than a constituent of mine who wrote to me today. She is someone who lives it every single day. Valerie writes—

Hello Michael,

I live in Genesis Estate Coomera. Today trying to get out on to the M1 totally brought me to tears, so much so I did not keep my appointment. I just turned around and went home.

I left home at 7.50 am.

It took me 40 minutes to get from Amity Rd down Foxwell Rd to the lights and then down to Dreamworld roundabout before I could get on to the M1 that wasn't moving, so I just turned left and went home.

The government has spent so much of our taxpayer's money on new road infrastructure that is totally failing the people of Coomera.

In fact, I think it is worse than before you started, because at least before you could merge with the traffic instead of being controlled by lights not moving.

I have big issues to discuss with you about all of the development in the area.

Valerie refers to the congestion just to get to the M1, but what Valerie is really describing is the need for a second M1. A second M1 would allow Valerie to get to her appointment in the south without going anywhere near the M1. She would not need to go down Foxwell Road and past the Coomera town centre. That solution is in the hands of this do-nothing Labor government, but sadly there is not one dollar in the budget or the forward estimates for a second M1.

What about another solution for Valerie? If there were any car parks available after 7 am at Coomera train station, she could park-and-ride. Sadly, that option is not open to Valerie either. The last time I did a drive through, I counted 33 cars parked in other than formal car parks. I know what: she could catch a bus from Genesis Estate to the Coomera train station. The buses run every hour some of the time and two hourly from time to time. Really, that is not an option either for most people, including Valerie on this occasion. There we have it: Valerie lives adjacent to the fastest growing region in Queensland and the second fastest in Australia, but she cannot get out.

If we win government in 2020, the LNP has a plan to build a second M1 to solve the issue for Valerie by taking pressure off the M1 by giving the northern Gold Coast community a second route over the Coomera River. In the meantime, Valerie has a few other suggestions regarding ongoing development in the northern Gold Coast. I will talk to her about those. Valerie went on to say—

Due to Yawalpah roadworks, we are unable to even get out of Genesis Estate ...

It took me today 17 min to get out of Genesis on to Foxwell Rd (half a km) ...

It does not make any difference which way she goes. If she goes down Shipper Drive, she is stuck; if she goes down Foxwell Road, she is stuck. She is stuck every which way. She says enough is enough. Valerie absolutely nails it when she says—

We need to have a second bridge put in down the back of Coomera to take pressure off the M1 and Smith Street—

(Time expired)

Renting Reform



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (7.07 pm): As members know, the Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation is moving into its final weeks. Right across Queensland, from the Deputy Premier's electorate of South Brisbane to the far north of Queensland, so far over 48,000 Queenslanders have had their say on things ranging from minimum standards and ending without-grounds terminations, right through to property conditions. It shows an overwhelming mood for change.

In the electorate of Springwood which I represent, I have doorknocked families such as Andrew and his wife, Jody. They live in Rochedale South with their two wonderful young daughters, who just love to read. Like the 34 per cent of Queenslanders who rent, Andrew moved his family to Brisbane to

find work and take care of his family. Despite having a full-time job, the cost of purchasing his own house was prohibitive. Therefore, his family live in a comfortable rental property close to schools and the local shops, which are around the corner on Parfrey Road.

Andrew and Jody have had a good renting experience. They took our Open Doors for Renting Reform survey and they said they wanted to know more about their rights as tenants. Andrew even did his first-ever press conference in his own front yard, talking about renting reform. The great experience that Andrew and his family have had is exactly what we want for every Queensland family that rents.

Property owners and tenants have much more in common than those sitting opposite might think. Settled, happy tenants are good for property owners such as Patricia, who lives in Shailer Park and who I met on the weekend when I was out talking with my community. Patricia has seen demand for her homes grow as housing affordability declines across the country. Last year in Australia, more people bought their seventh house than their first, yet still Prime Minister Scott Morrison will do nothing other than scaremonger on housing policy.

Instead, right across the country mum-and-dad investors such as Patricia rent their homes out to people and they care about the welfare of their tenants. Patricia wants to provide her tenants with a safe and comfortable place to call home. Some property owners such as Patricia have been reticent to allow pets in their properties, but the security that things such as a pet bond provides might give them the comfort and security they are looking for.

As the Premier always says, Queenslanders want to work together and when we work together we all do better. Whether you own or rent a house, you want to make it feel like a home. A roof over one's head is a fundamental human right. Let us make renting fair for all Queenslanders.

Remembrance Day



Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (7.10 pm): On Sunday I had the honour of attending the Remembrance Day commemorations at the Coolum-Peregrin RSL Sub Branch. Every year the club proudly hosts a moving tribute to the thousands of men and women who have bravely served our country, many of whom never returned from war. Thanks to the efforts of the club's executive and members, as a community we are privileged to pay our respects and honour their memory and legacy.

Apart from Anzac Day, there is no doubt this is one of the most important events on their annual calendar. There is such a strong sense of mateship, pride and honour on display at these events. It is a truly humbling and emotional experience to share the tradition with those who once served our nation. As a community we have a shared responsibility to honour our service men and women—a responsibility we share with the RSL branch members who spend countless hours organising and planning annual commemoration services.

When the Coolum-Peregrin RSL Sub Branch issued an SOS in the lead-up to this year's Remembrance Day service I had cause for alarm. The club, which recently celebrated its 45th year and which forms such a vital part of the social fabric of our wider community, is in danger of shutting its doors for the last time. As a result of dwindling membership, this subbranch, which has hosted some of the largest Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services on the coast, is at risk of becoming yet another page in our history. Secretary Joe Daenens was spot on when he said it would be a real shame for the community if the club folded. Not only does the club provide social interactions and fellowship, it also serves a vital role providing a range of welfare services for returned service men and women. According to Joe they are family.

More importantly, RSL clubs are the rightful home of our annual commemorations. They are the literal barracks that chronicle our nation's right to freedom. As a community we need to do everything we can to help preserve them. In the case of the Coolum-Peregrin RSL Sub Branch, the club is currently without a president and an executive. If these roles cannot be filled the club may be forced to close. I have no doubt there are many clubs across our state facing a similar fate. As the years pass many of our older veterans are no longer able to continue in their volunteer roles supporting the ongoing work of the RSL. By sharing the story of the Coolum-Peregrin RSL Sub Branch tonight I hope we can help inspire our community to reach out and support the wonderful work they continue to do, preserving our nation's rich history and legacy and honouring those past and present who have served our country.

Armistice Day



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.13 pm): Last Sunday people all around Australia and in many countries gathered together at 11 am to remember the day 100 years ago that the Armistice

was signed, effectively ending the First World War. It was a solemn occasion for all, but one of which we were all so proud—proud of every single service man and woman who served in that war, proud of every single one of them who has served in every conflict since, who has been part of a peacekeeping force or who has played their part on our behalf in the Australian Defence Force. Their efforts have given us the world we know today and we are very fortunate.

In my community there were three significant Armistice Day events. Each was a reflection of the wonderful organisation which staged them. Each was in turn supported by others to make it special because that is the way we do things in our community. I acknowledge the Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch, Brian Daley the president and Brian Laing the immediate past president. They were in turn assisted by Bec Lawrence from Bulimba Business, Bulimba Girl Guides, Morningsong Choir and Cannon Hill Anglican College, and by the Bulimba Library and the Bulimba Community Centre which so gladly hosted the memorabilia display that secretary Trevor Wheate set up.

I acknowledge the RSL National Servicemens Sub Branch, Margaret and Brian Besgrove—the secretary and president respectively—and the many active members of their subbranch who always do things better and even more respectfully each year. I know how much they treasure the partnership they have with Churchie and Norman Park State School. It was absolutely beautiful on the day to see those students so engaged and so much a part of the honouring of our soldiers. The service was beautiful.

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful Friends of Balmoral Cemetery who brought so many of us to the hill at the cemetery overlooking our community at 11 am France time to launch their book *After the Fire*, which memorialises the almost 300 veterans who returned to Australia after the war and died here, or in some instances did not return and were honoured in our local resting place. This book was possible because of the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants. I personally want to thank this small but mighty group for the great privilege of working alongside them to hear all of these stories. The book means that those brave veterans are not just numbers: they are real people whose lives we now understand so much better. To have the Morningside Scouts help them launch that book, read aloud the stories and enact those final moments was very special and certainly brought a tear to my eyes and to many others.

Our community remembers and our community honours. I am so proud of them and even prouder of those who have fought on our behalf. Lest we forget.

Oodgeroo Electorate



Dr ROBINSON (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.15 pm): 2018 has been the year of the good, the bad and the ugly. In spite of the Cleveland district being ignored at times, some good things have occurred. 2018 saw many milestones reached. Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School turned 10. Ormiston College and Wellington Point State High School celebrated 30 years. The Little Nippers at Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club turned 50. Redlands United Football Club are now 100 years and Cleveland State School celebrated 150 years. It has been a privilege to be part of these milestones in our community.


In terms of education, Cleveland District State High School's Paul Bancroft Centre will open in the new year. Beyond that, the secondary learning centre will be built. More needs to happen. Wellington Point State High School is in need of an upgrade to their hall. With regard to the Ormiston State School, I again call on the minister to rule out removing the two demountable classrooms and cutting or reducing the STEM program in any way.

In terms of North Stradbroke Island, the good people of Dunwich are fighting back against the economic uncertainty created by this government's decisions by starting their own shop local campaign for Christmas. They are encouraging people to shop local where they can. They are engaging in the Dunwich master plan and hoping that the government will listen and redevelop the harbour. With only two of the 23 projects completed so far—it is at a very slow pace—locals have welcomed the artificial reef as part of my artificial reef plan for Moreton Bay.

Sadly, though, North Stradbroke Island has been an afterthought for this government. For example, not a single container collection point was provided on the island at the opening of this program. Then there is the failure to consult on the future of Point Lookout headland—an important and iconic part of Point Lookout. Tomorrow a petition will be tabled in parliament with over 16,000 petitioners objecting to the way this has been handled. Add to that Labor's rail fail on the Cleveland line, now dubbed the misery line. As the local member I was certainly relieved that the Remembrance Day troop train actually made it.

In terms of health and the Redland Hospital, it has been great to be involved with the hospital and to deliver on many fronts, but sadly there has been no hospital upgrade, no intensive care unit, no ED expansion, ED waiting times are atrocious and blowing out, \$40 million has been cut by the government and the minister was caught out trying to cut palliative care beds from the hospital. Last week the minister claimed that he is providing an eight-bed intensive care unit. Time will tell if it is real or just rebadging existing beds. I will continue to fight in 2019 to hold this government accountable for everything and to get our fair share for the Redlands.

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.18 pm): Last Friday night I had the privilege of attending another wonderful school graduation. It was for the Redland District Special School. I have spoken a few times in the House about the wonderful work they do. It was on show on Friday night in spades. It was not only the incredible work of the students, teachers and support staff but also the partnership forged within our community.

I have spoken about Larry 'the legend' Cooper at the Redlands Research Station and the amazing renewables and agricultural research work being done at the centre. What I was surprised to learn on Friday night and honoured to acknowledge was Larry's team of the 'Daves'—Dave Flatley and Dave Olsen—who have partnered with the school to deliver work experience to students. They were nationally awarded for 'embracing diversity and inclusion' in this program. Partnerships in our community are so important and it really was wonderful to hear about all of the wonderful Redlands businesses supporting Principal Thompson and the Redland District Special School.

At Carmel College this week it was fantastic to finally resolve a long outstanding school drop-off zone issue with Principal Adair, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Redland City Council and the Queensland Police. We are looking forward to 2019 when there will be a much safer school crossing for students. I thank the department and Minister Bailey for his support on this matter. The school community is delighted. Principal Adair was over the moon to finally resolve this.


Remembrance Day in the Redlands was indeed very special, marking the centenary of the signing of the Armistice. To commemorate the occasion, our Redlands RSL and Queensland Rail worked together to deliver the 'troop train' for the occasion. Service men and women from Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane, along with our veterans, were carried on this special 'troop train' from Brisbane to the Redlands coast. On arrival, the troops were joined by the Redland City brass band and mounted Australian Light Horse members who marched to our Remembrance Day service at Anzac Memorial Park. It was a moving service that reflected on the efforts and sacrifice of so many Australian service men and women.

I attended a number of school ceremonies that were also lovely and ensure that we instil in our next generation those sacrifices made. I was disappointed to not be able to get to all of the ceremonies held at Salford Waters retirement village, Redland Bay, Macleay Island, Russell Island, Lamb Island and Coochiemudlo Island. I have heard what beautiful services they were. Next year I hope to attend a different one.

I hosted again *Bondi Rescue's*—the world's best life saver—Trent Maxwell, better known as 'Maxi'. Across our schools he has been teaching workshops on water safety at the beach, learning how to identify rips and emergency preparedness. Bunnings have had a rush on smoke detectors in our area because the kids are going home and checking with their parents about smoke detectors.

Yesterday it was disappointing to hear about Foodbank. They have been servicing our Redlands' organisations and feeding families. I was relieved to hear of the big backflip by Scott Morrison and the federal LNP government today. Also, I give a shout-out to the Police Commissioner who was in the Redlands to launch the Foodbank appeal. We are going to get seven tonnes of food for Foodbank and we look forward to seeing them here at Parliament House tomorrow night.

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.21 pm): I rise to speak briefly about the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing—a great project funded by the state and federal LNP governments. The minister only had one job to do and that was to sign a contract. That has not been delivered on very well thus far. Before we get into a debate across the chamber, I want to make a comment about something very serious. There is a twin bridge that goes from Highfields to Toowoomba, and the range crossing will pass underneath this bridge. We as a community have a great opportunity to name this

bridge the 'Brett Forte Bridge'. Highfields was where he lived. Toowoomba was where he worked. The road coming up from the Lockyer, the range crossing, is where he lost his life. I ask the minister to consider very seriously naming the twin bridge the 'Brett Forte Bridge'.

Let's get on to other matters that I am sure the minister will want to interject on. First and foremost I would like to talk about something that is worrying me greatly. I have been made aware of a biosecurity threat to the paddocks across Queensland, particularly in the north, from grader grass, which I am told has been sprayed along the range as a stabilising vegetation. This is a potential weed—*Themeda quadrivalvis*. This is not good for paddocks across Queensland, particularly in the northern areas. I ask the minister to look very seriously into the comments that have been made surrounding this weed being used and, if it is there, to kill it before it gets into our watercourses, before it gets carried across Queensland, before it ends up wrecking paddocks all over Queensland. That is a very serious biosecurity threat.

There were a bunch of coins discovered at this site—one of the largest discoveries of coins in Queensland. It was obviously someone's buried wealth. We, the people of Toowoomba, have a wonderful museum—the Cobb and Co Museum—and we would like to see those coins displayed there.

I have constantly banged on about the toll because businesses in my electorate are furious that they cannot plan for the future. They do not know what the completion date is and they do not know what the toll will be. They are pitching for contracts, often with very big organisations not knowing whether they will be allowed to drive through town, how much the toll is going to be and how it is going to work for them. These are contracts that they need to tie down. I implore the minister to let people know when the second range crossing will open and what the toll will be.

We also know that there is going to be a partial opening on 2 December, I am told, so that an insurance claim can be made over the slip. I am not sure of all of the circumstances around this, but let's get on and get it fixed. This range crossing is a piece of logistics that will lower the cost of exports in our nation, not just Queensland. I implore the minister to get it underway as soon as possible and not wait for an insurance claim.

(Time expired)

McHappy Day; World Prematurity Day



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (7.25 pm): This weekend there are two event days that I would like to acknowledge here in the House. They are celebrated Australia wide and specifically in my own family. The first is McHappy Day this Saturday, 17 November. I know many members in this House will be spending some time on Saturday at their local Maccas flipping burgers, helping out on the drive-through and serving at the McCafe. The amount of \$2 from every Big Mac sold will go to Ronald McDonald House Charities. If a Big Mac is not your thing, you can always purchase some McHappy Day socks.

Last year more than \$42 million was raised on McHappy Day Australia wide. The services provided by Ronald McDonald houses are vital to states as large and geographically dispersed as Queensland. I spent a lot of time raising money for Ronald McDonald houses well before I had kids, little suspecting that I would one day come to call a Ronald McDonald house home, even if just for a short time. On Christmas 2013 I found myself a long way from home relying on the hospitality of the Ronald McDonald House team at Alder Hey, the site of Europe's largest children's hospital. They did not care where I was from, what I did for a living or why I came to be in such a precarious position—just that I needed to be nearer to my boy when he underwent surgery.


This Saturday, 17 November, also happens to coincide with World Prematurity Day. This day is globally acknowledged to increase awareness of pre-term births as well as deaths. More than 25,000 babies are born pre-term—that is before 37 weeks—in Australia. That is almost one in 10. On World Prematurity Day, families and organisations are invited to hashtag 'light it purple' or to simply light a candle in recognition of the struggles that these little lives face and at times lose.

Having a baby born too early is a significant trauma for families. The first step to combatting this high rate of prematurity is to increase information available to parents but also to improve treatment and care to provide better outcomes following pre-term births. I cannot call into question the amazing work that our medical staff do in our Queensland hospitals providing first-class health services, but I would encourage the health minister to look at the research now available that identifies interventions that can be applied to combat the massive overrepresentation of NICU families in depression and PTSD rates.

World Prematurity Day is part of the larger Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness Month. It also includes a 'Thank U NICU Day'. I would encourage all members to make contact with their nearest NICU, neonatal intensive care unit, to see how they can help celebrate this month and pay tribute to the staff. The time spent in an NICU is not only traumatic for families but also isolating, not just physically but also emotionally. Reaching out to these families who will likely feel alone and lost and also acknowledging the tireless work of NICU doctors, nurses and midwives is an important part of the month.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the families currently going through this tough time and salute the NICU staff who will guide them through the roller-coaster ride. I recommend that all members do the same.

E10 Fuel

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (7.28 pm): I am calling on the government to phase out low-quality regular unleaded petrol in favour of E10. With a less than ideal statewide take-up of ethanol blended fuels, including E10, which features a blend of 10 per cent ethanol and 90 per cent petrol, I believe that the government needs to act now. Biofuels like E10 reduce emissions by more than 30 per cent, on figures available to us.

It is now time for the Labor government to come out and fully support the ethanol industry and take this emerging industry to the next level. On the one hand, the government says they want to help build a domestic biofuels market. On the other hand, they believe in the free market and have said that they will not regulate the biofuels market to ensure maximum take-up. In order to build solidarity in any emerging market, the part that government needs to play is through either funding or regulation.


As consumers, we can all do our bit and start making the cleaner, greener choice at the bowser. Using E10 helps the environment and increases demand for biofuels. Thanks to the support of the government, the four per cent ethanol mandate took effect on 1 July this year.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: I will take that interjection. Now the KAP is calling for a 10 per cent mandate by 2025. With sugar cane the predominant crop in Hinchinbrook, I know how beneficial a 10 per cent ethanol mandate would be to farmers looking to invest in ethanol production in the electorate of Hinchinbrook. This all hinges on the greater uptake of ethanol blended fuels.

Low-grade regular unleaded petrol, known as 91 RON, should be replaced with E10 94 RON as our base fuel in Queensland. High-performance E85 fuel is already available at some service stations and is currently the fuel of choice used by many motoring enthusiasts. Most people shy away from E10 fuels because of the clever marketing techniques used by big oil companies. E10, if blended correctly, could be a 95 RON blended fuel, which would be on par with their premium unleaded fuels. Instead, oil companies are currently holding E10 back at a 94 RON blend and pricing the fuel cheaper to give consumers the illusion of an inferior product. The RACQ has come out with claims that ethanol blends can be harmful to motor vehicles. These are unfounded concerns. If your vehicle is E10 compatible, there is no problem. Most modern vehicles today are equipped to handle E10 fuels. Queenslanders can use the government's E10 website, E10 OK, to check if their car is compatible by simply putting in their registration number.

Cricket Competition, Guns and Hoses

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.31 pm): It is great to have the Minister for Police and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services sitting beside me because on Saturday, 20 October, the fifth annual Guns and Hoses Twenty20 cricket competition was held once again at our beautiful Riverway precinct in Thuringowa—which, as members know, is just off Riverway Drive. This event has become quite popular with the broader Townsville community as it brings together teams from our local emergency services of police, fire and ambulance. The aim of this event is to raise funds for the Townsville Hospital dementia ward via the Townsville Hospital Foundation.

This year two additional teams were welcomed. Fittingly, one was from the Townsville Hospital itself and the other one was from the Australian Defence Force Townsville 3rd Brigade. This is quite special, as historically Townsville's emergency services work closely with the ADF in times of need, such as responding to natural disasters in North Queensland.

My observation is that this event truly encapsulates bringing our local civilian emergency services, health and ADF together for a good cause. I can report that 2,500 people attended this free community event. On display was a range of emergency service vehicles and equipment. Stallholders

shared community information and there were free rides and face painting for the kids. I thank all the sponsors and supporters for helping to make this happen. A total of \$4,000 was raised and presented to the representatives of the Townsville Hospital dementia ward.

Good camaraderie was shown between each of the competing teams, with the Queensland Police Service once again winning against the QAS male team and the QFES male team in the main game. The ADF were the victors over the Health team. Coming from an ambulance background myself, I am happy to report that the QAS women's team defeated the QPS women's team.

Of particular note, I wish to highlight and commend the efforts put in by the following organisers from the Guns and Hoses committee: representing the police were officer Les Groves—and his wife Rachel Groves, who is a nurse—and officer Troy Tucker; representing Fire and Emergency Services were Mr Scott Dewar and Ms Melanie Banks; and representing the Queensland Ambulance Service—and I know one of these people quite well—and the Kirwan Station Local Ambulance Committee were Mr Stephen Wilen, Ms Amanda Harper, Ms Jenny Floyd Jones, Ms Rachel Floyd Jones, Mrs Karen Walz and Ms Chantal Seymour.

The QAS had over 150 people attend their CPR simulation as part of their display. Due to the contribution of all of these hardworking volunteers and other staff, their efforts helped to bring about the success of this free community event. I commend and thank them all for their outstanding dedication to the community. I share this with the House as it was an incredibly long day, starting at 9 am until the pack-down at 9 pm. I have been a sleeve sponsor of this event for a number of years, and I will continue to back this great event. All of this came together through a collaboration of work for a very deserving local charity in our own Townsville community. I say well done to all of our emergency services for holding Guns and Hoses.

The House adjourned at 7.34 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, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson