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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 14 February 2019

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THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2019


 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.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by the Premier


 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (9.31 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. Yesterday in response to my question without notice the Premier told the House that a list of 11 sites being considered for a second casino on the Gold Coast 'was not done by the state. I am advised that it was done by the council'. I table minutes of a council meeting that was held on 27 November 2018 which shows that the site list provided to the council was in fact prepared by the Palaszczuk government's appointed consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled, '765th Council Meeting 27 November 2018: Economy, Planning & Environment Committee Meeting 21 November 2018' [[171](#)].

Mr Speaker, I believe the Premier may have deliberately misled the House in her answer and I will be writing to you to consider this matter for referral to the Ethics Committee.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from Varsity College in the electorate of Mermaid Beach and Earnshaw State College in the electorate of Nudgee.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Hervey Bay (Mr Sorensen)—


[172](#) Nonconforming petition regarding speeding along Pialba Burrum Heads Road

Member for Lockyer (Mr McDonald)—

[173](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the member for Lockyer (Mr McDonald) to South Africa, 19-24 November 2018—Report to the Queensland Parliament regarding the Queensland Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Successful completion of fundamentals of Parliamentary Practice and Procedure program.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Natural Disasters

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:


1. acknowledges with great sadness the devastation caused in Queensland by recent natural disasters;

2. extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives as a cause of the recent natural disasters;
3. grieves for those who have suffered injury and who have lost their homes, property, livestock and personal possessions;
4. places on record its gratitude for the support and hard work of all emergency service personal, front-line responders, members of the Australian Defence Force, local, state and federal agencies and staff, private sector, community and voluntary service providers who all came together to not only support Queenslanders during the natural disaster events, but are continuing to support them through the recovery phase; and
5. pledges to work with all Queenslanders, communities and governments at all levels to ensure that Queensland recovers from these natural disasters and rebuilds better than ever.

Mr Speaker, we intend to move this motion at the next sitting.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


Floods, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): As of this morning, more than \$8 million has been paid in emergency hardship assistance for the floods. This has gone to more than 46,000 people. The minister for agriculture, Mark Furner, is on his way to Richmond with Major General Stuart Smith, who is leading the recovery.

The ADF has used surveillance aircraft to map routes through the disaster zone and the news is encouraging. Most roads are opened, easing fodder delivery by road, but the paddocks are still thick with mud and will remain that way for a while yet. Thirty-one councils have been activated for assistance under the disaster recovery funding arrangements, and we continue to work with the federal government on further assistance measures.

Those in the southern edges of the disaster around Winton should know that they are not forgotten. We know how widespread these losses are. Our flood appeal to date has raised more than \$4.4 million. The charity Givit has connected more than 9,000 donated items to community members. I can announce our parliamentary contribution to the appeal will be held on 28 March, and I know all members will take the opportunity to help this worthy cause.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Every day we are here for those impacted by the floods. We are here for Queenslanders through fires and cyclones and every other natural disaster thrown at us. My government is working for the people of Queensland every day because for this government Queensland comes first.

Today, Valentine's Day, marks a significant anniversary. On this day in 2015 this government was elected. The voters of Queensland rejected the style of the former LNP government. Today I rededicate myself to our No. 1 priority, and that is helping people find work. There is dignity in work. That is at the core of Labor values. In four years we have created 186,400 jobs in new industries and old. I am so proud that more than 186,000 families have the security of being able to have a roof over their heads and food on their table—but we know there is so much more to be done.

That is why we are spending \$46 billion building vital infrastructure like roads, schools and hospitals, not to mention the congestion-busting Cross River Rail. These projects provide the services our people need but they also provide 38,000 jobs. We back small business with our Made in Queensland grants helping them expand. Why? Because it means jobs. Our Advance Queensland program is attracting new industries and new employers, including the new Qantas pilot training academy in Toowoomba. We restored and boosted our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and are providing free TAFE courses for school leavers. Something as simple as helping to build wild dog fences in outback Queensland has brought back the wool industry. We are backing the jobs of the future in biomedical, biofuels and hydrogen—to name just a few. Our screen industry is all about jobs. All of these things put the people of Queensland first.

There is so much more. We protect the Great Barrier Reef not only because it is one of our biggest natural treasures but also because it supports our fantastic tourism industry. We protect our kids with the nation-leading attack on cyberbullying. We have given women the right to control the health care of their own bodies. We continue the fight to keep our electricity network in Queensland hands giving us cheaper bills. Our job is not finished. The people of Queensland will always come first.


Governing from the Regions, Sunshine Coast

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Last week my government was scheduled to hold our latest Governing from the Regions program on the Sunshine Coast. Unfortunately, the flooding disaster in north and north-west Queensland meant we had to postpone. I needed my cabinet focused on assisting those affected communities.


Queenslanders have always been great at coming together in these times of need and, while our focus was and is still on the north and north-west of the state, I want to thank the Sunshine Coast community for their understanding. We will be rescheduling a visit to the Sunshine Coast from 11 March.

There are so many great things happening on the Sunshine Coast, and I cannot wait to be able to spend some time on the ground with locals listening to them. I also want to announce that we will be holding our next Women on Boards event in that week which is also very exciting. We want to encourage as many women as possible to step into the boardroom at all levels of public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

Gold Coast, Casino Proposal

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): In today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* the member for Bonney has alleged that I misled the House in my answer to a question without notice yesterday. I have sought further advice to ensure that my answer was correct. I am advised that my answer to the House yesterday was correct. I am advised that the City of Gold Coast council received a briefing by council officers regarding potential sites on 21 November 2018. My advice is that this briefing was based on work undertaken in 2016 to identify other potential sites that could meet the criteria for a global tourism hub after my government's decision to rule out The Spit. I apologise to the House if there is any confusion.

Tourism Industry; Gold Coast, Casino Proposal

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.39 am): Tourism has gone from strength to strength under the Palaszczuk government. When we came into government, international visitors were spending around \$4.5 billion a year in Queensland, and last year 2.8 million international tourists spent \$5.9 billion in Queensland. That is more than 25 per cent growth since 2015. The latest data shows that for the first time since 2008 tourism in Queensland is growing at a faster rate than New South Wales and Victoria. That is because we restored the \$188 million slashed from the tourism budget by the former government and invested record funding for this sector including an extra \$180 million in this term of government.

We are the first government in Australia's history to invest in new attractions throughout the state because we are committed to diversifying Queensland's tourism product. That is why we developed our Australian-first \$36 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund. That is why it is so great to hear the news today that a series of well-preserved dinosaur tracks have been discovered on a property near Winton. I am proud to congratulate David Elliott and his team at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum on its new find. The people of Winton are doing it tough at the moment, but we know that this find will provide a welcome boost to the outback tourism industry and help the recovery efforts in months and years to come.

These tracks, which are 95 million years old, are preserved in a rock shelf at the bottom of a small creek. Experts say the entire trackway weighs about 500 tonnes, and they are currently transporting the find to the museum one trailer load at a time. This is one of the most remarkable dinosaur track discoveries this country has ever seen. From a tourism perspective it is also extremely significant. We will continue to work with experts to make sure that we make the most of this remarkable discovery.

Further to the comments made by the Premier this morning, I can advise the House that I have spoken to the Gold Coast city council mayor and the department today about the advice that I provided to the Premier yesterday in question time. I can confirm that the advice I gave to the Premier yesterday was in relation to the council briefing held on 21 November 2018. This briefing was conducted by council officers, and I can confirm it was based on work commissioned by the department in 2016. I apologise for any confusion from the advice that I gave to the—


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. My tolerance for petty interjections is growing very, very thin. I will not tolerate personal attacks across the chamber.

Population Growth

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.42 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queensland and Queenslanders each and every day. We are doing the heavy lifting by funding infrastructure and delivering high-quality services to our growing population. In the four years since we took office, we have created more than 186,000 jobs in this state, which is seven times what those opposite managed to do when they were in government. We are building the hospitals, the schools, roads and railways that our growing population needs. Queensland's population surpassed five million in 2018 and could likely reach 11.5 million by the year 2066. That population growth means we need to continue to plan for the infrastructure that our communities need into the future.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I know that those opposite do not like long-term planning. That is why last week I attended meetings of the—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members!

Ms TRAD: That is why last week I attended meetings of the Council of Federal Financial Relations, better known as CFFR, and the Board of Treasurers alongside my state, territory and federal counterparts where our central focus was on discussing population policy. The Board of Treasurers was once again a fruitful exchange between state and territory treasurers. Among other matters, treasurers agreed to monitor the new GST distribution system and hold the Morrison government to account for its promises that no state would be made worse off and that other Commonwealth payments would not be the withdrawn from states as a result of the new framework. State and territory treasurers attended those meetings in a professional, collegiate and collaborative spirit. Unfortunately, the same could not be said of our meeting with the federal government. State treasurers did not receive a fixed agenda or any idea of the Commonwealth's objectives for the CFFR meeting until 24 hours before it began.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I know those opposite are whingeing, but if we are going to have fruitful deliberations and a collegiate approach to some of the most significant issues confronting this nation then at least there should be preparation and foresight put into meeting papers and the items on the agenda for discussion.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, the House will come to order.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield!

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the Premier: it is the same experience at COAG and many other ministerial councils, I assume.

Complex, contentious issues like population policy require thoughtful deliberation, not the reckless and careless approach that we witnessed last week. The CFFR meeting began with a discussion of the natural disasters unfolding across Australia—from the bushfires in Tasmania to the devastating flooding in north and western Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to working with the Commonwealth government and all local councils in the weeks and months ahead as Queenslanders rebuild their lives, but we are not wasting any time in rolling out our response immediately.

The other focus of the CFFR meeting was population planning and management. Unlike the chaotic Morrison government, which could not even prepare the paperwork in time for a meeting it was supposed to be hosting, the Palaszczuk government has already done its homework. We have

developed the new SEQ Regional Plan and we have been working collaboratively to deliver a city deal for South-East Queensland to make sure we are managing urbanisation, combatting congestion and keeping pace with changing needs


Our state accounts for more than 20 per cent of Australia's population, but we stand to receive less than six per cent of the Morrison government's infrastructure spending over the next 10 years, and that is a shame. We need a federal government committed to fast-tracking critical projects in Queensland like the M1 and the Bruce Highway upgrades, the Sunshine Coast rail duplication as well as providing any money for Cross River Rail. It is time that Queensland had a federal government that understands our issues and our ambitions for the future—a federal government focused on Queenslanders and Australians, not their own internal divisions—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I would like to hear the ministerial statement.

Ms TRAD: We deserve a federal government focused on Queenslanders and Australians, not their own internal divisions and their desperate antics to hold on to political power. It is time for a Shorten Labor federal government.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): In 2015 the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected to build the Queensland economy of the future and create more jobs. That is exactly what we are doing. In the portfolio of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, we are delivering on our plans to transform our economy through our industry road maps in six key areas: advanced manufacturing, aerospace, biofutures, biomedical, defence and METS—mining equipment technology and services. These road maps are delivering for Queensland, particularly regional Queenslanders.

Last month I was proud to join the member for Maryborough in his electorate at the sixth generation family owned business Hyne Timber to turn the first sod on a purpose-built factory that will allow Hyne to expand its glue-laminated timber business into large-scale production. Our government supported Hyne Timber through our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund and they are on track to become one of the largest glue-laminated timber manufacturers in the Southern Hemisphere. Most importantly of all, this new plant will create jobs. Eighty jobs will be created during construction with 42 more jobs for Maryborough and the Wide Bay once the plant is operational.

Our biofutures road map is also delivering more jobs to Gladstone, with a new pilot biorefinery as reported in this morning's Gladstone *Observer* and on ABC Radio. Thirty jobs will be created during the biorefinery's three-month operational period which will see jet fuel and diesel produced from agricultural and forestry waste. Should it be successful, the pilot plant will be the foundation for a demonstration biorefinery which could attract a combined investment of \$11 million and create an estimated 50 jobs. The company operating this pilot plant, Mercurius, will be looking at other sites in regional Queensland for biorefinery investment including Mackay.

Our aerospace roadmap is also delivering for Queensland—most recently in Bundaberg. Last month, I was pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government will contribute almost \$2 million from the Building our Regions program towards the Bundaberg regional aviation and aerospace precinct which will not only improve airport safety but unlock significant business and job opportunities in Bundaberg. I was delighted to join the Mayor of Bundaberg, Jack Dempsey, for that important announcement.

An opposition member: A good man.

Mr DICK: Well, Jack Dempsey knows that Labor delivers for Bundaberg. That is one thing Jack Dempsey knows. I am also pleased to say—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, members.


Mr DICK: I am thankful for that contribution from the member opposite because Labor delivers for regional Queensland. I am also pleased to report to the House that this will be—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am having difficulty hearing the minister. Can you please keep your interjections to an absolute minimum? In fact, if you could not interject, it would be extremely helpful.

Mr DICK: There is more good news for Queensland. I am very pleased to announce that this investment will help deliver a new Aeromedical Centre of Excellence for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and LifeFlight in Bundaberg. Regional employment will be the winner again from this project, delivering 15 construction jobs. What it really means is that, wherever Queenslanders live, the Palaszczuk government is putting people first and we are delivering jobs for Queensland.

Sexual Violence

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.50 am): The figures around sexual violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault in Australia are shocking. One in five women in Australia has experienced sexual violence. Women with a disability have a 95 per cent chance of being sexually assaulted. One in two women has experienced sexual harassment during her lifetime. One in six women has experienced an episode of stalking since the age of 15. This is not a story about Australia that anyone in this community wants to continue. These are not statistics that anyone thinks we should tolerate. It is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is intent on reinforcing our efforts to address this scourge of an issue in our society.

Members are already familiar with our work on the *Not now, not ever* task force recommendations, our response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the violence against women plan and a range of other initiatives. Yesterday in this House I referred to our new work to combat sexual violence, including the establishment of a sexual violence prevention round table. I am very pleased to announce today the membership of that round table, which will include members from the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, the Immigrant Women's Support Service, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, the Women's Legal Service, Griffith University, the Queensland University of Technology, Micah Projects, Relationships Australia, the disabilities sector and women's health centres.

I will also be announcing today the recipients of the grants program to raise awareness of sexual assault in our community. I am very pleased to inform the House that, of the over 300 applications from right across our community, today I will be contacting organisations about the over \$102,000 worth of grants, which will see us addressing this issue head-on in a public conversation in March and April this year. I am sure that members on this side of the House will be joining me to be part of this conversation and to play our part in being the leaders the community expects us to be on this issue.

While we are speaking of leadership on this issue—or, in this instance, lack of leadership—Mr Speaker, I note that the Leader of the Opposition asked you to look into claims made about the member for Whitsunday on social media, arguing that the member should be investigated for 'workplace misconduct'. Today I am asking the Leader of the Opposition to refer everything she knows about this matter—not just matters raised on social media but everything she knows—and when she knew it to all relevant authorities. I am writing to the Leader of the Opposition on that matter. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to front the media today to answer journalists' questions, as I note she has not spoken on this matter so far this week.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: My silence is not an invitation for further interjections.

Floods, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (9.53 am): Unfortunately, as a North Queensland, I have been through a number of natural disasters. There are some important moments during these hard times that reveal hope and kindness that we often forget exist during the hustle and bustle of our everyday life.


On 6 February 2019, at the same time the Premier was announcing the Queensland government's \$200,000 donation to our non-government organisation partners, I was in Townsville hearing the story of a lady named Sam. She had lost literally everything, after having to evacuate her home without much warning. She was devastated. The loss was overwhelming and she told me about precious items, such as an old family photo that had been handed down over the years that was now

gone forever. At that moment, I reflected that, while we can do nothing about those precious things lost and the attached memories, at least through donations and the kindness of Queenslanders we can help with the everyday items that everyone needs.

A little over a week later, charities have received over \$4.4 million in donations to assist the communities. These NGOs have been doing a fantastic job to provide disaster support to flood affected communities. We know that they are the experts in getting the right type of help to the people who need it the most. Already, the Salvation Army has released \$1 million towards the recovery efforts, and in partnership with Woolworths under the Support Through Australian Natural Disasters program, Woolworths has donated \$250,000 towards disaster relief. People can also donate clothes, goods and cash to Givit, which has an ongoing partnership with the Queensland government to manage and coordinate donations during times like this. What I love about Givit is how practical their model of support is—people get to ask for and receive quality items that fit their needs. Givit has connected more than 9,000 donated items to community members. I encourage everyone to have a look on the Givit website to see what type of item—big or small—they can contribute. There are also plenty of options to purchase vouchers and send them north if you are from the south and cannot drop them off in person.

North and north-west Queenslanders are going to be feeling the effects of this event for years to come. People like Sam will never be able to replace those things like that lost family photo, but with our help she will be able to rebuild her life. I encourage everyone in this House to promote the appeal and mobilise their communities to back those Queenslanders whose lives have been changed forever.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Resources

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.56 am): Since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have made significant achievements. Right now, we still have people on the ground in Townsville and north-west Queensland dealing with floods. At the same time, we are also dealing with a large wildfire on the New South Wales border.

I am pleased to advise that by 2020 QFES will have made the largest investment in its fleet in 20 years. Having inherited no plan from the LNP to replace or repair the fleet, this is a significant achievement. During its previous term, the Palaszczuk government delivered 153 new appliances. In this term, 118 appliances have already been delivered, with another 111 appliances to be delivered by the end of 2018-19 at a cost of nearly \$40 million.

QFES and the PSBA have made major investments in QFES stations, facilities and complexes, with a \$75 million injection in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Projects include the Howard Combined Police and Fire Station, the Rockhampton Fire and Rescue Station and Communications Centre, the Childers Fire and Rescue Station, the Bundamba Fire and Rescue Station, the Bundaberg Fire and Rescue Station and the Roma Fire and Rescue Station.


QFES has allocated an extra \$50 million to transform its digital, technology and information environment, including the Phoenix bushfire simulation program and the QFES developed predictive software, SABRE, that helped save countless lives and property in our recent, unprecedented fires. QFES has also developed and delivered several key initiatives since 2015, including 13 recruitment courses with 243 firefighter graduates. A 14th recruitment course started last month, with another 32 recruits, and we have three more courses planned for this year.

We have introduced legislation that provides paid and volunteer firefighters with access to compensation should a firefighter contract one of the 12 specified work related cancers. We have successfully negotiated a modern auxiliary firefighters award, which provides auxiliary firefighters with better conditions and wages. We have introduced new smoke alarm legislation to ensure our households are the safest in the country.

The Palaszczuk government also approved funding of \$3 million over 10 years for a comprehensive consumer protection campaign. We deployed people and equipment to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, including 817 QFES staff and volunteers, fire trucks, helicopters and flood boats. We initiated the Blue Water Review, and we released that review last month. We launched the Volunteerism Strategy to meet the needs of the changing volunteer workforce. This strategy will support the 40,000 volunteers across the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and Technical Rescue as well as scientific and peer support officers who dedicate countless hours to ensure Queensland communities are safe. We provided fuel and maintenance for the Rural Fire Service, and we should not underestimate the importance of that. Fuel and maintenance for our rural fireys means that they do not need to conduct local fundraising anymore to try to put diesel in their trucks to attend fires.

Perhaps most importantly, the Palaszczuk government is on track to fulfil its election commitment to provide 100 more front-line firefighters and 12 extra fire communications officers over four years.


McCulloch, Mr C

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): It is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Queensland ambulance officer Craig McCulloch. Mr McCulloch was responding to an emergency in Mackay on 28 January when the ambulance he was travelling in was involved in an accident. Despite the best efforts of bystanders and responding emergency services, Craig passed away at the scene.

Craig was a well-known officer and was respected by his peers. He first started working with the QAS in 2009 and worked across the state from Townsville to the Gold Coast as well as in the United Kingdom. The loss of one of our dedicated ambulance officers while working on the job is heartbreaking and the entire QAS family is deeply saddened by this tragic event.

I represented the government at Craig's funeral on Friday where his family, friends and colleagues celebrated his life and reflected on the remarkable man and father he was. On behalf of the honourable members of this parliament and all Queenslanders, I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to Craig's family, friends and colleagues. We say to his children today: your dad was a hero.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Health System


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): I do not think it is a coincidence that Valentine's Day falls on the fourth anniversary of the Palaszczuk government being elected, because the Palaszczuk government loves Queensland. We are committed to Queenslanders in sickness and in health. That is why we are delivering a record \$18.3 billion Health budget this year. We do not skimp on gifts on this side of the House. Instead of roses, we are progressing major redevelopments at Logan, Caboolture, Ipswich, Nambour, Redcliffe, Kingaroy, Atherton, and Roma hospitals. Just this week we announced a major expansion to increase the number of beds at the Queensland Children's Hospital for some of Queensland's sickest children. We delivered a long overdue pay rise to our hardworking ambulance officers and paramedics. We have delivered new ambulance stations, more ambos and new cutting-edge ambulances.

We passed historic legislation to give women control over their reproductive health. We have launched the biggest statewide sexual health campaign of its kind in a decade and delivered more funding for the Queensland AIDS Council. We have employed more than 6,070 full-time-equivalent nurses and midwives to take care of sick Queenslanders.

We have fantastic Health staff here in Queensland. Our cardiologists mend broken hearts on Valentine's Day and every other day of the year. Since February 2015 they have performed 156,515 heart procedures and 74 heart transplants. It is love at first sight thanks to our brilliant optometrists and ophthalmologists, who have performed 97,244 eye procedures, although I note that for some of us the poor eyesight of our partners might be a blessing. I want to thank our hardworking physiotherapists, who are there for us when we fall—in love.

A bit over four years ago Queenslanders ended a toxic relationship. They broke up with those opposite; they swiped left on the LNP. They said, 'It's not us; it's you.' In their place they elected a government with heart.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.04 am): Since our election four years ago the Palaszczuk government has prioritised giving Queensland kids a great start. As a result we have seen record investment in new and enhanced school infrastructure; additional teachers, teacher aides and support staff; and a focus on programs that will make our students the global citizens of tomorrow.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has delivered 13 new schools in the fastest growing parts of the state, including North Shore State School in Townsville, Picnic Creek State School in Coomera East, Yarrabilba State School in Logan, Cairns Special School and Bellmere State School in Caboolture. In fact, today there are now some 2,000 more classrooms from Cape York to Coolangatta compared to when the Palaszczuk government was first elected. Since 2015 we have also delivered 33 new school halls and nine performing arts centres at state schools across the state, and it was great to open the one in Nanango recently.


Not only is our massive investment in educational facilities great news for students in school communities; it also created thousands of jobs in the construction industry. In the past four years the Palaszczuk government has employed more than 4,000 additional full-time equivalent teachers, from just over 42,000 at the start of 2015 to more than 46,000 full-time equivalents today. We have also employed more than 1,500 additional full-time equivalent teacher aides. Today there are around 10,900 teacher aides in Queensland schools compared to around 9,300 in January 2015. Not only have additional teachers been employed to cover the continued growth in enrolments; the Palaszczuk government has employed 875 teachers above growth, which has assisted us in meeting our class size targets.

I am particularly proud of the Palaszczuk government's remote kindergarten program. This program, which commenced in 2016, ensures all children have a great start to learning and life regardless of where they live across the state. The program has expanded to 43 schools this year, educating more than 160 young Queenslanders and by the start of next year it will be in around 60 schools.

The Palaszczuk government has also made a considerable investment under the leadership of the Premier in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. We have invested \$81.3 million to support STEM in our state primary schools, which includes building capability and building industry partnerships, purchasing resources and initiatives to encourage students in STEM programs, and haven't we seen some progress in that area? The Palaszczuk government's investment is reaping dividends, with the Grattan Institute last year describing Queensland as the 'star performer' when it comes to improved student progression.

We have also made great strides in closing the gap. The latest year 12 attainment data shows that Queensland is a nation leader in the proportion of Indigenous students receiving a Queensland Certificate of Education. I am proud to report the gap is now only 0.3 per cent, a remarkable outcome. The Palaszczuk government strongly believes in education, and our efforts over the past four years have ensured every Queensland kid, no matter where they live, gets a world-class education.

Container Refund Scheme; Environment

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queensland's natural beauty is protected for future generations. Last year we introduced a ban on single-use plastic bags. Queenslanders are now getting into the habit of taking their own bags to the shops, resulting in fewer plastic bags polluting the environment. Some retailers across Australia are reporting that there has been up to a 90 per cent reduction in the use of plastic bags, which is absolutely incredible.


We also introduced the container refund scheme, Containers for Change, on 1 November last year, and what a success it has been. From across the state Queenslanders have been getting behind the recycling revolution, backing local businesses and local jobs. I have had the privilege of visiting a number of refund points to witness the hard work and enthusiasm of operators, including small businesses and charities. People tell me that having the opportunity to operate a refund point has meant they can provide local employment. I have been advised that more than 600 jobs have been created from the scheme. Proof of the success of the scheme is in the figures. After 100 days more than 220 million containers have been returned. Compare that to New South Wales which, in the same time frame, had only 150 million containers returned. I would like to acknowledge all of the businesses that have had to scale up quickly to respond to the way Queenslanders have embraced this recycling initiative.

I am extremely proud to be part of a government that is making headway in protecting our environment. Unlike those opposite and their federal counterparts, we have accepted the science on climate change and set targets for climate action. We have passed strong vegetation management laws to end broadscale land clearing and we are setting up the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund, which together will ensure that Queensland does its part to reduce carbon emissions and create carbon farming opportunities. We have collaborated on groundbreaking scientific studies which have helped us understand the impacts of climate change.

Recently, a study conducted by the government in collaboration with traditional owners and the University of Adelaide into the ancient climate history of Swallow Lake on Minjerriba—North Stradbroke Island—has helped us to better understand climate change impacts on future El Nino and La Nina weather patterns. We have committed record funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef through improved water quality, and the passage of world-leading mine rehabilitation laws will ensure that

mining companies are cleaning up mine sites and restoring environmental values. All of these initiatives are helping to safeguard our precious environment and protect it so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 26 February 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Information Commissioner, Report


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.11 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table of the House report No. 2 of the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland titled *Information management: Queensland government department maturity*.

Tabled paper: Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 2 of 2018-19—Information Management: Queensland government department maturity [174].

The committee chair is required to table the report under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 11 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 September and 30 October 2018*.

Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 11, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 September and 30 October 2018 [175].

This report covers the portfolio's subordinate legislation tabled on 30 October 2018 with a disallowance date of 28 March 2019. The committee did not identify any significant issues in relation to policy or regarding the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

I also lay upon the table of the House report No. 12 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee titled *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*.

Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 12, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [176].

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill, including considering the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles. The committee recommends that the bill be passed. On behalf of the committee, I thank those who lodged written submissions and provided evidence at the public hearing. I also thank the committee's secretariat and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for their assistance. I commend the report to the House.

I also lay upon the table of the House report No. 13 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee titled *Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018*.


Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 13, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018 [177].

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill, including considering the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles. After examination of the bill, the committee recommends that the bill not be passed. On behalf the committee I thank those who lodged written submissions and provided evidence

at the public hearing. I also thank the committee secretariat of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their preliminary work on the bill and Mr Katter, the member for Traeger, for his briefing to that committee. I commend the report to the House.

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


Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 18 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Health and Other Legislation Bill 2018*.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 18, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[178\]](#).

I thank the committee members for their work on this report. The committee has recommended that the bill be passed. I commend the report to the House.

Issues Paper

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House issue paper No. 3 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.


Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Paper No. 3, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying [\[179\]](#).

This is an issues paper for our inquiry into aged care, end-of-life care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. These are very significant issues for Queensland. We will be considering the delivery of a range of services that our most vulnerable and dearest citizens depend on every day. These are aged-care services provided to many senior citizens, the palliative care provided to people of all ages with terminal illnesses and end-of-life care provided to those in the final stages of dying. These are critical areas where the policies and priorities of government can profoundly affect the quality of life and dignity of vulnerable people every day. The problems affecting aged care are being highlighted by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. We look forward to working cooperatively with commissioners Tracey and Briggs during our Queensland inquiry.

The committee will also consider the views of Queenslanders on supporting and legislating for voluntary assisted dying in this state. This is an issue where there will be very passionate and divergent views held on both sides of the debate, and we look forward to hearing from Queenslanders. It is also an issue of particular importance for our medical practitioners, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Our inquiry clearly has implications for all Queenslanders. I urge all honourable members to join me in encouraging Queenslanders to get involved in this inquiry. I commend the issues paper to the House.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 15 of the Transport and Public Works Committee on the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.


Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 15, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [\[180\]](#).

The committee has recommended that the bill be passed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted the committee in its consideration of the bill. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

Ross River Dam

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. Is the Ross River Dam used for flood mitigation?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I have said here in this House over the past week, all issues relating to the floods in North Queensland will be referred to the Inspector-General Emergency Management. I have made that public. In relation to all of those contractual issues and issues in relation to complying with legislation, they will be thoroughly investigated by the Inspector-General Emergency Management.

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management was set up under the Newman government. It was put forward in a bill by the then minister for police and emergency services and it was endorsed by those opposite. I thoroughly believe that, as they did with Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the Inspector-General Emergency Management will do a 100 per cent thorough job when it comes to the investigation. As I have also said publicly in this House, all agencies worked well together and they will continue to do so.

Ross River Dam

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. As chair of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee, why is the Premier unable to clearly tell this House the purpose of Ross River Dam?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I have said very clearly, Ross River Dam is an asset owned by the Townsville City Council. I am advised that it contracts SunWater to operate that dam as a water storage dam.

Screen Industry

Ms PEASE: My question without notice is of the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the exciting new film studios that have opened at Hemmant in my electorate of Lytton?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton. I had the honour of going along with the member for Lytton to the brand-new studios that opened a couple of weeks ago in her electorate. We know that the screen industry in this state is going from strength to strength. I am proud of the films that have recently been filmed on the Gold Coast, including *Aquaman*. We know that there is huge opportunity for Queensland to grasp opportunities when it comes to Netflix and Stan. These additional studios based in Brisbane will complement what is available on the Gold Coast.

I am also pleased to advise the House that a new production is currently operating out of those brand-new studios. The studios were opened and literally the next day the brand-new production was bumped in. There is now a call for extra staff to work there, meaning even more jobs. It is something that the industry has asked for and it is something that we have delivered.

The new studios that were opened at Hemmant will have two sound stages of over 6,000 square metres, two warehouses of over 6,000 square metres, a mixed-use building of over 3,000 square metres, production offices and 200 car spaces. The studios have great access to Brisbane Airport and the Gateway Motorway, making them well placed to reach outdoor set locations throughout the south-east—another opportunity to showcase our state to the world.

I think the member said that it was like Hollywood coming to Hemmant. There is now a little bit of Hollywood right here in Brisbane. The studios are ideally suited to low- to mid-budget feature films, domestic and international television drama series, streaming videos and TV commercials. It is wonderful to see that those jobs have been called for. It means that our screen industry is going from strength to strength. I also note that there are discussions underway about any opportunities in Cairns. I know that is something that you are passionate about, Mr Speaker, in terms of expanding the film industry.

I have producers saying to me that we are now more internationally competitive than London. We have really put the screen industry on the map. I will visit those studios again this year, with the aim of bringing, yet again, another big blockbuster to Queensland. We have already seen *Aquaman* reach almost a billion dollars. It is one of the most successful movies for Warner Bros.

Floods, Ross River Dam

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. Given the Ross River Dam has been substantially upgraded, why was it not used for flood mitigation to protect the people of Townsville during the recent flooding?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am glad that the member for Everton has asked that question, because it just shows his complete ignorance when it comes to understanding a monsoonal event. This was not a one-in-100-year event; it was a one-in-500-year event. He has no understanding of that. It is absolutely unbelievable that the member does not understand that.

As I said yesterday, the single source of information is the Bureau of Meteorology. As I quoted in this House yesterday, a federal government spokesperson commented on how well the bureau performed. The experts sit around that table and provide advice. Let me say: the state government cooperated with the local city council, hand in hand. I commend the leadership of Mayor Jenny Hill and the work of all of her disaster management team on the ground. I personally visited them and thanked them for their outstanding work. I have also publicly thanked Commissioner Carroll, our state disaster coordinator and my director-general, who worked extraordinarily long hours to keep the people of our state safe.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, I have already had to give you some guidance this morning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I cannot wait until the report of the inspector-general is brought down. I am absolutely confident about the way in which the two agencies worked together. There was an unprecedented amount of rain. The members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra were all there full-time, witnessing what was happening. Every single person I spoke to in Townsville has said to me that they had never seen so much rain in their lives.

I also put on the public record that before those Australia Day events Townsville was on water restrictions and the city was going through a period of drought. This monsoonal event, the likes of which I had never seen and no-one in Townsville had ever seen, sat above Townsville and at one stage sat above Ross River Dam.

We will continue to work with the people of this state as they travel a long path to recovery. As I said, we will do everything we possibly can. We on this side of the House put people first. We put families first. We want to make sure that everything is done to return their lives to normality.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I caution you for interjecting from the aisle. That is a message to all members. If you have anything to say, rise to your feet in your allocated seat.

Distribution of GST

Mr PEGG: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Will the Deputy Premier please advise the House about the latest moves by the Morrison government to slash Queensland's share of GST revenue, which provides vital funding for health, education, infrastructure and essential services across our state?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Stretton for the question. The GST is a critical part of the annual revenue of every single state and territory in this nation. It is critical for Queensland to be able to provide the hospitals, schools and services that each and every Queenslanders should receive from their government.

Late last year, as many people in this House would know, it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that spearheaded negotiations with the federal government to secure an historic agreement about the distribution of the GST; namely, that no state would be worse off by the change in the distribution that the Morrison government advanced. That occurred because of the very real threat that state senators would insert the amendments against the wishes of the Morrison government because it was not prepared to do it itself. This week we have seen that the Morrison government does not have control of the parliament—the lower house or the Senate. Let us not forget that it was dragged kicking and screaming to insert the clause that no state would be worse off, because the Senate was going to do it for it.

Mere months into this agreement the Morrison government is recklessly unravelling this goodwill, attacking the independence of the Commonwealth Grants Commission and slashing Queensland's share of GST payments. Last week in Canberra Josh Frydenberg, the federal Treasurer, confirmed to us that he had directed the Commonwealth Grants Commission not to adjust its assessment of mining revenue when calculating the GST. Not only is the federal Treasurer's direction of the Commonwealth Grants Commission an extraordinary and inappropriate overreach of an independent body; it also robs Queensland of an additional \$250 million in GST payments that the Grants Commission would have said Queensland was entitled to under the reassessment.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's direction means that Queensland will now lose most of the royalties collected from our own growing gas industry. Not only are we one of the only jurisdictions to produce coal seam gas, but now we are being punished for it. It means the more that we produce and the more royalties we get the less we get back in GST, and that is outrageous. This year as well Josh Frydenberg has provided draft terms of reference to the Commonwealth Grants Commission in terms of its calculation of GST and in that there are nine specific payments to be excluded from the calculation of GST to be distributed. Every single state and territory is represented on that list except for Queensland. It has not been able to find one payment to Queensland to be excluded from the GST calculation.

(Time expired)

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Name Change

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Last year the health minister told the House that two-thirds of Queenslanders supported changing the name of the Lady Cilento children's hospital. Evidence has now emerged that the minister was wrong. The poll lacked integrity and the majority of Queenslanders did not want to waste money changing the name.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HART: Will the Premier now discipline the health minister for misleading the House?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, member for Miller, if you have a point of order you rise to your feet. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. My recollection is that those opposite referred this matter to the CCC. I am not going to pre-empt any decision of the CCC.

Mr Mander: It's embarrassing.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, there is a process. There is a process that is in place. It has been referred. Today the member for Bulimba has now asked the Leader of the Opposition to refer any allegations or any evidence about the member for Whitsunday to appropriate agencies. We will see if that happens. If the member for Burleigh wants to talk about this, perhaps they should talk to their former member for Stafford Dr Chris Davis and explain in this House the \$1.4 million of taxpayers' money awarded to Dr Chris Davis because the former Newman government discriminated against—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with regard to relevance. The question was about the dodgy poll conducted for the Lady Cilento children's hospital, nothing about what the Premier is speaking about.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Cooper. In terms of ruling on your point of order, I will ask the Premier to come back to the core of the question. However, I will also note that I was very close to ruling this question out of order because it was bordering on having imputations. I will give the Premier some latitude, but I would like to hear her come back to the core of the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me also say that the Queensland Children's Hospital is our premier children's hospital in this state and I know that the Minister for Health was there recently announcing more beds for oncology which are much needed for children who are going through probably some of the toughest times in their life, as well as their families. I look forward to those opposite talking about why they discriminated against Dr Chris Davis. Let me also say this—

Ms Trad: Why do Queensland taxpayers now have to pay for it?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: \$1.4 million of waste because of the way in which those opposite treated one of their own.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I apologise for interrupting, Premier, but please resume your seat. Members to my left, the level of interjections is getting out of hand, but I also go back to my earlier ruling: Premier, I ask that you come back to the core of the question which relates to the Lady Cilento children's hospital.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You have nothing else to add? Thank you, Premier.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: That was not an invitation for commentary, members.

Gold Coast, Tourism

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the growth of tourism and the proposal for the global tourism hub on the Gold Coast?

Ms JONES: I am just too excited to talk about tourism because, as the Minister for Health said, of course the Palaszczuk government is in love with Queensland, but on Valentine's Day it is not just us. We know that international tourists are falling in love with Queensland too.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms JONES: When we came into government international tourists—why would I not take that interjection—were spending around \$4.5 billion annually in the Queensland economy. Today I can announce that international tourists are now spending \$5.9 billion in the Queensland economy. They have fallen in love with the Sunshine State, and why wouldn't they? That is why, as I said in my ministerial statement, we are working really hard to grow new tourism products to attract even more tourists to our state, and our government has been consistent on this.

This stands in stark contrast to the LNP and its position on integrated resorts and global tourism hubs in Queensland. Every single member in this House, particularly those who were part of the Newman government cabinet that created the two new casino licences in Queensland, knows that the LNP wanted to develop many more casino developments across Queensland. In 2013 when it announced this, 'a casino-led recovery' were the words of the premier of the day, who still wants to comment every day, but the last time I checked he did not win Ashgrove.

Ms Palaszczuk: But he won't talk about Chris Davis.

Ms JONES: Correct. It was about jobs. It was about investment dollars. It was about tourism potential for Queensland. It was about people coming here because we have a drawcard. That was the LNP position in 2013. What did it say in 2014? It said, 'We promised to grow the construction and tourism sector. That's why we're so pleased to announce AQIS and ASF as the short-listed developers.' I am advised that this would have allowed up to 3,000 additional poker machines in Queensland at that time. Then in 2016 what did the member for Surfers Paradise say? He attacked us for dithering and the member for Clayfield—

Mr Dick: Build it faster!

Ms JONES: Yes, he said, 'Build it faster. We want more.' That was 2016. Let us fast forward to now. On 16 June 2018 the Leader of the Opposition says online that she is supportive of a global tourism hub on the Gold Coast if it delivers tourism jobs. That is the position. She is consistent with what the LNP has always said, but she just cannot get her backbenchers to back her in. On 17 September—less than two months after the Leader of the Opposition put to the people of the Gold Coast her position—the member for Southport said, 'I just don't think we can make it stack up.'

The person who has had more positions than he has done chicken dances is the member for Mermaid Beach. In 2010 the member for Mermaid Beach was a frontrunner—the first time I have ever heard of the member for Mermaid Beach being a frontrunner—and was saying, 'Make it happen.' The LNP has to come clean with the people of the Gold Coast what its position is. Does it support it? We are the only ones who are being honest with the people of the Gold Coast.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for State Development, I ask that you put your comments through the chair.

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Name Change

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. I refer the minister to the public poll to change the name of the Lady Cilento children's hospital. Will the minister release the full list of IP addresses that voted more than 10 times?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. The root of the question goes to the construction of the surveys on the Get Involved web page. It is a survey tool that is used by governments across Australia, including this government since 2004. The particular survey in question carried a privacy disclaimer that said that it was focused on obtaining the outcome of the survey rather than identifying the source and aims to protect the respondents' anonymity.

Mr Minnikin: Just like a get-out-of-jail card.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth.

Mr de BRENNI: It is not a get-out-of-jail card. It is a respect for the rights of—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I have already given you a warning today. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: We do not collect the individual details of individual submitters. They are anonymous. This is a respect for the right to privacy of Queensland citizens. It is about respect for the views of Queensland citizens. This survey tool has been used since—

Mr Lister: Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, I ask you to leave the chamber for 10 minutes. I will not tolerate childish antics in this House.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 10.39 am.

Mr de BRENNI: The way the Palaszczuk government has used this survey tool is no different from the way the New South Wales government uses this survey tool. It is no different from the way the South Australian government uses this tool. It is in no way different from the way the LNP government used this survey tool no fewer than 327 times.

Did the member for Glass House or any other member on that side of the House ever have a problem with the rights of citizens of this state to anonymously voice their opinion? Did the members opposite have a problem when they used it to assist in a critical—

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Mr de BRENNI: They used it 327 times, including for the critical review of South-East Queensland bus services. Did the members opposite have a problem with the design of the survey tool then? No, they did not. Was it a problem when they used the platform to review train and plane services in regional Queensland? They should ask the members representing regional areas. The members opposite used it 327 times. Was it a problem when the members opposite used that platform to inform themselves of important changes to the Plumbing and Drainage Act? No.

Those on that side of the House have scant regard for the rights of Queensland citizens. They showed that when they were in government and they continue to show it now. Further, we all know that the minister made his decision not based just on the survey responses but based on the views of doctors and the views of the community and with the support of the entire Palaszczuk cabinet.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Members for Chatsworth and Glass House, one of you is on a warning. The other is just about on a warning. The level of interjections is too high.

Manufacturing Industry, Women

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the minister please update the House on female participation in the manufacturing sector? Is the minister aware of any other approaches for women in the workforce?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Jordan for her question and pay tribute to her ongoing commitment to supporting women in the workplace. Manufacturing in our state relies on the hard work of many working women. In fact, there are now 50,000 women who work in manufacturing in Queensland.

If we are going to drive manufacturing into the future, particularly through advanced manufacturing, we need more women in that workforce. That is why, as a government, we have taken steps to connect more women to manufacturing through our women in manufacturing series. In 2018, we held a series of breakfasts around Queensland, including six regional networking and mentoring events. Those breakfasts have produced opportunities, such as a local Bundaberg manufacturer, Canetec, collaborating with Kepnock State High School after connecting at a breakfast in September last year. I am very pleased that Canetec has initiated a process to engage a young female student at Kepnock State High School as a school based apprentice.

Mr Speaker, recently, when I was in Cairns with the member for Cairns and you to announce the establishment of a manufacturing hub for the region I met with several women manufacturers, including Kristy Plum, the co-owner of the Fermented Kitchen; Maryann Salvetti from Australian Superfoods North Queensland; Michelle Bell-Turner from Mungalli Creek Dairy; and Peta-Maree Broadley, the managing director of Homefab, who is also a member of my ministerial manufacturing committee.

I need to report to the House that not everyone in business is keen on promoting women. Not every organisation is keen on promoting women. One organisation comes to mind and, of course, that is the LNP. It was bad enough that 19 per cent of the coalition party room in Canberra was women, but we now find that that percentage has been beaten by the percentage of women in the state opposition at 15 per cent—not 50 per cent, which the Premier has led for our party room.

It appears that the LNP has determined that the best way to deal with its women problem is to get rid of problem women—‘See you later Jane Prentice, farewell Julia Banks and see you later Verity Barton.’ Felicity Wilson, a Liberal member of the New South Wales parliament, who is in her third trimester of pregnancy, had her preselection saved by one vote. Ann Sudmalis was brought back from New York to be hidden in the parliament in case there was a vote, but her own preselection could not be supported.

Where is the Leader of the Opposition on this issue? As usual, absolutely nowhere. The Leader of the Opposition will not stand up for women. She will not stand up for women in her party room. Fifteen per cent of her party room being women is not a legacy; it is an embarrassment. Thankfully, under the leadership of our Premier and our Deputy Premier we are forging the way forward—not just in politics, not just in manufacturing, not just in the economy, but throughout Queensland and long may that be the case.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, ieMR Project

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Auditor-General has exposed that Queensland Health’s ieMR project is \$256 million over budget. The CEO of eHealth Queensland has resigned under corruption allegations and medical staff say that the project puts patient safety at risk. Will the Premier finally order a halt to the rollout of this project until all of these issues are resolved?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that some of those matters are still before the CCC. I am happy to come back in relation to that matter for the House, but I do not want to jeopardise anything that is happening with the CCC and I do not think that any other member in this House should. There are some very serious allegations and those allegations need to be investigated thoroughly.

In relation to the rollout, the minister has spoken to me personally about the importance of ensuring that that is up to date and that the project continues to be rolled out in the best interests of families across our state. I also know that the minister has stated publicly that there is an audit of IT projects in Health. I applaud the minister for taking this initiative and this step, because we know how important those updates are. I know that he will report to the House once he gets the information.

Renewable Energy

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House of the impact of the Palaszczuk government’s leadership on renewable energy policy? Is the minister aware of any other policies?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question. The Palaszczuk government’s leadership on renewable energy policy can be seen right across Queensland—from the solar farm in Normanton in the gulf to home batteries in South-East Queensland. In just over two years, 21 large-scale renewable energy projects—2,000 megawatts of renewable energy—are on the books, creating about 190 construction jobs. There have been 2,500 loans and grants for Queenslanders to store batteries, for solar, or for a combination of batteries and solar. There has been more than \$13 million in rebates to help more than 54,000 Queensland families buy energy-efficient appliances. All of those programs allow Queensland families to cut their energy use, cut their power bills and, importantly, cut their emissions. That is downward pressure on prices, more renewables and climate change action.

What do we have from across the floor and their mates in Canberra? I will refer to an article in yesterday’s *Australian* that states that GetUp!, who claim to be the largest, most active youth political movement in the country, voted overwhelmingly against the Liberals’ dodgy energy policy. Sorry, it was not GetUp!; it was the Young Liberals wanting Morrison to dump his confused and crazed energy policy.

But there is more. Another of this nation's progressive youth groups has also voted against Morrison's energy policy—it was not the Young Greens, it was the Young Nats. At least they are firm and to the point: they all hate their own party's energy policy. Why wouldn't they, with a \$400 increase for everyone in regional Queensland, a renewable energy policy that lasted 30 minutes, chaos and confusion in the ranks, no leadership and no policy, and now what do we have—stop the press!—the coalition's big stick energy policy is off the table. They are not putting it through parliament. They cannot get it through. They are going to run their big stick divestment policy through an election. Bring it on! Their policy is privatisation of Queensland electricity assets. I cannot wait for a third election to bring this issue to the people of Queensland. We want our assets to stay in our hands. Bring it on!

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House!

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development! You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Glass House, you are already on a warning. I ask you to leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 10.50 am.

Closing the Gap

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. The national Closing the Gap report 2019 released today shows that Queensland was the only state or territory that failed to achieve a single reconciliation action target and I ask: how does the Deputy Premier explain this failure by the Palaszczuk Labor government to achieve even one of the targets, leaving Indigenous Queenslanders far behind the rest of the country?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. He has finally shown some interest in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnership responsibilities that he has as the opposition spokesperson. I will refer the member for Moggill to my statement made yesterday on the actual day of the national apology anniversary. Queensland is the only state jurisdiction to have stepped up in its responsibility to lay bare to the people of Queensland our track record in terms of reaching the Closing the Gap targets.

I tabled this yesterday for the benefit of the honourable member, maybe he should read it, but I will go through a number of the metrics that I reported on to the parliament yesterday which I will report on again today for the benefit of the member. For the benefit of the member, the Queensland report card shows that we are on track to meet the target of 95 per cent of Indigenous—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: Do they want to hear the answer or do they not? Is it just about using the most at-risk vulnerable cohorts in Queensland for their political grandstanding or are they actually interested in a bipartisan way to address the very, very real need for us to close the gap?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Burleigh, member for Moggill, you are both warned under the standing orders. Member for Mudgeeraba, I am giving you some clear guidance also.

Ms TRAD: I will personally have this delivered to the member for Moggill's office today. I promise I will have this personally delivered because he was not interested enough to read it after I tabled it yesterday. Let me say this: any single one of the targets contained in Closing the Gap or the reconciliation targets starts with a roof over your head.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is under standing order 118 on relevance. The report that the member was questioned about was actually the national report. The Deputy Premier is referring to the state report she issued yesterday. This is the report issued today. It is a completely different, separate report.

Ms Trad: Same targets, mate.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a separate report.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier!

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is being specifically relevant to this issue. It might help the opposition to actually listen to the answer and then they would know that it was relevant.

Mr SPEAKER: To the member for Kawana's point of order, member, there is no point of order. I understand the point you are trying to make; however, I am listening to the Deputy Premier's statement and there are other parts of the question which make her response completely relevant.

Ms TRAD: To the two points of relevance, the targets in this report are exactly the same as the national targets. We are pulling out the Queensland data for the benefit of Queenslanders to understand.

On the second issue, if we are going to achieve movement on any of the targets, on improving life expectancy, education, health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders, First Nations Queenslanders, then it starts with the roof over your head. Prime Minister Scott Morrison today got up and reported on Closing the Gap. There was not one mention of the fact that he has withdrawn billions of dollars out of Queensland for housing in remote Indigenous communities. It goes to the character of the person we are talking about here that he, like those opposite, should get up on a critical issue that reflects our capacity, our humanity as a people, and politically grandstand without being honest to the people of Australia or the people of Queensland about the damage that he is causing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are both warned under the standing orders. Members, I ask that you think very hard about interjecting and perhaps listen to the responses. Question time is about asking questions and also hearing the response.

Trainees and Apprentices

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister advise how Queensland trainee and apprentice numbers are performing compared to the rest of the nation and what factors are impacting on this result?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for his question. I know what a huge supporter he is of apprentices in his local electorate having been one a few years ago. In the recent report on government services it was fantastic to see that again Queensland is leading the nation. We are bucking the national trend. We have seen the highest rate of completions for VET qualifications in Queensland. Our traineeship and apprenticeship commencement rates are also up three per cent when we have seen a decline in the rest of Australia. Queensland is absolutely leading the nation and with our 5,000 new free TAFE students we are absolutely setting Queenslanders up for a skilled future.

We are doing all of this without any help from the federal government in Canberra. Instead, we have seen a \$70 million cut that leaves 7,000 apprentices and trainees at risk. Not only that, the federal government has heartlessly slashed the \$900 million Tools for Your Trade program which helps young apprentices pay for their tools. It is the leading cause for why apprentices do not complete their apprenticeship. Why has the federal government completely dropped the ball on training and skilling? Why has it been so distracted? Perhaps it is because the minister for training, Senator Michaelia Cash, has had a few other things on her mind. Perhaps she is preparing for a big date this week—not a Valentine's day date but a date with the Federal Court.

Who can forget the months of hiding behind whiteboards refusing to answer any questions. Finally, tomorrow we hope we might get some answers on this. Who could be surprised by Senator Cash's record in the all important training and skills portfolio. Let us look at her record. She was the IR minister when the Fair Work Ombudsman gave the wrong advice to group training organisations on apprentice wage rates; a huge mess that they still have not fixed. She was the jobs minister who knifed Malcolm Turnbull to put Peter Dutton in the top job, and she has been the training minister far too distracted by court appearances to do anything about apprentices and trainees.

This is a government entirely focused on itself, entirely focused on playing politics. This government thinks it has had a good day when it can embarrass Bill Shorten on *Sky News*. We think we have had a good day when we have put Queenslanders into jobs. What Queenslanders need is a government in Canberra that cares as much about jobs and as much about apprentices as we do. What we need is a Shorten Labor government.

Coalmining

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Premier. Yesterday in question time the Premier acknowledged that climate change is making natural disasters such as the Central and North Queensland bushfires and floods even worse, and many Queenslanders are terrified for our future. How can the government justify new coalmines and coal seam gas fracking that would put more Queenslanders' lives and homes in danger?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maiwar for the question. I will address it in a couple of ways. First and foremost, it is on the public record that we have had more natural disasters in the past three months than we have experienced in probably the past 10 years. You only have to listen to the experts and talk to people who have been dealing with this to realise that climate change is real. It is something that I am pleased to admit and I am quite sure everyone else on the government side believes in it as well.

Unfortunately, those opposite do not believe in climate change. As I have said publicly, I believe that every person standing for the federal election needs to state categorically whether or not they believe in climate change. Australia cannot afford to have elected to the House of Representatives or the Senate people who do not believe in the science. Australia must meet its international obligations.

When it comes to energy, I have made it very clear that my government supports the target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. I note that New South Wales is starting to move when it comes to renewables. Just recently, the New South Wales Premier followed our lead on the introduction of batteries and solar. They have adopted the policy that we look to the last election in relation to their election.

When it comes to energy needs, I firmly believe that the market decides. There is still a strong demand for metallurgical coal because of steel. Once the member for Maiwar decides not to have steel in his house, drive a car that has steel fabrication or travel on trains that are made with steel fabrication, he can come and put his case forward. However, those are the facts; that is the reality.

We will stand by the science and we will stand by what we believe in. It is about time that those opposite made it clear where they stand. We cannot ignore the science. It is absolutely clear that climate change is real and is having a huge impact when it comes to natural disasters, not just here in Australia but also across the world.

I end on this note: I have met many farmers and it is quite clear that they believe in climate change. They are using adaptation strategies on their properties. It is about time that all members took a stance on this important science.

Sunshine Coast, Health Services

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health services to the people of the Sunshine Coast?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question. I know that, like everyone on this side of the House, she is committed to delivering more and better health services to all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. Last week, I was pleased to be in Caloundra to officially open the upgrade of the Caloundra Health Service. I was pleased to welcome the member for Caloundra to that event and have him acknowledge the important contribution that the Palaszczuk government is making to health services in his community.

A \$17 million upgrade of the Caloundra Health Service was delivered on time and under budget. The extra funds will be used to deliver other important refurbishments within the health service. The Caloundra Health Service delivers ophthalmology, diabetes, renal dialysis, oral health and other services, but the focus of the upgrade was on the palliative care services.

The new palliative care wards have been designed to be as much like home as they possibly can be. All of the new rooms open out onto a beautifully landscaped courtyard area that was designed in conjunction with the traditional owners, the Gubbi Gubbi people. It is a space of peace and tranquillity in which people can spend their final days with their families.

The Caloundra Health Service includes the Minor Illness and Injury Clinic that each day sees 50 people with ailments that do not require them to head eight kilometres up to the road to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. That is exactly the kind of minor injury centre that a Shorten government will

commit to build in various places in Queensland and right across the country. I am pleased to say that it is not just the member for Caloundra who can acknowledge that it is Labor who delivers better health services for their communities; the member for Pumicestone is also looking forward to the election of a Shorten Labor government this year.

The member's happy new year newsletter in the local Bribie newspaper opens by stating that Bill Shorten has committed \$17 million to establishing an urgent care centre on Bribie Island. It is good to know that the member for Pumicestone can acknowledge that the best thing for her constituents is the election of a Shorten Labor government. She even held a forum to talk to her local community about how important it was that we elect a Shorten Labor government this year. I assure the member for Pumicestone that it is going to be a very happy new year.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, can I clarify: did you table that document or seek to table that document?

Dr MILES: I seek to table that document.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I was not clear from your delivery.

Tabled paper. Article from the *Island and Surrounds News*, edition 2019—Issue 33, titled 'Pumicestone Electorate News' [181].

Container Refund Scheme

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. I refer to the minister's oversight of the container refund scheme, first championed by the LNP.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, resume your seat. Members to my right, I have asked repeatedly for questions to be heard in silence. The minister is able to make a response once I have heard the question and ascertained whether it meets standing orders. Member for Broadwater, please start your question again.

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. I refer to the minister's oversight of the container refund scheme, firstly proudly championed by the LNP.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I table two receipts showing a \$203 cash payment and a \$203 electronic payment for the same deposit.

Tabled paper. Photograph, undated, depicting transaction receipt regarding container exchange scheme [182].

Tabled paper. Extract of bank account regarding container exchange scheme [183].

Will the minister advise how many other payments have been falsely made and whether improvements can be made regarding closed sites, no availability of bags and large distances without sites, or will the minister continue to trumpet figures deposited as the only justification of success?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I caution you about long preambles. You came very close to that question being ruled out of order.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question and for his interest in the container refund scheme. Queenslanders are incredibly interested in and very proud of this scheme. They have been investing a lot of energy and time into it. Like every other container refund scheme in the country, ours is no different in that an organisation runs the scheme on behalf of the state government through a product stewardship program. That organisation has been given some very clear directions about the kinds of things that we expect from it, including how many sites we wanted opened in the initial stage of the scheme and other targets in terms of how many will be opened into the future. If there are some concerns about payments, I encourage the member to make that clear to CoEx, the organisation that runs our container refund scheme. I would be very interested to hear more about that.

Of the many other issues that the member raised, I can say that in Queensland we have seen an overwhelming response to our container refund scheme. More than 220 million containers were returned in the first 100 days of the operation of the scheme.

New South Wales, which has a population much larger than ours, in the same period had only 150 million containers returned. We have seen an unprecedented, amazing response from Queenslanders. We have small and medium size businesses that have signed up to deliver this service under CoEx that are having to scale up their operations very quickly. On top of that we are seeing great

business opportunities. There are still opportunities to set up businesses. I would encourage more small and medium sized businesses to engage in this scheme and deliver the service in their local areas where there is an economic opportunity to do so.

It is really interesting to hear from the member for Broadwater today about the disclosure of funds. We still have not seen any disclosure of funds with regard to their donors. There is still \$100,000 in donations still undisclosed.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in terms of standing order 118 and relevance with respect to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. I would encourage the minister to return to the core of the question. I believe the response has generally been on song. I would ask that you return to the question asked, noting that there were a number of parts to the question.

Ms ENOCH: The member has raised issues about payments. That is why I go onto other issues with regard to payments that we see very blatantly occurring in Queensland. We are about to see \$1.4 million paid to a former member of their own party whom they discriminated against whilst they were in office. This is the kind of people we are dealing with.

(Time expired)

Weather Events

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister please update the House on how the government is managing the increasing frequency of extreme weather conditions in Queensland occurring as a result of the impacts of climate change?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Bancroft for this question. I thank him for his attendance at a breakfast in Parliament House yesterday morning where I co-hosted a UQ future conversations briefing. This one was called 'Positioning Queensland for global decarbonisation'. This briefing was attended by experts, scientists, researchers and a representative from Suncorp who were talking about all of the science and climate risk. They referred to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its report with regard to global warming. They made very clear the fact that we have to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees. They said we cannot have business as usual over the next 10 years and we have to make changes now and lower emissions.

I think everybody understands that we are experiencing climate change. There is no way to deny it. We must back our scientists and researchers—the experts—who are able to do this work to ensure that we get great information on which to base the decisions we make in terms of lowering our emissions and addressing climate risk. We do that by backing great science in this state. We have done that through things like making sure we have very sensible vegetation management laws. One of the issues raised yesterday was around sensible tree-clearing laws not just in this state but across the country and the impact of excessive tree clearing on emissions and, of course, climate change.

We do that through our Statewide Landcover and Trees Study. The latest SLATS report shows the devastating impact of the former LNP government's decision to allow excess tree clearing. Before the vegetation management laws came into effect, clearing was still occurring at a rate of more than 1,000 football fields every day. Some 356,000 hectares were cleared in 2016.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory.

Ms ENOCH: This report was released to be more user-friendly and more readable so that every Queenslanders could access this information. The member for Burdekin and the LNP have been quoted in the media as criticising the report and once again scaremongering in the community claiming that not all of it was publicly released.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gregory, you will cease your interjections.

Ms ENOCH: They were claiming that it was not all publicly released and were undermining the science, of course, which is their ammo. Perhaps those opposite and the member for Burdekin might like a little lesson on how to google. They even made an RTI request to the department seeking the alleged secret report only to find out, embarrassingly for them, that it was already online. All they have to do is look for it.

(Time expired)

Palaszczyk Labor Government, Performance

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Last week the Premier buck-passed responsibility for dam management to Townsville City Council, even though it is run by the state. Consistently this week the Premier has said, 'I'm not sure. I'm not aware of that. I'll look into it. I'll ask someone. It's before the CCC.' Will the Premier, seemingly unaware of what her government is doing, take responsibility for anything her government does, ever?

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. There were definitely imputations in that question. I ask you to rule it out of order.

Speaker's Ruling, Question out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have been in this House quite some time. I refer to your use of 'buck-passed' in particular. I rule the question out of order.

Community Legal Centres

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the Attorney-General please update the House on the current status of funding for Queensland's community legal centres?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes.

Mrs D'ATH: Unfortunately, I should not have to speak on this at all. This is groundhog day. This chamber has been talking about funding community legal centres for a number of years and the obligations on the federal government to provide certainty for those who are out there doing the great job of providing legal assistance and support to the most vulnerable in our community.

Here we are again. The Morrison government has stated that they will hand down a budget in April this year. The current funding round ends in June 2020 and there is no commitment that the funding will appear in this year's budget. If that funding does not appear in this year's budget, it means that once CLCs will face their funding running out. There is no certainty whatsoever from the federal government. They will be facing a budget next year weeks out from when that funding stops.

We saw what happens. We saw people walking away from their jobs because they needed to pay their bills. We saw people being put off at legal centres because the funding was not committed. We saw clients being turned away because they were winding down services.

Recently I met with representatives from the community legal centres in the Beenleigh region and the director of Community Legal Centres Queensland to talk about the great job they were doing with different organisations. One of the women there said, 'That was me. I was one of those people who lost my job in 2016 because of the lack of certainty from the LNP government federally and the former shadow attorney-general and now current Attorney-General.'

I have written to the current Attorney-General. I have written to every state and territory calling on them to write to the Attorney-General saying that there must be funding for this in this year's budget.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 13 February (see p. 202), on motion of Ms Enoch—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.18 am), continuing: It was good to have a break overnight because I got the opportunity to console the member for Stretton who had to endure that blistering attack from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition where he reached into his kit bag and got out the wettest of wet lettuce leaves and gave him a good thrashing. I can see that the member for Stretton has somehow survived that. Well done member for Stretton.

It is not just individuals in the electorate of Greenslopes who are making these changes. Businesses and organisations are making these changes too. Just last week I had the opportunity to visit a small business in my electorate run by Mr Brett Watson called Unitray. I was there because he

had received a Palaszczuk government small business grant. Brett has been a plumber for 30 years but, more importantly, he is an innovator. Some of the products that he is producing are quite outstanding.

He has answered the question about the type of society we want to be by designing products that are sustainable and recyclable. He has also now reached a point in his business where he is researching ways to make the packaging of his product recyclable. Brett, like many businesses, is taking the lead and answering that question. They are changing their practices and being prepared to change their practices.


Recently I was at the Greenslopes State School P&C. That particular organisation, of which I am a member, has decided that they will introduce the war on waste into their school. Many of the decisions that were made at the P&C meeting that night involved thinking about how they could reduce their waste in the school.

I have not just listened to the words but taken note of the actions of the people, the organisations, the community groups and the businesses in the electorate of Greenslopes. Those opposite have an opportunity to atone for their past mistakes. They have an opportunity to do the right thing here. They can walk away from the mistakes of the past.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr KELLY: If you vote this way, I will certainly give you absolution. They have the opportunity to atone for their past mistakes and put the destructive legacy of the Newman government behind them.

The people in my electorate, and I am sure in electorates right around this state, have made their views and their thoughts clear through their words and through their actions. They want change, they are implementing change and they want leaders who will be supporting those changes. I commend this bill to the House and I encourage every member of this House to support this bill.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.21 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. That is the waste in Queensland—those on the other side of the chamber. This is the waste of space, waste of time, waste of effort.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Direct your comments through the chair. That is the first thing I will say. Address the matter through the chair under standing order 247.

Mr McARDLE: As I said, that is the waste in Queensland. Look at them—waste of space, waste of time, waste of energy. You would not even bother recycling them.

Ms ENOCH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, pause!

Mr McARDLE: The reduction of the members on that side of the House is zero.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, pause! Member for Caloundra, take your seat. I have a point of order.

Ms ENOCH: I find the member's comments unparliamentary. I seek your guidance on that.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the minister finds the word 'waste' unparliamentary, well that is the name of her bill. It has 'waste' in the title of the bill. Also, my second point of order—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you just pause? I am trying to hear this.

Mr BLEIJIE: My second point of order is that to find a matter personally offensive a member or minister has to have been personally referred to—and the minister was not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the point of order, Minister, it cannot be found to be personally offensive, but I would guide the member for Caloundra that to refer to other people in this chamber as 'waste' would be unparliamentary, I would suggest. I suggest you temper your language in that case.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am always guided by your wisdom in matters of this nature. However, I also add the point that this government has laid waste to the reputation of Lady Cilento. They have trashed her reputation by removing her name from the premier children's hospital in this state. That is a waste of a reputation and a family, and they should hang their heads in shame accordingly.

Labor have not seen an asset, an idea, a concept, a thought that they do not want to lay a tax to. There is nothing that they will not lay a tax to—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I would guide you on relevance there. Please stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The title of the bill contains the word 'levy'. Anybody knows that the word 'levy' is a tax. The Oxford dictionary defines 'levy' as a tax. I am simply elaborating on the taxation imposed by this government upon the people of Queensland. There is simply not an idea, a concept, a principle or an asset that they will not tax or, in their parlance, lay a levy against.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I have advised you to stick to the long title of the bill. I am still waiting for you to adhere to the spirit of that suggestion.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, again your wisdom has guided me to the path of righteousness. When the levy, or should I say tax, was announced on 20 March last year we were told, 'Queensland families will not face the cost of this levy.' Who made that comment? The Premier did. The Premier made the comment that families will not suffer as a consequence of this levy/tax/imposition being imposed upon Queensland families.

We now know that the levy will be \$75 per tonne—an increase from the initial cost of \$70 per tonne. The government believes that by cloaking it as a 'levy' people will walk away satisfied and not worried about the implications. The Housing Industry Association made it quite clear that the levy will add \$1,500 to the cost of building a new home—\$1,500 on young families trying to build their first home. The implication there is clear: it is not just upon the actual construction; it also flows to the materials, the manual labour and other costs associated with constructing a new home. Therefore, it flows all the way through. The Housing Industry Association, the HIA, made it clear—a peak body in this state. They have outlined very clearly how this will impact upon young families building their first home.

As I said, it flows not just through to the construction; it flows through to the full economy. Those who manufacture, those who perform the labour, those who deliver the materials also have their own costs that they have to wear and pass through to their own customers and the like. All of this comes down to one aspect. It comes down to the increasing cost of living that this government is imposing upon Queenslanders. This is a government that hides behind the rhetoric of claiming to do the right thing, yet at the same time we know that the cost of living in the state in relation to the registration of motor vehicles, in relation to water costs and in relation to power costs keep going up under this so-called government that is looking after the welfare of the worker and the family. This is one more burden that every Queenslander will have to bear and struggle to meet because the cost of living impacts upon their capacity to meet their day-to-day living expenses, let alone plan for the future and their retirement.

In the 2018-19 budget, five new taxes were imposed on the Queensland population—five new taxes. I recall, if I recall correctly, we were not told about those new taxes in the election campaign. We were told about them when the budget was due to be handed down. Here we have a sneaky, underhanded approach to grab money from Queenslanders. Some of those Queenslanders have worked very hard to get where they are today. They started with nothing and they have got to a very high level economically. They are going to be penalised for the work they have undertaken. Again, all of those costs filter down throughout the strata of our society and throughout the strata of our economy and impact everybody in this state.

We know that the debt by 2021-22 will be \$83 billion—again, a situation that imposes upon Queenslanders cost-of-living increases because in some manner that has to be paid for. At the end of the day—I can guarantee it will happen—an LNP government will need to rectify the books yet again.

Mr Minnikin: Clean up the mess again.

Mr McARDLE: We will clean up the mess. I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. We will clean up the mess yet again and Labor will get back in and blow it out yet again.

The First Home Owners' Grant was reduced from \$20,000 to \$15,000. This is the government that makes the claim that it is there for the punter, that it is there for the worker, but it reduced the capacity of a first home buyer to get into the market by reducing the First Home Owners' Grant from \$20,000 to \$15,000. This government is a master of spin—a master of misleading the public. This levy


is a tax. It is a sneaky tax that will hit every Queenslander. The LGAQ made it very clear that it will have to pass on the cost associated with this levy. Ratepayers will pay for it one way or another. One way or another, ratepayers will pick up the bill. This is, again, an increase in the cost of living.

The Premier made the claim initially that Queenslanders will not bear the cost of this new tax. It is simply a nonsense to suggest that is going to be the case. It is quite clear that Queenslanders of all types will bear the cost directly and indirectly. Let us look at house renovations. If a person hires a skip they will pay an increased cost because the skip will take the rubbish to the dump. The cost has to be borne by somebody. Is the supplier of the skip going to wear that cost? Of course not, because their margins are so thin at the moment they are going to have to pass that cost on. Therefore, young families yet again will be hit by this levy.

The government claims that this will not impact upon them but it will directly impact upon them, blowing out the cost of renovations because they have to pay for the levy this government claims has no impact. It is a nonsense. It is a tax one way or another borne by the whole of Queensland. As I said at the start of my contribution, that is the real waste in Queensland—the Labor government—and they need to admit that this levy is nothing more than a tax.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Caloundra, I have discussed with you the advisability of indicating that other members are waste. I advise you once again to be careful with where you are treading.

Mr McARDLE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I conclude by making this clear point: there is no doubt that mob needs to be recycled and this mob needs to be put from here to there in LNP government. That is the only way this economy is going to get back on track and the only way we are going to get Queensland in a state where it should be economically and growth wise.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (11.32 am): I rise to place on record my views in support of passing the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. In particular, I want to address the assertions of the member for Caloundra and others on the cost impacts on the building and construction sector.

Queensland's building and construction sector is an economic powerhouse that contributes not only \$46 billion to the state economy but also provides jobs for approximately 230,000 Queenslanders. Now is not the time to talk down the housing industry. Now is not the time to talk down the construction industry by running a campaign of fear and false truths, but they are a one-trick pony of fear and false truths. Here we have another day and another attempt by the Liberal National Party to scare and mislead Queenslanders—straight out of the Morrison playbook on boats. For those opposite to say that the introduction of a waste levy will push up the cost of building a house is a scare campaign. But it is worse; it is simply flat out wrong.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Caloundra just said it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have called order.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Please address your comments through the chair under standing order 247.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take the interjection from the member for Glass House because I will point him to material published by Master Builders in a moment. As I say, the commentary from the member for Caloundra and those on that side of the House is not just a scare campaign; it is simply flat out wrong.

The opposition members' statement of reservation seeks to blame the difficulty faced by many Australians in buying their first home on the waste levy. As I said in this place yesterday, nobody buys that rhetoric. Everybody who is trying to get into the housing market knows what it is like. The lack of supply of appropriate housing is the cause that is pushing up housing costs across the country. The federal coalition's tax settings, which only serve to increase demand for those who are well off, do not make it any easier for hardworking Australian families, but the opposition's views on this are far worse than that. They significantly undermine the capacity for innovation within the building sector. That is

pretty unsurprising from this mob. This is the mob who said that the problem with security of payments in the construction industry was that subbies were not clever enough to enforce their rights. That is what they said. It is the sort of contempt for Queenslanders that treats tradies as second-class citizens and the rest of Queensland like fools.

Let me explain to those opposite how this would work in the construction industry. The fact is that these types of instruments encourage and incentivise changes in practice. The fact is that landfill destroys the natural value of our natural environment, increases the prevalence of pests and weeds and is responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases. We know that. We know that it is a burden to nearby residents and to businesses.

Not only do these instruments reduce landfill; in the long run they save money on construction. Estimates show that overordering concrete, for example, on the average four-bedroom home already costs the home owner around \$1,000. Home owners are already footing the bill for this waste. Clearly, careful ordering would save the home owner and reduce waste. This is not news to the construction industry, but this waste levy will change behaviours and methodology in the industry. If a builder has to choose between paying a levy to dump materials or sharpening up their order so they can get a contract with a prospective home owner, it is pretty clear what they will decide to do. If a builder can bring down the costs of building a house by using methods that reduce waste—and pay particular attention to not overordering—the savings can only flow to Queensland mum-and-dad home owners and subcontractors.

Members opposite claim to represent the interests of small business in this state, but here they are again selling them short by not supporting this bill. Here they are again saying they do not have the capacity to innovate. I know some of Queensland's largest builders are leading the nation in designing processes that significantly reduce overordering to reduce costs for their clients. This bill provides an incentive to be applied right now right across the building and construction sector. The objectives of the bill are clear in this regard. They state that the levy will 'act as a price signal that encourages waste avoidance and resource recovery behaviours, and discourages disposal to landfill as the first option'. It is simply common sense. The city of Whittlesea in Victoria has worked it out. It understands how simple design decisions can influence the amount of construction waste being produced. In its advice to the building industry it stated—

This fact sheet explains how simple design decisions can influence the amount of construction waste being produced and operational waste streams being separated. Considering waste requirements during a project's early design stage can help you save money and reduce negative impacts on the environment.

Mirvac has worked this out. In the 2017 financial year they successfully diverted 95 per cent of building waste from their new developments from landfill and are looking for ways to close the last five per cent by 2030. Lendlease have worked it out. In their \$6 billion multiaward-winning urban regeneration project in Barangaroo South, they have reduced construction waste going to landfill by 97 per cent.

I indicated to the member for Glass House earlier that I would refer to documents published by Master Builders. Master Builders have produced a helpful guide outlining the benefits of waste reduction and setting out some handy hints. It is called *Master Builders smart waste guide: a guide for commercial and residential builders, subcontractors and clients in metropolitan Perth and Peel regions*. I suggest those opposite have a look. It says, 'Let's look at the benefits of waste reduction.' This is from Master Builders in Western Australia.

Mr Powell: In Western Australia.

Mr de BRENNI: Member for Glass House, building houses and buildings in one state of Australia is not that much different from building them here in Queensland. What does the Master Builders have to say? It says that it lowers purchasing costs. It reduces on site risks of injury to workers. Master Builders says that it reduces the environmental footprint. It says that it improves accreditations and that it is good for business.

The only people who have not worked out the environmental and financial benefits of these instruments are the Liberal National Party in Queensland. My generation of Queenslanders will not forget that it was this LNP that made Queensland the dumping ground for waste from other states. It will be the next generation of Queenslanders—my children—who ask: 'Who were the so-called leaders of the LNP who were so out of touch that they campaigned for more coal-fired power stations? Who were these people?' They will wonder what sort of elected representatives the LNP had in 2019 who had their heads so deep in the sand that they denied climate change. They will ask, 'Did they really

object to a plan to stop industry creating waste without restraint?’ They will refer to those opposite as the lot who thought it was okay to make their parents’ backyards the dumping ground for countless truckloads of building waste.

We know on this side of the House what Queensland businesses are capable of. Yet all we see is the Liberal National Party talking down Queensland businesses—underestimating their capacity, underestimating their initiative, underestimating their desire to do the right thing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Once again, I remind members on my left that comments should come through the chair. It is not a chance for general calling across the chamber.

Mr de BRENNI: The Liberal National Party do not understand that Queensland is full of smart business men and women who can and will help save their clients’ money. The Minister for Environment is even backing those smart businesspeople in the construction industry with a \$2 million commitment to develop these initiatives. Right now, the cost of dealing with landfill is already borne by local communities and not waste generators. It is high time that changed. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (11.40 am): I rise to address the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I have much pleasure in rising to follow the contribution made by the Minister for Housing and Public Works. There are a couple of things I want to address from his contribution. I think it was the member for Broadwater who said that it was tragic to see a minister in the state of Queensland rubbish the serious and genuine concerns of the primary stakeholders in his own portfolio. The minister was completely and utterly dismissive of Master Builders Queensland and the HIA. He threw what they said out and said it had no grounding.

I was going to leave this for a little later in my contribution but let me read it now. This is what Master Builders Queensland said about Labor’s new \$75 a tonne waste tax. They said that it will add five figures to the cost of building a new home or undertaking major renovations. I repeat: five figures to the cost of building a new home or undertaking major renovations in the state of Queensland. What did the Minister for Housing and Public Works do? He was completely dismissive of it. He basically said that the industry need to lift their game and change their practices.

Let me address that. If the industry are going to address their practices and reduce their waste, then I would ask the Treasurer why they have banked on \$1.3 billion worth of tax going back into the Treasury coffers. If industries and Queenslanders as a whole are going to change their behaviours on the basis of this waste tax, why has the Treasurer projected that there will be \$1.3 billion in the Treasury coffers? To me, that says it is a complete and utter fraud. They know there are certain industries and certain communities within this state that, no matter how hard, will not be able to produce the kinds of utopian outcomes that the minister is talking about. Therefore, it is going to rain money into the coffers of this Palaszczuk Labor government because they cannot change their practices.

I have had intimate involvement in the toing and froing around a waste tax. Let me address the rationale given by the Palaszczuk Labor government for introducing this in the first place. To do that, we have to accept that they had three or four different ideas as to why they needed a waste tax and it kind of changed depending on which day of the week—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take those interjections. It was a moving feast. Let me start with the first one—that there was an interstate waste problem.

Mr Watts: Big problem in Cairns.

Mr POWELL: They said that there was a convoy of trucks coming across the border dumping waste in Queensland. They said that was because, under the former LNP government, the waste levy was removed, but what did Peter Lyons’s own government endorsed report show? It showed which government oversaw the lowest amount of interstate waste transfer over the last decade. Which government was that? It was the LNP government, with record lows. Why?

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. There were two reasons: first, we worked with the industry, and, second, compliance. We proved in the LNP government that we did not need a waste tax to stop interstate waste transfer. Why did we get interstate waste transfer? That would have been because a Labor state government allowed a Labor local government to open the floodgates.

Mr Watts: Dumping ground in Ipswich.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. Ipswich became the dumping ground of South-East Queensland—not because there was not a waste tax but because a Labor state government with an ineffective state planning minister allowed a Labor local government to open those waste floodgates. Tax had nothing to do with it. The planning minister and the environment minister could have done what we did—police the existing laws, not impose a tax.

After we blew a hole in that one, they went with, ‘Hang on, the Ipswich City Council is having to can the yellow recycling bins. We’ll need a waste tax to fix that because it’s clearly not viable.’ Except two days later the Ipswich City Council said, ‘Actually, no, just kidding. We’re going to put the yellow bins back.’ Rationale No. 2 just went up in a puff of smoke.

Rationale No. 3 was that it was to develop a recycling industry. They wanted to hypothecate money from a waste tax back into a recycling industry. Fine, but how much is being hypothecated back?

An opposition member: Half?

Mr POWELL: No. I take that interjection. Member for Broadwater, is it half, or three-quarters, or one-quarter?

Mr Minnikin: Pick me! Pick me!

Mr POWELL: Member for Chatsworth, is it 10 per cent?

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr POWELL: Exactly, it is just a little over 10 per cent. Of the \$1.3 billion that is going to be raining into the Palaszczuk Labor government’s coffers from this waste tax, how much is going back to develop a recycling industry? It is about \$150 million, or a little over 10 per cent. Sorry, that is not a rationale to make life miserable for all industry and all mums and dads across Queensland.

Mr Janetzki: It’s a smokescreen.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. It is a smokescreen. At the end of the day, they can call it what they want, they can justify it however they want, they can spin it as much as they can, but everyone in Queensland knows what it is. It is a tax and it is consistent with Labor’s solution for everything—tax, tax, tax, tax. They will try to tax their way out of a problem.

Mr Watts: The people of Ipswich deserve better.

Mr POWELL: The people of Ipswich deserve better—I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North—but the entire state of Queensland deserves better. Basically, what we have here is a kneejerk reaction to a problem in one local government. I think it was the member for Toowoomba North who said earlier that there was not a problem in Cairns, that interstate waste was not being transferred to Cairns. I notice that the member for Mirani is nodding too. I bet it was not going up his way to the Broad Sound or anything like that.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr POWELL: They are going to have to pay the tax. The people on the Sunshine Coast are going to have to pay the tax. The people out in Toowoomba are going to have to pay the tax. The people on the Gold Coast, the ones who are closest to the border, were not getting it but they are going to have to pay the tax. Everyone across the state is going to have to pay the tax because the state Palaszczuk Labor government could not stand up to the Labor local government in Ipswich. We had a problem in one local government and we are addressing it with a statewide tax. Then we had the statement by the Premier that Queensland’s families will not face the cost of the levy.


Mr Minnikin: Yeah, right!

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth—yeah, right. These are not my words, but the WRIAQ stated that the government’s claims that Queensland householders will not be impacted by its introduction are incorrect. That says it all. Every single mum and dad, every single small business in the electorate of Glass House, is going to wear the pain and the cost of this new tax.

In the time remaining I want to touch on one aspect—and it was raised during question time—and that is the introduction of the container recycling scheme here in Queensland. It may not have come to the attention of the Minister for Environment yet, but as of today in the electorate of Glass House, an electorate of nearly 1,200 square kilometres with more than 20 communities—we are not that far out of Brisbane; we are right there between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast—we have one

recycling facility. The Envirobank facilities which were operating at Woodford Showgrounds, Beerwah Hotel and Palmwoods Hotel have all been withdrawn. We now have one Return-It at the Bloomhill second-hand store in Maleny.

I am not knocking the container recycling scheme. What I am concerned about is we have a minister who is taking all care and no responsibility. There were commitments given to the people of Queensland that in order for people to participate in this scheme, recycling centres would be located across the state. The electorate of Glass House is less than two hours drive from Brisbane and yet we have one Return-It in Maleny for an electorate the size of 1,200 square kilometres. It is not acceptable. The minister needs to do more. The minister needs to provide recycling centres, whether it be through Envirobank or some other entity, to ensure that the communities of Glass House can participate freely in that container recycling scheme.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.51 am): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that will amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011. This bill fulfils the government's commitment to reform waste management in Queensland.

An important aspect of this bill is that it is reintroducing a levy that the former government repealed in 2012. Following that we saw Queensland become the cheap state to dump rubbish on the eastern seaboard for profit driven interstate waste operators and transporters. In 2017-18 alone, over 1.2 million tonnes of waste came across the border into Queensland from southern states. The massive increase in the number of trucks coming from southern states put pressure on not only our roads but also our landfills and the communities along our interstate highways.

Confronted with this untenable situation, in August 2017 the Queensland government commissioned former Supreme Court judge the Hon. Justice Peter Lyons QC to undertake an investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland. The key finding of Justice Lyons' report was that if the existing waste policy continued, even more waste would likely be transported from southern states into Queensland. Justice Lyons recommended that the Queensland government consider implementing a levy on all waste disposed of at landfills in Queensland. Such action would bring Queensland into line with other mainland states.

A levy would not in itself stop trucks coming to Queensland from southern states, but it would serve as a huge monetary disincentive to transport waste across the Queensland border. The Queensland government has made a commitment that there will be no direct impact on households associated with the introduction of the levy. This will be achieved through annual payments to councils to offset the cost of the levy on municipal solid waste. Local governments will also benefit in the long term from the levy as lower rates of waste going into landfill will reduce operating costs and extend the life span of local government landfills. The levy will also help the LGAQ achieve its target of zero waste by 2035.

Funds raised by the levy will go in part to fund the Levy Ready Grants Program which will assist Queensland councils to upgrade their landfills. One such council where I live is the Somerset Regional Council. With a grant of over \$200,000 to upgrade the Somerset Regional Council landfill at Coal Creek near Esk, this landfill would be made levy ready through the installation of a weighbridge and related software and ICT assets, a gatehouse, service relocation and installation, all-weather access, signage, CCTV and security as well as perimeter fencing and other requirements.

I am confident that the waste levy will significantly reduce the amount of waste that will go into landfills in Ipswich; and reducing the amount of refuse going to Ipswich landfills is something that I will always support. Sadly, it seems that in recent years my wonderful seat of Ipswich, a city I proudly represent in state parliament, has unfortunately become or is poised to become the landfill capital of Queensland. This is not a future I want for Ipswich. While there may be a number of disused coalmines located in Ipswich leaving voids that potentially would be suitable as landfills, unfortunately over time suburbia has encroached on these former mine sites.


Currently, there is a development application by Lantrak Property Holdings (Qld) Pty Ltd being considered by the Ipswich City Council for a 74-hectare industrial waste landfill and associated industrial waste transfer station at Jeebropilly, which is near Amberley in Ipswich. Lantrak is proposing a landfill that would take 300 million cubic metres of restricted waste over an extraordinary 30-year period. The Ipswich City Council is the approving authority but the plan will have to satisfy the requirements of the state Department of Transport and Main Roads as well as the Department of Environment and Science. As such, the state government has a role in determining whether this landfill is approved. It is proposed that the Lantrak facility will be located on the site of the New Hope Group Jeebropilly open-cut mine that is due to close later this year.

While the Jeebropilly mine site is located in the electorate of Scenic Rim, it is only just outside the southern boundary of my electorate of Ipswich West—literally just across the road—so if this landfill proceeds it will directly affect my constituents. I would like to thank those constituents and groups who have contacted me outlining their concerns with regard to the Lantrak development application, particularly the Willowbank Area Group and the Rosewood District Protection Organisation. I was pleased to assist my constituents in lodging their objections with the Ipswich City Council because I believe the concerns of these people should be heard and not ignored. I commend the Willowbank Area Group and the Rosewood District Protection Organisation for raising awareness in the community about the Lantrak development application.

Should the Lantrak proposal be approved, residents in the suburbs of Willowbank, Amberley, Walloon, Ebenezer and surrounding communities will be directly affected. A key objection to the Lantrak proposal relates to the hundreds of B-double truck movements carrying refuse to the landfill each week and the effect this will have on the already heavily congested two-lane Amberley section of the Cunningham Highway. Amberley RAAF base is the largest Air Force base in the Southern Hemisphere with thousands of military and non-military personnel travelling to and from the base each day. The Cunningham Highway is a major artery for interstate traffic heading to Brisbane from southern states. As well as that, this section of the Cunningham Highway is the gateway to Ipswich for residents living in outlying towns like Rosewood, Thagoona, Mount Walker, Rosevale, Harrisville and Warrill View. These are people going to work, taking their children to school, attending doctor's appointments or just going shopping.

I have long supported the construction of the proposed Amberley bypass and have done everything I can to see this project proceed. Unfortunately, there is currently no funding agreement between the Queensland and federal governments to allow these roadworks to proceed. It is hoped the Amberley bypass, when completed, will significantly address the traffic congestion problems on the Cunningham Highway at Amberley. It is hard to imagine that prior to the Amberley bypass being built, the proposed Lantrak waste landfill and industrial waste transfer station will not have a significant effect on traffic congestion on the Amberley section of the Cunningham Highway. I have listened to the people of the Willowbank area and surrounding areas. I fully appreciate their concerns with regard to the Lantrak development application. I would hope that the Ipswich City Council and the Queensland government will do likewise.

In closing, I would like to again confirm that I support the Waste Reduction Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I hope that ultimately it leads to a reduction in the need for more landfills in Ipswich.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.59 am): The design of this waste legislation and the program flowing from it is completely contemptuous of Queenslanders who this Labor government said would not have new taxes. They did not go to the election and clearly state that they were going to introduce this new tax. This Labor government has been completely contemptuous and reckless with regard to small business across Queensland. Did this government model the impact of this new tax on small business? The answer is no. I asked the small business minister what representations she had made in this regard and we have had a completely underwhelming, empty response.

The bottom line is that they did not model the impact on small business in Queensland, and that is just reckless. We have a situation where business confidence among small business in this state is some of the lowest in Australia, yet this government is bringing in a new \$1.3 billion tax with just over 10 per cent going back into environmental recycling programs. A large majority of the cost impact is being borne by business—predominantly small business—so we understand why business confidence is shot in this state. It is completely contemptuous that there was no modelling of the impact of this tax on small business—and it is not a levy: it is a tax. Under this Labor government a third of that \$1.3 billion is going to consolidated revenue, a third to another level of government—councils—to offset their costs and the rest in administration and costs of the scheme. Only just over 10 per cent is actually going into environmental programs.

I do want to champion small business in this place—because this Labor government has not—because they are the ones who create jobs. Contrary to what Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has said, Queensland families will pay the real cost of this badly designed new scheme and badly designed tax impost, which will cost those small businesses jobs. Given that they are the ones who are the majority employers in Queensland, no modelling of its impact on small business was done before this government decided to proceed with this program. It is pretty rich when you hear the housing minister get up and try to make out that somehow it is going to be good for the housing industry, because they

were warned that this is going to cost the average home owner who is doing major renovations or building a new house an extra \$1,000 at least, although the actual figure is mooted to be far above that. When this tax was first mooted it was going to be about \$70 a tonne. Now it is up to \$75 a tonne and increasing by \$5 a year. Once again I reiterate that most of this is not going back into recycling and environmental programs: it is going into the coffers of government.

This Labor government cannot keep its sticky, grubby fingers out of Queenslanders' pockets. It just cannot help itself. What is pretty rich is that they would try and make out that somehow this is for people's good, when they have come up with a program with such a poor return for the amount of money they are taking out of Queenslanders' pockets. Let's have some facts. When the government has that sort of impact on business—taking \$1.3 billion out of the economy with such a poor return back to the programs it is designed to allegedly help—you know that there is more than just waste recycling going on. The government is going to waste that money in a way that is just tragic. We have record levels of businesses that are really struggling in this state, particularly in the regions. Let's talk about the regions. What a big fat whopper this Labor government has spread by claiming that this is all about stopping cross-border waste dumping.

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think that language is unparliamentary and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Member for Maroochydore, that language is lightly unparliamentary, at the lower end of the scale, and I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I take your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are not allowed to say 'whoppers' now. This Labor government has completely and deliberately misled people in a dishonest way, and that is disgraceful.

Ms Trad: I think that was qualified.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the member for Maroochydore had the call. I already made a ruling. If you have another point of order—

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You asked the member to withdraw and she did not withdraw unequivocally.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. This Labor government has deliberately and wantonly abused the trust of Queenslanders by dishonestly telling untruths. Are we allowed to say that?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, it was my ruling and my feeling that she had made a sufficient withdrawal and that it was sufficient at the time. I am satisfied that the member for Maroochydore has sufficiently withdrawn and I ask her to continue.

Ms SIMPSON: This Labor government does not like the fact that we are highlighting how they have dishonestly and wantonly abused the trust of Queenslanders. Cross-border dumping went up under the Labor government: it did not go up under the LNP government.

The other mistruth with respect to cross-border dumping and the justification this government is using for bringing in a tax across Queensland is that there was no cross-border dumping issue affecting Cairns, yet they are going to cop this new tax. You did not have trucks coming over the border and going to Townsville, yet they are copping this new tax. We could go around the state and find many other examples. This new tax is just a furphy—if we are allowed to say the word 'furphy' in this place anymore—with regard to addressing the core issue. There was a better way of addressing the issue of cross-border dumping: firstly, it is about compliance with existing laws; and secondly, not allowing your Labor mates in the Ipswich City Council to make a business out of megadumps and abusing their community with the dumping of rubbish from interstate. Incidentally, it was not an issue on the Gold Coast, which shares a border with New South Wales.


There are many levels at which we can unpick the tissue paper of furchies that this government has put forward as to why they are proceeding with this type of environmental tax. We believe that there are better ways to address cross-border dumping. The answer is not to inflict a new tax across many communities in Queensland when up to a third of the funds go back to consolidated revenue. The small businesses that are impacted are owned by mums and dads and they have families too, so once again it is a furphy for the Premier to say it does not impact Queensland families. Those families are out there, and they are going to cop it under this Labor government.

The shadow minister highlighted the fact that one of the other flaws in this legislation has been the lack of recognition that there are a number of residential dwellings caught under this legislation that will not get a rebate; for example, gated or unit complexes and retirement villages that may have a

commercial arrangement to collect rubbish which is not through the local council. I understand that in response to the shadow minister the minister has given an assurance that that will be dealt with in regulations, but it again goes to the issue that this is a flat new tax without consideration of a range of impacts.

Not long after the middle of this year, as this fat new tax is ripped out of the pockets of Queenslanders—mums and dads who are employing people in their small businesses—and at a multitude of points as it is built into cost structures across Queensland, people will see that they are paying a tax that is not about stopping cross-border dumping; it is about this government taking the money and saying, ‘Thank you very much. We’ll put out a press release saying that this is good for you.’ In reality, it is about propping up their own ineptitude with regard to their financial mismanagement of this state.

Only about \$150 million of the \$1.3 billion raised will go back into environmental programs. About a third will go into consolidated revenue and about a third will go to councils to offset costs. Small businesses deserve to hear that they have been considered, but we have seen no evidence of that from this government. There has been only a tissue paper of fuffies from the government saying that there are people in the building industry who want this, when they are saying to us that it has been so badly designed and those costs will be passed on to everyday Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve better than to have this tax foisted upon them in a way that will impact even more upon small business confidence. Small businesses in the regions are struggling. I do not know if the government has realised this, but it is really tough in many parts of Queensland. This kind of tax only makes it worse.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.11 pm): I commend the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts for bringing what I think is a long overdue piece of legislation into the House. I commend my government colleagues for their unanimous and strong support for what is critical and important environmental policy in our state.

If those opposite find this legislation so abhorrent and think this legislation should not be passed in this House today, then one of them with some authority should get up and commit to repealing it if they win government at the next election. To date, not one of them has had the spine to stand in this place—they have made a number of misrepresentations about the laws we are debating here today—and say that not only are they opposing this legislation but also they will be repealing it should they win the next election. I call on them to back their words with action. If they dislike this legislation so much, they should stand in this place and commit to repealing it.

Let me address some of the issues that have been articulated by those opposite in this debate, particularly the member for Maroochydore, hot on the heels of the member for Broadwater, previously the member for Crisafulli—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: Mundingburra.

A government member interjected.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection from my ministerial colleague—yes, the member for Crisafulli. When he was in this place previously, he led the charge against the waste levy and for its repeal. He should at least have the courage of his convictions to get up and commit to doing this should the LNP win the next election.

Let me address a few misrepresentations. Firstly, the members for Maroochydore and Broadwater said that none of the interstate dumping was happening under their watch. I draw to their attention headlines in the *Australian* during their time in government that detailed all of the waste being trucked from interstate—from Sydney, particularly the redevelopment and demolition of Barangaroo—to Queensland to be dumped for free because they removed the waste levy here in Queensland. This is a problem that started under the LNP government—under the member for Broadwater when he was the minister responsible—and it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is cleaning up their mess.

Those opposite go on about this being a tax on mums and dads. They were not concerned about putting a tax on mums and dads with the duty on everybody’s insurance in this state—raising a billion dollars—while they were in government. They did not cry crocodile tears for mum-and-dad Queenslanders who had to pay insurance on their contents and on their properties—slugging them with an additional duty to raise a billion dollars. They did not cry crocodile tears when they hiked royalty

rates without consulting the minerals and energy council here in Queensland. Those opposite come into this place and go on about raising taxes, but they should look at their own performance when they were in government and how much they slugged mum-and-dad Queenslanders.

Let me ask a very pertinent question. Who do they think pays in the future when there is uncontrolled dumping into landfill? Who do they think pays? Who do they think we are doing this for? We are doing this for the next generation. If we do nothing about the lack of thought and the low levels of recycling in this state—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left.

Ms TRAD: If we do not do anything about ensuring there is a sophisticated waste recycling, re-use and management system in our state, it is my children, their children and their children's children who will have to fix this mess and pay for it. It takes courage to make decisions that are not just about today but also about the future.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left.

Ms TRAD: This is fundamentally about the future of environmental policy in our state and the future of new industries in our state. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has the leadership and the courage to say that we need to take action now.

As the Treasurer of this state who attended the Council on Federal Financial Relations I can say that every single treasurer around that table was talking about waste management and waste levies in Australia. This is a national problem, as the minister has articulated again and again. Queensland is an outlier because we do not have a waste levy. We have become the national dumping ground for rubbish on the east coast of Australia. We need to fix that. Other treasurers acknowledge that—whether they are Liberal treasurers in New South Wales or Labor treasurers in Victoria. They all know that there needs to be national action. They are all pleased that Queensland is taking action to introduce a waste levy, because it means there will be fewer trucks leaving their jurisdictions to dump waste for free in Queensland.

Those opposite should talk to their party colleagues in other jurisdictions about their position in relation to this legislation. If they do they will find that, just as Queensland is an outlier in terms of having no waste levy in this nation, those opposite are outliers when it comes to sensible policy that is supported by the conservative side of politics in other jurisdictions as well as the Labor side of politics.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Broadwater.

Ms TRAD: Every single person of right mind knows that—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left! I will start naming members.


Ms TRAD: Those in other jurisdictions, whether they are Tories or conservatives or Labor, know that this is a national problem that requires a bipartisan approach. We need to act on the significant amount of rubbish that is ending up in landfill. Queenslanders can trust a Labor government, the Palaszczuk Labor government, to take action today—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left! Member for Toowoomba North, I warn you under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD:—for our future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the waste levy legislation. We have just heard from the member for South Brisbane how Queensland is the only mainland state that does not have a levy on the disposal of waste headed to landfill. Unlike the member for South Brisbane, I do not think that is a reason for a new tax. In fact, I think our state being the only one to not have a tax on something is a cause for celebration and something we should be proud of. I am proud to be part of a party that has ruled out introducing any new taxes, because Queenslanders already pay too much.

This is part of \$2.2 billion in new taxes that Labor introduced in its last budget, but let us look at the issue at hand. We cannot deny that Queensland has been an underperformer in resource recovery, with the recovery rate of our waste remaining unchanged over the last decade. Queensland has one of the lowest recycling rates of all jurisdictions. In 2016-17 the recovery rate in Queensland was estimated to be 44.5 per cent, with the highest rate in South Australia of 80 per cent and a national average of 61 per cent. We need a change in understanding and behaviour for these rates to shift.

Theoretically, the only way that a tax could change those rates is by charging people more to try to change their behaviour. However, that is not what Labor is proposing. We have heard the government say many times that this will have no direct impact on households, which has been repeated many times, and on the day of the announcement the Premier said that Queensland families will not face the cost of this levy. If it is about increasing the rate of recycling, how will it do this? Maybe it is the interstate waste problem which has also been raised by many members. Interstate dumping, particularly in Ipswich, is a huge issue, but let us be clear: this is a problem that can be solved at the local government level, particularly with the Ipswich City Council and its continual support and approval of superdumps.

I have spoken before about my family who live at Flinders View and how bad the smell is at their house. Depending on the wind direction, they often have to close the windows. Recycling is restricted and bottles are not allowed in their bins. This not only impacts their day-to-day lives but also hurts their property value. For my mum and dad, that is a big deal. Their house is their main asset and they are proud of it. I spoke to my dad yesterday about this. He works in Brisbane and he said that he regularly cops jokes about where he lives. In fact, when I drive out there I always notice a giant makeshift billboard on the Cunningham Highway saying 'no superdumps' and that road is always full of trucks heading to the dumps around there, but this tax will not stop a single new superdump being approved. It will not fix that problem.

A new state government tax will not stop a single one of these superdumps, and in Ipswich residents are also charged for going to the tip—something locals do not have on the Gold Coast. On the Gold Coast our city's council did have a spike in dumping from outside of the city, but it brought in its own charge on businesses from outside of the city that were off-loading waste there. Since its introduction a number of years ago, we have not had an issue. This is from a council that is closest to the New South Wales border as well.


What about the money side of it? Within the few months that the government had delayed the rollout, it has already shifted the levy to a 2020 figure of \$75 a tonne, so it is unclear what and when the figures will continue to rise. I cannot see how the Premier's guarantee that Queensland families will not face the costs of this levy could ever be fulfilled, particularly as there is a reduction in the amount provided to councils over time. Those opposite keep sprouting the no direct impact line, but Queenslanders are smarter than that. There will be an impact from this and more than anywhere else it will be measured through increasing construction costs, tradie costs and prices that businesses have to charge. I have heard this from a number of businesses in my area, particularly Brian, who runs a skip bin business. This will hit these Queenslanders hard and it would be great if we had a government that would be up-front about that.

What will the money do? We are told that 70 per cent of the levy will go towards councils, the waste industry, scheme start-ups and environmental programs. How about the other third? That goes straight to government coffers. As the member for Broadwater said, barely more than 10 cents in the dollar of the \$1.3 billion raised will go directly towards environmental or resource recovery programs. It is another way for this Labor government to hide how poorly it is managing our state's finances. Whether or not you support a waste tax, for it to have any environmental benefit more has to go to environmental initiatives and not straight into the state government's coffers. We need the government to look outside of taxes.

As I have mentioned before in this chamber, our council is already taking its own measures to ensure that residents are maximising their recycling opportunities. It is showing that you can take action on this without imposing a new tax. Recycle Street opened just last year at the Helensvale waste centre. It is pioneering in its promotion of recycling and empowers people to responsibly recycle different materials. It is doing exactly what this new tax aims to do—ensuring that our avoidable waste is lowered by maximising the opportunities for residents to recycle.

There is a huge issue with illegal dumping in my area already, and that is with a council that already offers a waste service that is practically free. I am personally reporting illegal dumping to council several times a week and getting reports from constituents that they are seeing it at a similar level. I have heard of businesses that are already illegally dumping because of the fees that they have to pay to go to the tip. What is going to happen when more fees are attached?

We have all heard the history on this. The bill was first proposed due to an interstate waste problem, then it became a recycling issue, then it was an issue because of an international trade issue with China and then it became about helping to develop Queensland's recycling industry. It is another tax on Queenslanders that they do not need and it does not contribute much at all to the recycling effort and will no doubt increase illegal dumping and achieve little. Once again the Palaszczuk government only knows how to solve a problem through a new tax. Yes, we need to reduce our avoidable waste; yes, we need to stop interstate dumping; yes, we need to be innovative and cutting edge in our recycling, but the way to do that is not through a new tax. We need real innovation, real solutions and a government that is willing to put in the effort.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.25 pm): I rise to support this important legislation and congratulate the Minister for Environment on introducing this legislation. Our government has acted swiftly in response to the damning findings in the Lyons report. The findings in the report were clear: the LNP's removal of the waste levy did ensure that Queensland was a dumping ground for the rest of the country. Currently Queensland is the only mainland state in Australia that does not have a waste levy and those opposite have been peddling misinformation about the waste levy in an attempt to cover up the fact that its policy caused a 60 per cent increase in interstate dumping.

The levy is a key component of our comprehensive waste strategy for Queensland to increase recycling and create new jobs and economic growth. We have fallen behind the other states since the waste levy was abolished. The repeal robbed us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry. According to the most recent Australian national waste report, Queensland has the lowest waste recovery rate of the states. Not only do we dump more waste than we recycle; the amount of waste that we generate in Queensland is increasing faster than our population growth. When the levy was repealed, Queensland became fair game for profit driven interstate waste operators and transporters.

Mr Power interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection. We absolutely became the dumping ground for interstate waste.

Mr Power: That's what the LNP wants.

Ms FENTIMAN: I again take that interjection: it clearly was what the LNP wanted. The \$100 million Resource Recovery Industry Development Program is designed for local governments, established businesses and not for profits looking to employ proven technologies for resource recovery to improve existing operations or bring significant new facilities to Queensland. It was also recently announced that \$2 million over two years will be provided to deliver measures that will support our construction industry to reduce waste generation in the first instance and increase resource recovery. We are absolutely committed to working with industry and working with the construction sector to ensure that they can play their part in waste minimisation recovery and recycling.


The point is that better waste management translates into new jobs. In an industry that already employs over 6,000 Queenslanders, for every 10,000 tonnes of waste, recycling directly employs 9.2 full-time equivalents whereas landfill supports 2.8. Not only will this policy generate jobs; it will attract industry investment and innovation through recycling and recovery. We are working very closely with our stakeholders and with small businesses. CCIQ and the Australian Industry Group are a part of our stakeholder advisory group which is playing an important role by providing advice and guidance to help shape the development of our strategy and identify ways to minimise the impacts of the waste levy on small businesses.

I am very proud of our government's work with small businesses to deliver the ecoBiz program in partnership with CCIQ. This fantastic program helps businesses reduce the amount of waste, develop waste avoidance and resource efficiency practices and save money at the same time as reducing their environmental footprint. EcoBiz has partnered with homegrown Queensland business Perfect Potion and produced fantastic results. It has reduced its energy usage by over 50 per cent, its water usage by 75 per cent and its waste landfill by a whopping 65 per cent. This fantastic program is getting results for small businesses and I am really pleased that we are doing this in partnership with CCIQ to help our small businesses not only save money but also reduce their environmental footprint. This program is about planning for Queensland's future. I am proud that we committed an extra \$3.9 million in our last budget to continue and expand the ecoBiz program over the next few years.

The \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan is also supporting our small businesses to make electricity more affordable for residential and business customers. Under our plan, the government is delivering the \$20 million Business Energy Savers Program, which provides free energy audits for agricultural and

large electricity-using business customers. This is a win-win. Our small businesses are saving money at the same time as reducing their environmental footprint, which means that the next generations will not have to confront this problem in its entirety, because we are doing our bit now to plan for the future.

The Queensland government is absolutely committed to reducing the cost of doing business in Queensland and to putting in place the environment for small businesses to start, grow and employ. I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.29 pm): In so many ways the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill provides a snapshot of how the Palaszczuk government treats the Queensland public. This bill imposes a new tax—a waste levy that was not flagged before the election. It is not a small tax. Queenslanders will stump up around \$1.3 billion over the next four years to pay their levy. This levy is being imposed despite the skyrocketing cost of living owing to the cost of essentials, such as electricity and bulk water, for townships. Part of the reason these costs are skyrocketing is that the government has a monopoly on supply and is imposing hidden taxes through those charges. We have another tax that was not flagged. While we struggle with record unemployment, record debt, the government is imposing cost-of-living increases. Labor does not expect people to view this levy as a tax.

When the government first floated the concept, it said that it was needed because waste dumping from New South Wales and Victoria had become an issue. In a typical piece of Labor arrogance, it is okay with a levy imposed across the state for a problem that effectively does not exist north of Ipswich. We could not see a clearer statement that the ALP thinks that Queensland exists only in a tiny little part of the south-east corner. For the problem to exist, there is a requirement for proximity to other states and interstate road networks that most Queenslanders just do not have.

In my electorate, I am already seeing Western Queenslanders excluded from Labor's other great waste initiative, the container exchange. There are only two depots for that exchange west of Emerald. People are driving in to return containers and then buying their supplies and provisions in that larger centre. This is yet another blow to rural towns and operators of small businesses like Bob Stubbs, the publican at Jericho. Even though every grocery item that comes in an eligible container has undergone a price increase of up to 15 cents to cover the cost of the scheme, effectively, people from Longreach west are unable to participate at all in that scheme. Western Queenslanders are paying the inflated price but cannot return the containers to obtain the refund.


Thankfully, schedule 2 of this bill will exempt remote council areas in my electorate from the levy, because distance and freight costs mean that they already have to be self-sufficient. However, my constituents in the Central Highlands and people right across regional and rural Queensland will suffer from this bill. They will pay a levy and receive no benefit. When anything in a town such as Springsure is built, the people of that area will have to pay for the construction waste to be trucked out of town to a commercial landfill. They will also pay this waste levy.

Faced with all of these objections and in danger of being unmasked as serial tax hikers, what did Labor do? It changed its story—another typical move. Now, the bill is not about Ipswich, or Labor's failure to enforce existing laws, or interstate waste dumpers. Suddenly, owing to China closing down its waste trade, Queensland will be buried beneath a mound of rubbish. According to the minister, it was urgent that Queensland develop its own recycling industry and a waste levy is needed to fund that. That is another typical con. Less than 10 per cent—or 10 cents in every dollar—of tax raised will go towards funding the Queensland recycling industry. The rest of the staggering \$1.3 billion will go into consolidated revenue to fund Labor's Public Service wage bill, or other Labor fads. Now, at last, we see behind the mask and all the excuses. What do we see? Labor, once again having spent all of our taxes.

Labor assumes that the media and the general public are fools that can be distracted by pretty shiny things and never notice what is really going on. I hope the members opposite are sure of that. Perhaps they should consider the wise words of Graham Richardson, a former federal environment minister and Labor's numbers man. Richo would tell them, 'Sooner or later the mob will work you out.' I would take some comfort from this except that, in the meantime, struggling Queenslanders will be slugged.

Not even the elderly will escape. There will be no exemption for aged-care homes or retirement villages. They will be hit with another tax. There will be no exemption for northern towns, including Townsville, which already has high unemployment and which has now been decimated by a natural disaster. Every home owner renting a temporary shelter in Townsville while trying to repair their home will be paying two household waste levies to the Palaszczuk government while they do it. It may take nine months to a year before their homes are livable again, but they will be paying the waste levy on both properties the whole time while they are waiting to go home.

Labor needs to rethink this legislation. Most Queenslanders would have learned by now that 'price signals' are weasel words for increased taxes. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, trying to tax your way to prosperity is like a man in a bucket trying to lift himself up by the handle. I cannot support this dishonest and disgraceful levy and I will not support this bill.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak of my deep concerns about the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Although the basic intent of this bill has some merit, I strongly believe that its implementation guidelines are badly targeted and will present an added financial burden to many who are already experiencing hard times, especially those living in regional Queensland.

The initial pretence of the measures within this bill was that they were a remedy for many years of interstate waste being transported across the New South Wales-Queensland state border. The figures for 2017-18 indicate that 1.2 million tonnes of rubbish was imported from interstate—an increase of 37 per cent. Virtually all of that waste is being disposed in waste facilities operated by a couple of for-profit corporate operators in South-East Queensland. What is being achieved by imposing a price signal, starting at \$75 per tonne, on honest Queensland ratepayers and small businesses, of whom many live in excess of 1,000 kilometres north of the New South Wales border?

Personally, I am all for promoting waste and recycling where there are economic gains that can be financially justified, and that is well reflected in an 82 per cent recovery rate under the existing arrangements. I represent a regional and mostly rural electorate of 32,000 electors spread across 63,000 square kilometres and four local government areas. For the benefit of those members who may not understand the extent of this area, I point out that regional Queensland is a big place and for many of my constituents within the electorate of Mirani, doing the right thing can mean loading up and making a 30- to 150-kilometre round trip to access the nearest council transfer station or landfill. In effect, nothing less than an hour or two from already busy lives will be consumed undertaking a single trip to a waste disposal facility, not to mention the fuel cost incurred. This is assuming that the vehicle has been carefully stacked to allow the recyclables to be off-loaded first whilst maximising what can be transported safely that distance and arrive intact.


How can the Queensland government justify lumping a new waste levy on top of this sort of unavoidable, existing expense relating to living or operating a small business in rural areas that fall within boundaries of the leviable zone? In Queensland, and especially in my electorate, many people have no disposable income and no disposable time. Often people have to stay back at work. That results in little kids getting left on the bus and having to go back to schools to be looked after.

To play devil's advocate, the waste levy is sure to trigger more than a few loads of waste being dropped off in a creek or in our pristine mangroves under the cover of darkness, or more unwanted and worthless junk being off-loaded on to the good folk who manage various charity bins. We see that all the time. People are not going to dumps. They are just throwing their rubbish at St Vinnie's, or wherever. It is happening right now.

Ultimately, no amount of beefing up the financial penalty is going to solve these problems. It will very likely leave an even larger and costly mess for local councils and private landholders. It must be recognised that local councils within my electorate already shoulder a heavy burden in managing existing waste and recycling measures and do so with slim budgets while keeping commercial charges at close to cost to avoid dampening much needed economic activity. The side effects of the waste levy bill mean that councils will be impacted with the burden of having to install additional weighbridges and CCTV monitoring systems, costing upwards of \$250,000, for a mere few thousand vehicles per annum to accept a small percentage of Queensland's total waste stream.

To put things in context, Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Redlands and Moreton operate under a similar number of waste facilities combined but have the population many magnitudes larger to share the regulatory and infrastructure cost burdens. On the other hand, large South-East Queensland landfills and waste transfers would likely see that sort of traffic in a single business day. Ultimately, I see this bill presenting many small regional council owned waste facilities with unwanted administrative burdens and having to pass on the costly impost to their dwindling ratepayer bases or, worse still, close waste facilities making travel distances even further for many ratepayers.

In returning to my opening comments, the initial problem was with New South Wales waste being dumped on the cheap in Queensland. Why on earth are honest regional Queenslanders being slugged with additional costs for their waste disposal? As it stands, in all good conscious I will be voting against the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill represents a significant opportunity to modernise waste management in Queensland through the reintroduction of a waste disposal levy. Queensland has an enviable reputation for many things; our pristine beaches, natural environment, city building, growth and general way of life being amongst them. Being the interstate waste dumping capital is not. When the former LNP Newman government repealed the waste levy in 2012 it made Queensland a cheap place to dump interstate waste and robbed us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry. Since 2012 over 3.5 million tonnes of waste has been trucked across the border into Queensland, including 1.2 million tonnes in 2017-18 alone.

We are currently the only mainland state without a waste levy and it has sent a market signal that has seen the volume of interstate waste, largely construction demolition waste and contaminated soil, transported into Queensland increase by more than 50 per cent in each of the past two years. The final report from the Hon. Peter Lyons QC, commissioned by our government to investigate transport of waste into Queensland, conclusively found that the significant incentive identified for participants in the waste industry to transport their waste from other states into Queensland is financial. Further, that the introduction of a levy would avoid such an incentive and bring Queensland into line with New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and many overseas jurisdictions. We cannot afford not to do something.

Waste data for the 2017-18 financial year shows that growth in Queensland's waste per capita has outstripped population growth by 11 per cent over the last eight years. The state's recovery rate is virtually unchanged over the same period and is almost 30 per cent below the top performing jurisdiction, South Australia, at 77 per cent. To reach the national average recovery rate, Queensland would need to recover an additional 1.5 million tonnes of waste, a 38 per cent increase on the volume currently recovered. At 48 per cent, Queensland's waste recovery rate is the second lowest of the eight states and territories. These figures are sobering and they paint a picture of the trajectory we will continue to follow as a state if a cogent and consistent policy position is not articulated for waste management in this state.

This bill represents an opportunity to set a course that reduces waste into landfill and allows for investment in new and expanded resource recovery infrastructure and the associated jobs such investment creates. A report prepared by the Queensland Treasury Corporation identified that 10,000 tonnes of waste going into landfill supports three jobs. Recycling that same waste is estimated to generate nine jobs. Based on Queensland's current disposal to landfill and the Deloitte Access Economics employment ratios, there is potential for the creation of 3,000 additional direct jobs from improved waste management practices in this state. This is in addition to the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding the unproductive use of land and minimising potential environmental issues.


My electorate of Nudgee is home to one of four resource recovery centres—or tips or dumps, to use the common vernacular—in the BCC boundaries at Nudgee beach. The incredible juxtaposition is that only two minutes down the road you will find the precious Nudgee Beach Reserve, Nudgee Waterholes Reserve, Nudgee Bora Ring, Moreton Bay Marine Park and Boondall Wetlands. I want my children and their children, and all children living in my electorate, to actually have a place to visit. That takes leadership; not more dumps, but more innovative solutions, and this government is taking responsibility and having vision.

Importantly, the Queensland government has made a commitment that there will be no direct impact on households associated with the introduction of this levy. I say to the people of my electorate, you will not have to pay more to put your wheelie bin out. Our government committed \$32 million in this year's state budget to ensure advance payments can be made to councils. Councils will receive a 105 per cent advance payment for the waste. This means they will be paid more than what it actually costs to send their waste to landfill so there is no reason the BCC should increase your rates due to the waste levy. I am sure I am not the only member in this House who has experienced the disingenuous practice of some local councillors to constantly shift blame for council issues onto the state government. This commitment is an important one. There is no reason for council to increase your rates due to the waste levy.

Proceeds from the levy will be reinvested into programs to boost the recycling and resource recovery sector in Queensland. For example, the Queensland government has announced that \$100 million has been allocated to a Resource Recovery Industry Development Program designed to invest in Queensland's resource recovery infrastructure. Stream 1 of the program closed on 23 November 2018 and received 76 applications. I am proud to say that my electorate is represented

in this mix of applications. Last week I met with an applicant from a local business, Rosenlund Contractors, who is passionate about seeing Queensland follow the Netherlands example which has a recovery rate of 98 per cent with a significant proportion of that through energy recovery. This is absolutely something to aspire to.

This bill represents a significant opportunity to modernise waste management in Queensland. I am proud to be a member of a government that is showing leadership in this space. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.46 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There is much to welcome in this bill that, in short, introduces a levy on most waste going into landfill across a large area of Queensland, as well as allocating money to local councils which they are required to use to compensate households for any impact on rates that might flow on from the new levy.

In Queensland just 45 per cent of all waste is recovered or recycled, which makes Queensland the second worst in the country, just ahead of the Northern Territory. When the Newman government scrapped our old waste levy and we saw the dump trucks come from New South Wales and treat Queensland like a trash heap, the Greens condemned it. We called for the levy to be restored. We were hopeful in 2015 when Campbell Newman was removed that it would be restored immediately, but unfortunately we have had to wait for Labor's second term to see this welcome step.

The levy is part of a broader government strategy on waste which was announced this week. The Greens welcome it and commend the government for that strategy. We need to move towards a zero waste circular economy. The Greens support the government's objective to cut waste going to landfill by 10 per cent by 2050, but we could be moving much faster than that and should be aiming for 100 per cent recycling, composting and waste recovery.

Whenever we are talking about waste and resource consumption, it is incredibly important to remember who the real villain is. Environmentalists have sometimes fallen into the trap of blaming everyday people for problems caused by greedy corporate interests. Big companies are, in reality, the ones that benefit from a system that treats resources and the environment as disposable. While individuals can obviously make a personal contribution, and good policies to drive behaviour change are imperative, it is the behaviour of companies that must ultimately change and governments must drive this. In fact, ordinary people in Queensland are broadly already doing their part and have taken up kerbside recycling with gusto. It is one of the most successful environmental programs around. People from all walks of life up and down the state participate. By contrast, it is the big end of town and governments that are not yet pulling their weight.

I acknowledge and support the government's commitment that households will not face any extra direct costs as a result of the levy. It is crucial that the government's funding for local councils to compensate households is reviewed robustly to make sure it is doing its job. The bill, as I understand it, does not deal directly with that spending, and if it did the Greens would be pursuing amendments to ensure that the household sector as a whole does not pay more.

People in my electorate on Brisbane's westside overwhelmingly support this kind of waste reduction initiative and are keenly aware we need to do more to protect our environment. In fact, it has been really positive to see the response to both the plastic bag ban and the container deposit scheme. I have had so much correspondence from locals who are looking to set up their own little initiatives to do their part.

If we are going to minimise waste going into landfill, I urge the government to speed up the rollout of the container deposit scheme. In my electorate, in the inner city, there is a solitary location where residents can return used containers—UQ at St Lucia—and for months there was none. For pensioners or those without a car, it is just not practical. Those running the scheme, including the government and big beverage companies, must do better.

This new waste levy is projected to raise about \$1.3 billion a year. Labor has announced that \$100 million will be allocated to the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. The main project in the running for a slice of that funding which is under discussion is the Remondis waste to energy plant at Swanbank. Waste to energy is a nice little piece of green speak, but we really do need to call this what it is. It is an incinerator. Burning rubbish is not clean energy.

It is also alarming to read in draft waste strategy that Labor seems to be hinting that incinerating rubbish could count towards the 50 per cent renewable energy target for 2030. The draft waste strategy released yesterday sets out the hierarchy of waste management. In that hierarchy the best option is avoiding waste, then reusing, then recycling and only then is there any role for burning waste to create energy, just above landfill.

This just makes sense. There is no argument from me about the common sense in the treatment of waste in that order. What we do not see yet in any form other than policy rhetoric is an explanation of how this hierarchy will be made to work in practice. While the government is doing all it can to give this rubbish a commercial value as feed stock for an incinerator, how will it ensure that the hierarchy is not muddled and the incineration of recyclable or recoverable materials becomes accepted practice?

The Greens do not support burning rubbish in place of developing a more sophisticated recycling and waste recovery industry. We do support biodigesters, commercial scale composting and other technologies that do not involve burning that tends to increase health risks. This is crucial. The impacts on human health and the impacts on the local food supply of burning trash are still not well understood, but we know that burning rubbish mobilises dangerous fine particulate matter, lead, mercury and dioxins which are carcinogenic.


In April 2018 the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment recommended against a similar proposal in western Sydney saying that, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority in New South Wales, New South Wales Health and independent experts, the department had found the air quality impacts and risks to human health were unknown. Queensland's air quality regime is, at the moment, very weak. We know that coalmines and coal-fired power station already get away with routine exceedences above safe limits so why should we expect that our underfunded regulators are going to be able to do a better job now?

It is sadly typical that Ipswich is being treated like a sacrifice zone in this instance. Unfortunately, the Minister for State Development and the member for Ipswich have been out there playing cheerleaders for this multinational company, Remondis, which has proposed this incinerator.


If Labor is so confident that the Ipswich community supports this proposal, I would invite them to put it to a community vote. We already see the concern in the community—for example, with the petition that I think is before this parliament and open at the moment by Cornelia Turnie from East Ipswich which has over 4,000 signatures of people opposing this incinerator. Plenty of Ipswich residents do not want to see it go ahead, and who can blame them? Even the administrator at Ipswich City Council has made comments to this effect. Ipswich has already been a dump for New South Wales for too long and it now seems that they are at risk of playing the same role, just with an incinerator as the delivery point for the interstate dump trucks.

The Greens support the campaign by local residents against dangerous, polluting trash incinerators at Ipswich. I, along with other local Greens, intend to be at the rally that is being hosted by Ipswich Residents Against Toxic Environments, or IRATE as they are called. It is being held at d'Arcy Doyle Place on Saturday, 9 March at 10 am. I would encourage the local members to attend and hear from locals firsthand.

I support this bill and very much welcome the progress it represents, but I call on Labor to rule out any funding for trash incinerators from the proceeds of the levy.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.53 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The bill before us today is a desperate attempt by Labor to implement a new tax with a growing legacy of economic vandalism. In this state, debt will be \$83 billion by 2021-22. There will be significantly higher unemployment. This government has no plans for the western suburbs of Brisbane when it comes to transport and educational infrastructure. This proposed Labor tax is the legislative and budgetary equivalent of a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (12.54 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their participation in the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As I said yesterday, there is an absolute groundswell of community support for improving how we manage waste. Queenslanders are increasingly conscious of waste as an economic and environmental issue.

Our kids get this. One only needs to go to any school in Queensland to find that our children already understand how important it is to modernise our waste management systems. They understand the importance of recycling. They understand the issues around increasing waste to landfill, what it means for our environment and the actual inheritance they are receiving from us in terms of the way we manage waste in this state. They get it.

More and more Queenslanders are getting on board. That is why we have had this overwhelming response to the container refund scheme, for instance. That is why we have seen people become more conscious of the use of plastics and the use of plastics bags. We have seen some reports that there has been a 90 per cent reduction in plastic bags. Queenslanders get this and they want action from their government.

I reflect on the Treasurer's comments in her contribution to the debate that this is about the future. It is about what we are leaving our kids and their kids and what they will have to pay if we do not do something now. It is absolutely crucial and critical that we modernise the waste management system in Queensland and bring ourselves into line with the rest of the nation to ensure that we are not leaving a legacy for our kids that will put them even further behind their cousins in the other states and territories.

Quite frankly, households are telling all of us that they are willing to play their part in modernising waste management. The government will ensure they are protected from any direct impact of the levy through the annual payments to local governments. Enormous benefits will flow to the waste and recycling industry and local communities from this bill. The levy will stimulate investments in alternatives to landfill and fund the use of new technologies to sort and re-use materials and recycle waste.

The waste levy will encourage and support change by local governments as they consolidate waste disposal sites, convert ageing and inefficient landfills and meet community expectations. It will help local governments achieve the Local Government Association of Queensland's own ambiguous target of zero waste to landfill by 2035. This levy will assist our local governments with the target they have set themselves of zero waste to landfill by 2035. This will assist in terms of making sure that we have the right market drivers to assist in all of that.

Changes to waste management in Queensland are already beginning in anticipation of the levy. Some 34 councils were successful in their applications to the \$5 million 2018-19 Local Government Levy Ready Grants Program. These grants will assist councils get ready for the levy, but in many cases will also fund progress towards their own long-term waste management strategies. Applications are also currently being considered for the first round of resource recovery grants under the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program, while expressions of interest and applications are being accepted under the two streams.

What we have heard from this side of the House is understanding of where Queenslanders are right now with regard to this issue. We know that Queenslanders are expecting their government to do something about waste management to reduce the amount of waste that we are seeing going to landfill and the amount of waste that we see in our environment. We know that the waste that ends up in landfill contributes to emissions. We want to be able to reduce that. Many Queenslanders at this time are absolutely tuned in to issues around climate change and the actions that we all need to take to be able to mitigate and reduce the risk of climate change and climate risk in everything that we do. It is timely that we are bringing this bill to the House so that we are able to give confidence to the industry and to Queenslanders that there is something that we can all do to secure the future of our kids.

What we heard from the opposition yesterday and much of today is a complete disconnection to what Queenslanders are wanting from their government. We have heard rubbish about dishonesty, rubbish about how Queensland does not need a waste levy and, worst of all, rubbish about how waste levy funds will be spent in our state. Mostly what we heard from the opposition sounded a lot like they were defending one of the worst decisions they made when they were in government. That is a big statement because there were a lot of terrible decisions made when they were in government. Quite frankly, this was one of the worst decisions they made. It is important to remember that the only reason Queensland is in the situation we are currently in, where we are on the receiving end of interstate dumping and interstate dumping is on the rise—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Minister, please move that the debate be now adjourned.

Debate, on motion of Ms Enoch, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Robinson, Ms B

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.00 pm): Today I table a petition with over 25,000 signatures from concerned Queenslanders seeking justice for Breeana Robinson.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition relating to request for review of grant of bail for Dan Shearin (Jayden Moorea) [[184](#)].

Despite the delays in seeking justice for Bree, her family—specifically her aunt Janine Mackney—never gave up fighting. Janine and her daughter are in the gallery today. She is a truly inspirational woman and is the embodiment of strength. She is also supported by Betty Taylor from the Red Rose Foundation. She has never accepted the initial view that Bree took her own life and has spearheaded a relentless campaign to convince authorities otherwise.

After years of fighting, an inquest into Bree's death was successfully secured last year and this ultimately led to an arrest. However, the story does not end there. Bree's family, specifically Janine, started this petition out of desperation earlier this month. To add to this, concerns were also raised in the media about the lack of GPS trackers available on the Gold Coast—a situation which has been spoken about before on several occasions and until last week nothing was done about it. In fact, last year the police minister denied there was even an issue with the availability of GPS trackers on the Gold Coast. Labor's inability to get it right when it comes to GPS trackers on dangerous criminals is a topic for another speech on another day.

This petition, which has the support of 25,000 people, seeks an urgent review by the Attorney-General of this matter. The willingness of the Labor government to let dangerous offenders walk free speaks to their inability to adequately protect our community and meet community expectations.


In 2017, the LNP introduced the toughest domestic violence and bail laws in the country, and at every turn this government has failed to properly uphold them. Our bail laws were about putting victims and their families ahead of perpetrators. It was always based on the premise: if in doubt, don't let them out. That is why we supported a presumption against bail. That is why we wanted GPS tracking introduced. That is why we wanted victims and their families to be automatically notified of bail and parole decisions regarding perpetrators.

Disappointingly, Labor played politics with that issue which was in the wake of the tragic murder of Teresa Bradford. Labor simply do not place a high enough value on the protection of victims, their families and the broader community. I implore the Attorney-General to urgently review this matter. I table a letter from the shadow Attorney-General in that regard.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 February 2019, from the member for Toowoomba South, Mr David Janetzki MP, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, requesting an application for revocation of bail for Jayden Moorea (Dan Shearin) [\[185\]](#).

I am very pleased to support Janine and the rest of 'Bree's Army' in sponsoring this petition—and on behalf of the broader community. I urge the Attorney-General to meet with Bree's family today and consider this important community safety issue today.

Queensland Economy

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.03 pm): Today I want to talk about the economic stewardship of the Palaszczuk government as compared with that of the federal coalition government. I was compelled to draw this comparison when a coalition ad for the federal election seized my attention. It featured a picture of a wrecking ball on the economy, with a voice-over saying, 'You can't trust Labor with money.' How laughable is that, when all the evidence over the last few years points to the fact that you cannot trust the LNP with the economy at any level? In fact, in Queensland we have proved that you can trust only Labor with the economy.


In Queensland, only Labor provides a strong economic plan and responsible fiscal management. The net operating surplus is now \$524 million—up from \$376 million on the budget. We have state budget surpluses totalling almost \$1 billion over the next four years. That is despite a forecast reduction in GST revenue of \$770 million. The growth in gross state product is forecast to strengthen to three per cent this financial year.

Under Labor's responsible fiscal management, we can invest in new jobs, new industries and infrastructure. Only Labor invests in the infrastructure that Queensland needs. We have a \$46 billion investment in infrastructure over the next four years under the Palaszczuk government—and investment in infrastructure means investment in jobs. Only Labor invests in jobs for Queenslanders. A total of 186,000 jobs have been created since the Palaszczuk government was elected. Only Labor invests in the industries we need as well. It was Labor that built and backed Queensland's \$60 billion LNG industry, with our LNG pipeline. The value of our exports is now at a record high of \$94 billion. That is greater than that of New South Wales and Victoria combined. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected, export values have gone up 81 per cent.

Contrast that to the woeful economic management of the Morrison government. Everything, as we have heard, is going up, except wages. Wage growth is now at a 2.2 per cent average compared to 3.6 per cent under Labor federal governments. Living standards have stagnated. The real net national disposable income per capita is 2.5 per cent under the LNP, compared to 7.6 per cent under previous Labor governments.

The cost of living keeps rising. Private health premiums are up 30 per cent. The cost of long-day child care has gone up 24 per cent. The Liberals have doubled net debt to a record high of \$360 billion and gross debt is now over half a trillion dollars. It is laughable for the LNP to try to use that old line of 'you can't trust Labor with money'. The public knows the LNP's true record: you cannot trust them with the nation's money.

Office of Industrial Relations, CFMMEU

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.06 pm): I have spoken recently about the alleged targeted campaign of harassment by the Office of Industrial Relations, the CFMMEU and Ms Helen Burgess and others of the Office of Industrial Relations against Enco Precast Pty Ltd. It is clear that the actions of Ms Burgess, a director at Workplace Health and Safety, call into question the independence of the Office of Industrial Relations. It has been compromised. It appears that the CFMMEU have Ms Burgess' mobile number on speed dial. I table a timeline of events prepared by Enco evidencing the targeted campaign pursued by Ms Burgess on behalf of the CFMMEU against Enco Precast.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Enco Precast Pty Ltd—Timeline of events with Office of Industrial Relations' [186].

On 19 December 2018 I wrote to the CCC requesting an investigation into Ms Burgess's conduct. On 21 December 2018 I wrote to the acting deputy director-general, Mr Tony James, advising of my referral and requested an independent officer take over dealings with Enco. I table copies of that correspondence, as well as correspondence between HopgoodGanim Lawyers and the Office of Industrial Relations.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence, various dates, relating to interactions between Enco Precast Pty Ltd and the Office of Industrial Relations [187].

Former deputy director-general, Mr Simon Blackwood, has gone. Where is Mr Blackwood? I understand he was not happy that the CFMMEU had infiltrated the Office of Industrial Relations and fought back against it. All of a sudden a senior public servant with Labor links who has worked for both sides of politics has gone. Evidence of threats, intimidation and trespassing are all clearly detailed in the correspondence.

The watchdog has recently brought action against CFMMEU organiser Blake Hynes after he allegedly called the general manager of Enco Precast an 'f'—expletive—dog 'c'—expletive—during a safety inspection and made other verbal threats of intimidation. This unacceptable conduct is seemingly endorsed by Ms Burgess and the Office of Industrial Relations and the Labor government.

There are countless examples of Ms Burgess's unacceptable, unreasonable and unethical conduct arising from her targeted campaign of harassment against Enco Precast. We have evidence of falsified complaints, forced entry without basis, unreasonable threats of contravention notices, unreasonable time frames for responses, and inspectors unclear of the purpose of inspections after being dispatched by Ms Burgess.


There has also been the unprecedented step of the regulator demanding all names, addresses and phone numbers of every employee at Enco Precast. This is despite an officer's advice who headed up an audit on 7 January that the regulator has no need for this information. It is because the CFMMEU wants that information of the employees.

I call on the minister to release the phone records between Ms Burgess and the CFMMEU. I call on the minister to advise this House of inspectors' union affiliations employed within the Office of Industrial Relations and what conflicts have been disclosed. This conduct by the regulator falls so far outside of section 152 of the Work Health and Safety Act that this minister is either complicit or just incompetent. Ms Burgess should be stood down with an independent investigation.

The minister says it takes longer than 10 minutes to get from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane. Yes—that was my point yesterday. Ms Burgess was waiting around the corner, having received a phone call from the CFMMEU, because she knew to come from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast.

(Time expired)

Spring Mountain State School

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.09 pm): The first day of the 2019 school year was extra special for the students of Spring Mountain State School as they took their seats in the state's newest school. It was wonderful to be joined by the Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to welcome excited families to the new school on its opening day.


As the local member, it has been so fulfilling to see the development of this new school in my electorate. From visiting the school when it was still very much a construction site to seeing students playing in the grounds on the first day, Spring Mountain State School is a \$40 million investment and one which will serve our growing community of Spring Mountain well into the future.

Spring Mountain students will enjoy state-of-the-art, new facilities including 30 modern classrooms, music and science rooms, a resource centre and a multipurpose hall. I would like to congratulate Plenary Schools and Watpac who were involved in the construction of the new school, which was the final school to be built under the \$1.52 billion Queensland Schools Public Private Partnership. They have designed and constructed a truly beautiful school. Of course we know that, whilst the physical nature of a school is an important element of the education journey, it is developing and nurturing the school community that has the most lasting impact. I would like to acknowledge Spring Mountain State School's new principal, Cherie Moore, who along with dedicated teachers and staff has already created an incredibly welcoming and inclusive school environment. This was no accident, with Principal Moore working closely with local families through a community reference group to make decisions on everything from the school name and school motto 'Leading by Example' as well as uniform colours and designs, and the very important school mascot, Monty the Lion.

I attended a public meeting with the community which was inclusive of all views and a follow-up open night for new families where they were able to delve more deeply into the curriculum, meet the new teachers and get ahead on the important uniform purchases. What was clear on these evenings and certainly on the first day of school is that our Spring Mountain families already feel a strong sense of ownership of the new school. It was wonderful to see all of the discussions, vision and decisions made by the community become a reality on day one, and I am confident that our new school in Spring Mountain will become the hub of this emerging community.

As the state member in a growing region, I want to ensure that all our schools have the capacity to meet the needs of our students. Importantly, we are also looking ahead to further emerging areas within our region. An example of this is within the growing area of Greenbank, where land has already been earmarked for a new future primary school under the Greater Flagstone priority development scheme. Our government values education. We see the incredible difference good education can make in a young person's life, and I am proud to be part of a government that continues to invest in quality education for all Queensland children.

Weather Events, Floods

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.12 pm): I would like to wish my wife, Alicia, a happy Valentine's Day and thank her for all the love and support she gives me.

I would also like to take a moment to recognise the unsung heroes of the recent North Queensland severe weather warning. It was a pleasure to work side by side with the Holcim concrete crew in the rain using sandbags and other equipment trying to save homes. I also commend the TCC councillors for their tireless efforts, with special mention of Councillor Margie Ryder. Hats off to the work of the Townsville Local Disaster Management Group, under Jenny Hill's leadership, and each and every participant in that group. They did what was necessary to see us through a natural disaster while mitigating the risk the damage caused to our city.


I would like to thank every volunteer, ADF, QFES, SES and TCC employee, state members and government officials who helped during that event, and a special mention to Ergon for keeping the power on and restoring it when they could. I may have missed some people in my thankyou's. For anyone I have missed, I appreciate what you have done and thank you very much.

We are also facing a monumental task of cleaning up and rebuilding North Queensland as we band together to get through this. Every donation has been well received, but now it is time that we put insurance companies on notice. I say to every insurance company that has sold a policy to clients in affected areas: honour your policies or else. We will name and shame you, we will sort out the good from the bad, and we will nail your names to the post to see who has been naughty and nice. Otherwise

it will be a dark time for you this year as policy renewals come around. Already we are getting calls from insurance claimants reporting bullying and technicalities highlighted in their product disclosure statement that make their claim hard to process. I also put the QBCC on notice. Do your job and oversee the building and construction industry during this time. Let us get this done right the first time. We can ensure that all homes are repaired to the highest of standards by using local reputable contractors. Every home owner has a choice of repairer, and I urge people to not agree to repairs or works they are not comfortable with.

Lastly, I urge insurance companies to review their contractual agreements with repairers. Sixty day accounts on works completed put the little guy out of the game and create a scenario where larger out-of-town contractors have the chance to capitalise on our misfortune. In our time of need we warn you: do not leave North Queensland out in the dark or we will leave you out in the cold.

Central Queensland, Health Services

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.15 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on our commitment to restore front-line services. In the past few weeks I have had the pleasure to welcome an influx of highly skilled emergency services and health personnel to bolster our Central Queensland front line. The appointment of new doctors, nurses, midwives and paramedics continues the Palaszczuk government's drive to ensure Queenslanders have access to the best services possible.


In Central Queensland residents in need of pre hospital emergency care will be better serviced due to 10 new Queensland Ambulance Service front-line staff in the region. The Emu Park Ambulance Station is one station which benefited, with three new advanced care paramedics joining the station. I was pleased to meet the new paramedics at the station last week. These additional ambulance staff will mean an improvement in response times and will result in improved officer safety through the removal of single-officer response situations. The Gracemere Ambulance Station also received a major boost to its paramedic numbers with the seven additional officers promoting the station from a category 4 to category 5 station.

I would like to thank the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the health minister, Steven Miles, for providing the QAS with a record operating expenditure budget of \$800.3 million in the 2018-19 financial year so that these extra staff could be deployed. We also welcomed another intake of new junior doctors to the hospital and health services in the Central Queensland region as part of a massive graduation of 780 across the state. Putting boots on the ground in our local hospitals is critical for ensuring the future health of our local communities.

The size of this round of new junior doctors reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to rebuilding Queensland's health system. I congratulate and welcome all of our new doctors, in particular Dr Clay Renwick, who will work out of the Capricorn Coast Hospital. It was a pleasure to meet Dr Renwick recently. He told me how pleased he was to be posted at such a beautiful location—something which I have to agree with him on.

The Palaszczuk government has increased the number of nurses and midwives by 137 since coming to government in 2015. Just two weeks ago my colleague the member for Rockhampton and I welcomed 57 new nurses and midwives who will be posted across Central Queensland as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to hiring 100 new nurses and midwives across Queensland. There will be two of these midwives in Emerald, two in Gladstone, three in Rockhampton and three in Biloela, and they will be based at clinics and hospitals across the region. In total, 42 of the 100 extra midwives will be employed in rural and regional Queensland. We are doing what we said we would do. Twice now we have asked the people of Queensland what they want, and they have told us and we have listened, and we are continuing to deliver.

Vocational Education and Training

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.18 pm): In damning new data released this month by the national Productivity Commission, the number of students in VET training has dropped in Queensland by 33,700. Alarming, based on these figures Queensland was the only mainland state in the nation to experience such a decline in training numbers. I table this report from the national Productivity Commission with figures between 2015 and 2017.

Tabled paper: Table depicting VET student numbers in various jurisdictions [188].


These figures show that the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to support Queensland students. It is disgraceful that 33,700 fewer vocational and education students have been trained while the state's unemployment rate has continued to be among the highest in the country.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has shamefully allowed Queensland to go backwards while every other mainland state has increased their training numbers, as shown in this report. Labor's self-serving priorities are dragging the state down by blocking training opportunities for Queenslanders who want to get ahead. Instead of investing in students, Labor has been splurging millions on TAFE Queensland's executive travel, hospitality expenses, golden handshakes and Commonwealth Games tickets. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk also recently refused \$245 million in desperately needed vocational training funding from the federal government under a new national partnership by refusing to sign up to that agreement. That is \$245 million of vocational training funds that could have been used to help young Queenslanders make a start in their careers.

To get our Queensland economy back on track, we need more students completing VET training to give them the best chance of getting a job. In contrast, we see that TAFE's IT budget was overblown by \$1.4 million last year alone. TAFE spent \$390,000 on a golden handshake for the ex-CEO who was reported to have resigned. That is a pretty good payout considering that the report said that person had resigned. I understand that \$390,000 was only for the last few months of their tenure.

TAFE spent \$230,641 on undisclosed Commonwealth Games tickets. Who got those tickets? That is a bit of a secret. TAFE's hospitality expenses have doubled in the last three years. In the last three years, TAFE has spent over \$2 million on international travel. It is time that this Labor government got its priorities right and spent the money instead on the students and reversed the trends that we have seen in the national Productivity Commission report.

Greenslopes Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.20 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to update the House on a couple of important projects that are occurring in my electorate. These projects demonstrate the absolute commitment of the Palaszczuk Labor government to investing in infrastructure. It demonstrates our commitment to backing our local schools and sporting clubs, and it demonstrates my personal commitment to building our local community.

Just two weeks ago, I dropped down to the Coorparoo Aussie rules club and checked out the oval that is actually being refurbished next door at the Coorparoo Secondary College. This refurbishment is allowing a great partnership between the Coorparoo Aussie rules club and the Coorparoo Secondary College, whereby there is now an AFL program being run in the secondary college. As a result of that, a whole range of people are participating in AFL who never have before. The club have filled every single playing spot they have and they have entered every competition they can around Brisbane. The AFL club in Coorparoo, the Coorparoo Roos, have pathways for women from under-5 right through to the professional level. I have no doubt that in years to come—not too many years—we will be seeing Coorparoo students going on to represent their school and their state and going into the top levels of AFL in both the women's and the men's competitions.


I also took the opportunity to drop down to the sign-on day at the Annerley stars football club—a club that has been with us since 1945. I was really pleased that Minister de Brenni recently announced funding for that club to refurbish their ovals. Their ovals have not been upgraded since the mid-1970s. That is an incredible amount of time. This is an oval that is the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council, but our government is getting in there and doing the work. We are backing this great community club that sees hundreds of kids out there every weekend participating in the sport that they love.

There could be no clearer delineation between the Palaszczuk Labor government and the government that came before us than in our commitment to spending on infrastructure. When I drive around my electorate, I see the Veloway, I see the busways, I see the building that is going on in the schools and I see the investments we are making in sporting clubs. What I do not see is any legacy from when the LNP held a very mercifully short period of time on the government benches just a few years ago.

Our investment in infrastructure is being driven by our understanding that, if you want to build a decent community and have a good society, you need to get out there and invest in infrastructure. If you want to create jobs and improve people's opportunities to get a decent education, decent access to transport and decent sporting facilities, then you need to make that effort and invest in infrastructure.

Those opposite had three years and they did absolutely nothing in the electorate of Greenslopes. I am really pleased to be part of a government that is so committed to infrastructure. I am pleased to be part of a government that has jobs as its No. 1 agenda.

Schwarten, Hon. R

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.23 pm): I would like to provide an update on the serious allegations I raised last year against a former member of this House and QBCC board member, Robert Schwarten. As a result of those allegations, Mr Schwarten self-referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission in December. We all know that Mr Schwarten is a colourful character. As we heard yesterday, he certainly likes to use colourful language. Based on the claims and allegations provided by concerned citizens, including subcontractors in Central Queensland, it would seem there may be well be a darker side to him.


Mr Schwarten is a fan of attending major football matches. How do we know this? I have been informed that he utilised the jet of now failed building company, JM Kelly, on numerous occasions to attend major football games when he was the housing minister. Mysteriously, none of that air travel seems to appear on his interests register.

On top of this generosity, his long-term friendship with Geoff Murphy was so strong that Mr Schwarten's farewell function, which was held at the Rockhampton showgrounds and attended by hundreds of people, was apparently paid for by JM Kelly. Furthermore, I have been told that Geoff Murphy rang around businesspeople in Rockhampton asking them to donate \$5,000 a head to Rob Schwarten as a farewell gift. It has also been alleged that when Mr Schwarten was the responsible minister for the Labor government's cool schools program, the program was limited to a select group of contractors, with the people who controlled that process receiving kickbacks. Further allegations have been received that a superintendent at the Rockhampton Hospital was providing inside information on plans and costings to JM Kelly—thereby, giving them an unfair advantage in the tendering process.

More recently, it has been alleged that Mr Schwarten visited JM Kelly offices in Rockhampton in the days leading up to the company being put into liquidation. One has to ask whether that is appropriate as a board member of the QBCC at a time when the company was under investigation, and what was discussed at that meeting.

I note Mr Schwarten has self-referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. As it has now been approximately six weeks and I have not been contacted by the CCC, I will not be waiting to see if an investigation is proceeding. Instead, I would like to assure this House, the subcontractors and the people of Queensland that within the next few days I will be making a submission to the CCC containing the details of emails, interviews and phone calls I have conducted. I hope that with the special powers and resources available to this agency it will be possible to shine a light on the dark clouds that hang over Mr Schwarten.

Sinclair, Dr J

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Dr John Sinclair AO, who sadly passed away at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane on Sunday, 3 February. A pioneering conservationist, he spent decades lobbying to stop sandmining and logging on Fraser Island before it was World Heritage listed in 1992. Fraser Island is known to the Indigenous Butchulla people as K'gari.

Dr Sinclair was a fellow graduate of the University of Queensland Gatton campus, and I first met him at the annual UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Back to College Weekend. UQ Gatton honoured him in 1998 by awarding him the UQ Gatton Medal. The last time I was able to catch up with Dr Sinclair was at the Woodford Folk Festival in 2018 where he was a guest speaker. As always, he was friendly and courteous. I have worn my UQ Gatton Past Students' tie all this week to pay tribute to Dr Sinclair.


Dr Sinclair was born in Maryborough in 1939 and first came to public attention when he formed the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation, known as FIDO, in 1971. The public attention he drew to Fraser Island paved the way for it to become one of the world's most recognisable World Heritage listed sites. What is not so well known is that he fought this battle at a significant personal cost. The 21-year battle took him to bankruptcy, as he was victimised by the Bjelke-Petersen government. Dr Sinclair once compared Fraser Island to the *Mona Lisa* when he said, 'The sand miners used to say to me, "We are only going to touch one per cent of the island",' to which he replied, 'If you are going to scratch one per cent of the *Mona Lisa*, which one per cent are you going to scratch?'

In 1976 Dr Sinclair was named as the *Australian* newspaper's Australian of the Year. In 1990 he was selected by the United Nations Environment Program for individuals who made a substantial and significant role in protecting the environment when he was named in their Global 500. In 1993 he received the internationally respected Goldman Environmental Prize and in 2014 he was appointed to the Order of Australia.

Dr Sinclair's last visit to K'gari was as a guest of the Butchulla people and Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk when the Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited Fraser Island to include the rainforest island in the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. He leaves four sons, nine grandchildren and his partner, Su. Dr Sinclair's family requested that John Sinclair be remembered by donations to further the wisest possible use of Fraser Island. Vale Dr John Sinclair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Ipswich West. Your tie is duly noted.

Bridge and Davidson Streets, Oakey, Rail Crossing


 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to speak of a dangerous intersection that is causing a great deal of concern in the town of Oakey. I speak of the Bridge and Davidson streets and railway intersection. This is a road traffic T-intersection that also has a train crossing. This is an intersection that the local residents have been calling to be upgraded for a number of years. This intersection is particularly dangerous because the rail crossing runs parallel to the road and any semitrailer that is stopped at the stop sign to turn into Bridge Street has their back trailer wheels parked on the rail track. On a visit to the intersection with me, the shadow minister for transport, Steve Minnikin, saw this happening.

The local newspaper the *Oakey Champion* has run an article giving the residents a chance to voice their concerns and call for the intersection to be moved further to the west. Aurizon has been approached for comment and responded with a statement which, in part, states, 'Aurizon train drivers continue to experience one of the highest rates of serious near misses at the Davidson Street level crossing in Oakey.' Motorists are putting their lives and the lives of others at risk by blatantly ignoring the signs and flashing lights at the level crossing, dangerously crossing the path of oncoming trains. In two recent incidents a semitrailer and a vehicle with a trailer were stopped on the crossing while the lights were flashing. In a third incident, two vehicles narrowly escaped a collision with an oncoming train. This demonstrates two things: one is the large number of near misses and the second is a lack of understanding of the actual situation.

The reason that trucks get stuck on the line is there is not enough room when there is heavy traffic on Bridge Street. They are either stuck on the line or they pull out into the traffic and hope for the best. There is a lot of heavy transport that has no option but to navigate this intersection to access the Oakey Abattoir, Riverina Stock Feeds and the Warrego Highway amongst a few other destinations. This intersection also carries virtually all the traffic to the Oakey aviation base. This intersection is the only access for heavy vehicles to the feedlots that lie to the north. As anyone who has carted livestock knows, the driver needs to have a very gentle and slow stop and start to keep all livestock on their feet.

This is also a busy rail line with a large number of coal and grain wagons. It is only a matter of time before we see a large accident at this intersection. Oakey was recently hit with a very sad incident when a mother and a daughter were lost in an accident on Brimblecombe Road. We are still waiting for that upgrade, and we do not want to see such an incident repeated at this intersection. I call on the minister to prioritise.

Mount Gravatt East, Development Proposal

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.33 pm): I spoke in this House on 6 September 2018 to address an issue which is causing great concern amongst constituents in my electorate of Mansfield. I update the House today as this concern continues for residents due to the LNP Brisbane City Council's absolute incompetence.

In May 2018 the community of Mount Gravatt East bounded by Coolong, Nurran and Carrara streets were awakened by the sound of chainsaws as contractors cleared mature native trees from three adjoining blocks totalling 6,794 square metres. Naturally, the residents were incensed to learn that a developer had purchased these three blocks, which have been zoned low-density residential since their gazettal in 1967. The developer plans to establish 32 two-storey, four-bedroom townhouses on a site that has no street frontage except for a single driveway.

I have been in regular contact with the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning regarding this proposed development. The minister has written to both the Lord Mayor and chair of city planning stating that appropriate information in the original development application was not provided in the first instance on 28 November 2018. The minister's department only received the requested further information on 1 February 2019. The minister also recommended that the Brisbane City Council consider a temporary local planning instrument, known as a TLPI, to halt the development, which was put forth as an urgency motion by Labor councillors and voted down by the LNP council on 23 October 2018.

The LNP have been in power in Brisbane City Council for 15 years and the local LNP councillor for 12 years. They have had every chance to fix these problems but only now, as my community has reached its breaking point, do they change their position and vote for a city-wide TLPI—very similar to the Labor motion voted down last year.

In my community the LNP council rewrote the Mount Gravatt neighbourhood plan in 2012. They could have fixed the problem then. The LNP council completely rewrote the Brisbane City Plan in 2014. They could have fixed the problem then. On 2 December 2018 the LNP local councillor promised more than 200 residents at a public meeting that they would purchase the property, rehabilitate it and turn the development into parkland, but so far there has been no action.

The minister's department remains ready to meet with council officers to progress these matters in a timely fashion but, as we know based on their past record of performance, that could still be years away.

Maiwar Electorate, Schools




Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (2.36 pm): Last week I went to the Toowong State School P&C meeting and heard from parents and teachers about the impact school overcrowding is having on their students right now, in particular those students with special needs. Toowong does an exceptional job in providing a truly inclusive educational experience for all students, including those with particular needs. The school is short of classrooms, meaning that these kids have no certainty about where they will be learning this year. There are some demountable classrooms on the way—too late for the start of term—but even when they arrive they will eat up a massive portion of the school oval, and we all know how important this space is for kids to play, grow and learn.

Similar stories are repeated across the west side. Instead of making big developers pay for more public infrastructure, the state government and city council are letting overcrowding in our schools get out of control. Today I am repeating my call for a new P-12 school on the west side. The state government should immediately start work on identifying a site for a new school, and securing that land for the future.

On Monday I went to the P&C meeting at Indooroopilly State School where enrolment growth is eye watering. The school is getting some much needed extra classrooms this year, but like every local school, there are huge concerns around student safety at the beginning and end of the school day. Among other incidents and near misses, I heard from a mother who was walking to school with her two children, one in a pram, when she was hit by a car on Moggill Road. A federally funded expansion of the drop-and-go zone along Taringa Parade has been totally bungled by council because they failed to undertake any meaningful consultation with local residents. Opinion is divided, with some parents and residents concerned that it will not make things safer and that century-old trees will be lost without proper deliberation. In the long term, we need to get kids out of cars, which means making walking, cycling and catching public transport to school easy and safe.

Alongside infrastructure for cars, there are plenty of practical steps we could take to ease the school drop-off crunch, including longer pedestrian crossing times, permanent 40 kilometre an hour zones and better funding for the Active School Travel program. As well as those steps we should aim for something ground breaking. The Greens are calling for free public transport for all kids under 18 years old, and today I am asking the government to consider it. Free public transport for every kid in Queensland, from Brisbane to Cairns, would cost just \$56 million per year. Just for context, the government will spend \$2.5 billion this year just on roads. For parents, it would mean no mucking around with go cards, less hassle and more peace of mind. For kids in my electorate, in the outer suburbs, and especially for families that do not own a car, it would mean a new sense of freedom. For people who have to drive, this would also mean getting cars off the roads at drop-off times, which would do wonders to ease congestion. If we are going to build a future for all Queenslanders, we cannot be scared of big ideas like this. We should be providing free public transport for all kids.

Mount Ommaney Electorate

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.39 pm): It is a new year, and that means new milestones for Mount Ommaney infrastructure projects. I would love to start with an update on the much awaited Sumner Road overpass. It has just had its new design finalised. Last year the department and the minister committed to future-proof this incredibly busy overpass by upgrading our upgrade design. That is right; you heard correctly. At a cost of more than \$65 million, the newly approved design features six lanes—up from its current two—a new cyclist underpass and a much improved commute time to Darra which, of course, means the Darra park-and-ride. I cannot wait to see construction start on this project later this year.


In last year's budget Mount Ommaney received over \$1 million in the emergency services budget to fix our 35-year-old fire station, and just a few shorts months later it has undergone an extensive renovation. The new 'old station' is about to reopen, and it looks fantastic. It is really exciting, and as a community we are looking forward to taking delivery of that project early next month.

Planning on the Centenary Motorway continues to push ahead. Since having \$20 million allocated in last year's budget we are pushing ahead with planning and, like everyone else who commutes into the city from the Centenary suburbs and beyond, I know that this project is absolutely vital for families in my community. Late last year I was also thrilled to hear from my friend and colleague Minister Bailey that the land for the Darra park-and-ride has been secured, which means that the next stage can now commence. In the coming months we will see design work get underway for the design of the park-and-ride to allow for an additional 181 car parks, taking the total number of car parks at the Darra park-and-ride to 441, at a total cost of \$8.7 million.

On a slightly smaller but no less important note, St Catherine's footy club—or soccer club—has secured over \$100,000 for their footy fields to be resurfaced. After a bumper sign-on season over the last few weekends at the Middle Park village, they are going to need it. The Oxley secondary school site demolition of old school buildings commenced over the festive season. Today I am thrilled to announce that two new community consultations are scheduled for March to share with the community the proposed development scheme.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful Tet Vietnamese New Year festival organised by the Vietnamese Community of Australia, Queensland chapter. Dr Bui, Q1 and their amazing volunteers deserve every dollar of the state funding they received for this event. To the Mount Ommaney community I say happy lunar new year and to my wonderful Vietnamese community I say chuc mung na moi.

Granite Belt Irrigation Project

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise in the House to speak about the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, which is a transformative project that we are advancing in Southern Downs on the Granite Belt.

Mr Nicholls interjected.


Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from my honourable friend the member for Clayfield. He knows the importance of this project. We want to build a dam on the Severn River to capture water to make the horticultural industry on the Granite Belt come alive. We are experiencing very difficult times at the moment. We have irrigators who are trucking water. They hire 30,000-litre water trucks and drive up and down the highway with water to water their crops. That is quite extraordinary, and it shows you just how valuable water is on the Granite Belt.

We produce \$300 million at the farm gate every year in horticultural produce. I would love to tell my friend the member for Lockyer that that is even more than his electorate produces. We are summer producers and we can access markets elsewhere in Australia that other people cannot, so it is very good. It is very lucrative and there are lots of jobs and prosperity. This project will produce 300 full-time-equivalent jobs on the Granite Belt; a \$65 million increase—and that is a conservative estimate—on horticultural production; a 40 per cent increase in the amount of water available for horticulture; and a 20 per cent, or 273-hectare, increase in the amount of land cultivated. There is land there that is cleared but there is not water at all times to farm it. We know these things because a detailed business case has been done by the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce with funds happily donated by the federal government under the National Water Infrastructure Development Scheme.

This dam will be a template for dams of the future. It aims to get away from the vagaries of the weather and provide certainty for irrigators who produce such high-value crops. It seeks to use green technology—solar power—to pump water from the dam to a high point and then siphon it from there, which I think is fantastic. One of the really important things is that this is very innovative in that, under the Moonie water plan, the water rights will be leased from traditional owners and the community purposes allocation, and this will enable funds to be held in trust for the Indigenous owners of that water, which I think is fantastic.

The Granite Belt depends on water. It produces so much for the little water that it uses because leafy green vegetables—tomatoes, capsicums and those sorts of things—are grown very efficiently. We need this water in order to grow and protect the Granite Belt, the major town of Stanthorpe and surrounding villages from the terrible economic effects of the drought we have at the moment. The main street in Stanthorpe is suffering, the growers have their tongues out and the workers and families of the Granite Belt are struggling. This project, which we need the state government to come on board with with a little bit of funding and some further approvals, will make a real difference to my constituents in Southern Downs.


Mackay Electorate

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.45 pm): Mackay is proud to host the first clinical trial in a regional centre anywhere in Australia. The wider Mackay region is no stranger to being a forerunner in research and best practice. We are the home of the QUT research laboratory at Racecourse Mill, which is a laboratory that engages in cutting-edge research into biofuels to diversify the cane industry and set up building blocks for possible new industries. Mackay is also a service centre for the coalmining industry to the west. We have one of the most innovative engineering sectors for the coal industry in Australia at our very own Paget. Paget could be called the patent capital of Australia for the coalmining industry, so it makes sense that Mackay is the home of the Resources Centre of Excellence. The centre of excellence was an election commitment. It is in the process of being designed, with construction planned for the end of the year. Hopefully it will be completed on time. The centre will not only train miners but it will also be a centre for research, best practice and innovation for the MET sector.

Labor is delivering for regional Queensland. The Coral Sea Clinical Research Institute in Mackay was recently launched by the Minister for Innovation, Kate Jones. It will trial vaccines to treat the debilitating condition coeliac disease, which affects one in 70 Australians. The institute is headed by Mackay practitioner Dr James Davidson, a specialist in coeliac disease and the institute's principal investigator. Dr Davidson is an expert with clinical practices in Brisbane and Mackay. With his worldwide connections, he has brought the trial to Mackay. The trial is being conducted from his rooms at the Mackay Mater Hospital. It is the first trial of Nexvax2 with the US pharmaceutical research company ImmusanT. If the trial is successful, the vaccine will provide relief not only for Australians but patients worldwide who suffer from the disease. It will also provide relief from the strict lifelong gluten-free diet, which at present is the only effective treatment for the disease, although it is not foolproof. The trial is so popular that coeliac sufferers travelled from as far away as the Burdekin just for the launch. The Palaszczuk government invested \$300,000 in seed funding through Advance Queensland, which has helped establish the facility. The Coral Sea Clinical Research Institute will capitalise on the expertise of Queensland medical researchers and scientists—

(Time expired)

Bribie Island Road


 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.48 pm): Bribie Island Road is my region's most overlooked major connecting road and it is in need of urgent upgrades. It is part of the state road network, yet the Palaszczuk Labor government fails to acknowledge that it has not kept pace with the volume of traffic using it, that it is not meeting the needs of the electorate and that it is one hot mess every weekend and public holiday. Bribie Island Road is a 19-kilometre stretch with 13 speed limits. It changes from 60 kilometres an hour, to 70 kilometres an hour, up to 80 kilometres an hour, back to 60 kilometres an hour, 100 kilometres an hour for a few hundred metres and then back to 80 kilometres an hour again. Is it any wonder that even long-term locals struggle to remember what speed they should be travelling along this road?

We are experiencing increasing congestion from large retirement villages and residential areas springing up, with thousands of visitors coming to our area to visit their loved ones. Twenty-six thousand four-wheel drive permit holders are accessing the beach on any given weekend. The Sandstone Point

Hotel is visited by tens of thousands of people. Why wouldn't it be? All of this makes for one hot, congested mess on Bribie Island Road. Every weekend locals tell me about lengthy delays backing up over the Bribie Island bridge and along suburban streets.

The Bribie Island bridge provides one lane on and one lane off the island. When an accident occurs on the bridge, the area comes to a standstill for hours. Threats of bushfires, as we recently saw, and other risks from natural disasters leave us all vulnerable. If we were ever ordered to evacuate the island, the island and its people would be paralysed. I am still waiting for an explanation as to why the Labor government stripped a \$1 million commitment from the planning for the Saints Road to Hickey Road dual-carriageway project and why it pushed back the planning completion time frame. I am still waiting for an explanation as to why the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has not put pen to paper to sign off on the \$20 million of federal funding to fix our most dangerous intersections along Bribie Island Road such as at Old Toorbul Point Road. Why is the money still sitting in Canberra? It is because the Palaszczuk Labor government has deserted Pumicestone. There is a reason hundreds of people are signing my petition to fix Bribie Island Road and there is no reason for this government to neglect it any longer.

Screen Industry


 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.51 pm): Sets, cast, crew, costumes and stars on the red carpet. 'Lights, camera, action!' That is what we locals are seeing and hearing down on Gosport Street, Hemmant—no, not in Hollywood; in Hemmant. Yes, thanks to the Palaszczuk government, Hollywood has come to Hemmant with the opening of Screen Queensland's \$12 million fit-for-purpose studio. The repurposing of a former cotton shed as a new studio production facility just 15 kilometres from the Brisbane CBD is another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to diversifying our economy and bringing a new wave of investment in our creative sector which will create more jobs and continue growth in the sector.

We have seen a production boom in recent years, with one of the most prolific periods of film and television production in the history of our state. And why not? We have an impressive creative sector. In fact, we have a few performers in this place who might consider auditioning for a role or two! I jest. Our locations are second to none. In the bayside we have amazing backdrops—from our historical Fort Lytton, which has already gained fame in an Angelina Jolie film, to our port, our beaches and our suburban and industrial locations—coupled with our bright sunshine. Perfect! This is all within 15 minutes of the domestic and international airports and only seven minutes from the Wynnum CBD. The new studio will help to meet Queensland's growing demand for an already thriving local and international production base by providing sound stages, warehouses for set construction, workshops, art departments and short-term storage.

I am so proud and so very excited and thrilled that we have a permanent location for the screen industry in our beautiful bayside. The studio comprises two sound stages, two warehouses, mixed-use buildings, production offices and 200 car parks. Production began the day after the studio opened and it is booked for 26 weeks already. I am told that there are already a number of booking holds in place for the studio. This means jobs. It means opportunities for all Queenslanders. Importantly, it offers opportunities for baysiders, with flow-on benefits for the surrounding suburbs, with our fabulous local backdrops, and also for local businesses as diverse as carpenters, caterers, accommodation, banks and other services. It really is an exciting time.

Last financial year, production supported by the Palaszczuk government generated an estimated \$114 million of direct expenditure into the local economy, with more than 1,500 jobs directly related to screen production. This does not include the indirect benefits in spin-offs such as the tourism, trade and investment it creates across Queensland and the bayside. Hooray for Hemmant!

Modified Rugby Program


 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.54 pm): The spirit of inclusion is alive and well in the electorate of Clayfield. The Modified Rugby Program, which started at the Brothers Rugby Club in 2014 at Crosby Park, continues to grow. Last Saturday was no exception. Last Saturday Brothers hosted the inaugural Modified Rugby showcase, powered by the Classic Wallabies and the Classic Wallaroos. On the day there were teams of Modified Rugby players at colts and junior levels. There were exhibition 10s matches between the Classic Wallabies and the Classic Wallaroos.

Some of those who turned up to support were Classic Wallabies ambassadors Nathan Sharpe, Tim Horan and others. We had people like Mark Connors, who had 20 Wallabies caps, playing for the Greens. We had the Classic Wallaroos women's teams—people like Ash Hewson, who was captain, and Bronwyn McArthur, who played. It was a terrific day for people who wanted to support children with learning and perceptual difficulties to be part of the mainstream.

This is a testament to the hard work of the GingerCloud Foundation, set up by Megan and Anthony Elliott. Their son, Max, was 10 in 2013 when they realised he had learning and perceptual difficulties and he was being excluded from being part of the mainstream. They wanted their son to play football, so they got him speech pathology, physio and other assistance and a modified program was put together. Megan and Anthony approached Ross McLennan, the president of Brothers Rugby Club, to start off a team. One team of 16 people started playing down at Brothers. Now, due to the work of the GingerCloud Foundation, due to the work of Megan and Anthony Elliott, there are now 24 teams playing across three divisions including in the ACT and up at Toowoomba. The sport continues to grow. They are a division of the Australian Rugby Union now. They have the ambassadors I have mentioned, who are there every time. I have been proud to be associated with them since the commencement of the program in 2014 at Brothers in my part of the world.

More important is the involvement of the kids and their mentors. The mentors get as much out of it as the kids who are playing. To see 15- and 16-year-old boys and girls—it covers the spectrum—going onto the field and working with their charges to develop their skills, to turn them around, to point them in the right direction, to carry them on and off the field, to share the hugs and the joys of victory and the lows of losses, is part and parcel of it all. It is a tremendous program. It has been supported by the federal government. It is supported by the ARU. It deserves to receive the continuing support of the community. I congratulate the GingerCloud Foundation, Brothers and all those involved in the Modified Rugby Program.

Townsville, Floods

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.57 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I am very pleased that you are in the chair as I deliver my speech. This week we have heard you and the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Hinchinbrook speak about the extraordinary rain events in the Townsville region. I have heard heartbreaking stories, both in the chamber and from you personally, about home owners having to throw away their precious possessions, to be left with nothing—nothing but a ruined, sodden house that they may not be able to return to for days, months or, in some cases, ever.

This reminded me of Logan's experience, on a much smaller scale, in March and April 2017. I want to let Townsville people know that, although it seems as if this situation can never be overcome, it can be—step by step. I know that Townsville people are tenacious. I believe that they will get back on their feet. I saw this with Logan families whose houses were decimated.

I would like to share one story with the House and the members representing the Townsville region. I took a break from cleaning one home to check on other areas. I scanned the flood map and drove down a back road into a quiet area of North Maclean. There I discovered one elderly couple, with Lydia in a wheelchair in muddy, sodden ground. The water had completely submerged their better brick house. The level and speed of the water seemed to have cracked the walls. All of their possessions lay in a sodden mess inside the house. The problems seemed insurmountable.

I made calls to the services and the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and they came and began the long task of cleaning and taking things out to a massive pile in front of the house. The officers of the Woodridge fire station—great people—came with their truck and high-powered hoses to clear out the huge amounts of debris and mud. Even Jim Chalmers, the federal member representing the seat to the north, helped out. Lydia kept watch over us all and worried about all of us having to experience what she was experiencing.

Today I want to tell the people of Townsville that last week I visited Lydia and her family and they had moved to a smaller house, but a much more comfortable one, with a ramp for Lydia's wheelchair. She now has a clean, dry and, very importantly, higher home that was safe. Although it seems insurmountable now, I want to tell people about the tenacious spirit of Queenslanders. Townsville looked after Logan in that period and I hope that we and the rest of Queensland look after Townsville in its time of need.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Logan. I appreciate your sentiments.

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

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.00 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report No. 12 titled *Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland* tabled on 16 October 2018.

Today I am pleased to speak on the 2018 pharmacy inquiry, which was a considerable and significant body of work conducted by our committee. It looked specifically into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland. As chair of the committee, from the start I must thank our entire committee, the secretariat, including Mr Rod Bogaards, all individual submitters and pharmacy related organisations that attended and gave evidence at the various public inquiries we held in Queensland.

The inquiry terms of reference also allowed us to consider pharmacy ownership regulation and opportunities to extend the scope of practice for the state's pharmacists and pharmacy assistants. In particular, I want to acknowledge and thank the 210 submitters to the inquiry and others from the health sector who shared their passion for and knowledge and experience of their roles in helping provide health care in Queensland. I also commend the many community pharmacists who serve their local communities every day in the state's regional and rural areas and those who participated in our inquiry like Lucy Walker from Terry White Goondiwindi, who travelled to give evidence at our Toowoomba hearing, and Cate Whalan from Townsville's Cate's Chemist.

In May 2018 our health committee was tasked with inquiring into the establishment of a pharmacy council and the transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland. For that inquiry we published a detailed issues paper from which we received those submissions and held five public hearings in Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane to examine the issues raised by submitters. We met with representatives from the Victorian Pharmacy Authority in Melbourne and sought expert advice from the Department of Health.


Our committee's inquiry focused on some key issues: the benefits of extending the scope of practice for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants; the administration of transfers of pharmacy ownership via the Department of Health; and the merits of establishing a separate statutory authority such as a pharmacy council to administer transfers in pharmacy ownership. We gained valuable information from organisations such as the Pharmacy Board of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Australian Pharmaceutical Society, the Australian Medical Association and other medical groups such as Professor Lisa Nissen, head of the School of Clinical Sciences at QUT.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the considerable work and assistance provided by the Auditor-General, Mr Brendan Worrall, and his team at the Queensland Audit Office who reviewed pharmacy business transfers and ownership in Queensland over the last two years and whose audit report resulted in a number of recommendations for the Department of Health. I also want to thank the Queensland Productivity Commission for its excellent work in reviewing the costs and benefits of establishing a statutory pharmacy authority in Queensland to take over responsibility for administering the provisions of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001 from the department. The committee has noted the commission's findings and has recommended not to proceed with a statutory authority. However, given other issues discussed during our inquiry, we saw merit in establishing a pharmacy advisory council to provide advice on pharmacy issues to government and at no cost to the Queensland taxpayer.

I thank my fellow committee members for their genuine interest and enthusiasm and the truly bipartisan approach they adopted for this work, mindful of the significant role pharmacists and pharmacist assistants play in delivering health care in Queensland. Our government believes in affordable health care for all Queenslanders. Having a strong and efficient retail pharmacy industry with pharmacists who are highly professional is absolutely critical. Pharmacists are integral to our healthcare system. We see potential for pharmacists to do more than they currently do, with some prescribing of medications in low-risk situations, subject to a range of safeguards.

The committee framed some 11 recommendations and I will not go through them all, but in the time I have left we recommended that the Department of Health lower the minimum patient age requirement for pharmacists administering vaccinations to 16 years of age in recommendation 1.

Recommendation 2 recommended that the Department of Health develop options to provide low-risk emergency and repeat prescriptions—for example, the contraceptive pill and low-risk vaccinations—through pharmacies, subject to a risk minimisation framework. The framework could include consultation with GPs using 13HEALTH. It is a considerable report and body of work.


 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.06 pm): It is a privilege to follow the chair, Aaron Harper, in relation to the debate today. This committee received the referral on 3 May and tabled its report on 16 October. The inquiry was fairly contentious on a number of fronts. We were asked to consider, among other things, establishing a pharmacy council in Queensland to regulate or consider regulation of pharmacy business ownership in this state and to expand the scope of pharmacists and pharmacy assistants. As the chair indicated, an issues paper was published on 1 June 2018 and we engaged the services of the Queensland Productivity Commission and the Queensland Audit Office in relation to the terms of reference and held public hearings throughout the state.

One of the contentious issues was pharmacy ownership. In Queensland you have to be a pharmacist to own a pharmacy, plus other requirements, but you can only, as a pharmacist or a corporation that is eligible, own no more than five pharmacy businesses. The question that the committee considered was: should that be opened up to a much wider audience? The evidence before the committee did not indicate that there was any basis to make that a wider audience by way of ownership. There was nothing either here in Australia or across the globe that indicated that we should change that mantra—that we should change ownership—and that it should be retained in exactly the way it is at this point.

Another issue that was of contention is scope of practice. The chair indicated that there are times in our society where laws have to change to keep progress with modern medical needs and modern aspirations of the medical fraternity. The issue in enlarging the scope of practice of pharmacists and indeed pharmacy assistants was again very hotly contested. The committee heard evidence from a range of experts in this field and came to the conclusion that there could well be an enlargement in the scope of practice for both pharmacists and pharmacy assistants. However, it was also made quite clear in recommendation No. 2 that this scope of practice enlargement needed to be considered against the protections needed by the community as a whole. The Chief Health Officer, as I recall her evidence, made it quite clear that the Department of Health would take a very active role in ensuring that that enlargement of scope of practice would be considered against that criteria. As I recall, her evidence was that it took a number of years for vaccinations to be allowed to be given by pharmacists in their premises. I am certain that, given her qualifications and the respect with which she is held, that would apply in any further enlargement of the scope of practice for pharmacists or pharmacy assistants.

The establishment of a Queensland pharmacy advisory council was also considered. That is not what the Pharmacy Guild wanted. It was thought that the current arrangement in relation to Queensland Health pharmacists generally and the current regime put in place by the act provided sufficient protection in terms of who could or could not be a pharmacist and, in particular, who could or could not own a pharmacy. However, it was thought that an advisory council would be of benefit to pharmacists. That council could interact with the Department of Health and provide expert advice on ownership and premises standards. The composition of the committee would be appointed by the minister. The committee would have on it people who had expertise in law and accounting. That committee would also consult the Department of Health on various matters, such as the transfer of pharmacy ownership and further changes to scope of practice.


As I said, the committee had a task of considering whether the current scope of pharmacists and pharmacy assistants should be amended and, indeed, enlarged to take into account modern needs and aspirations. The report took some time to get together. It took a lot of work by the secretariat to achieve the outcome. I want to praise Rob Hansen and the team of the secretariat for organising the issues paper, the travel, the report and, finally, the tabling of the document in the House today.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on report No. 12 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The report presents the findings from an inquiry into the state's pharmacy industry, referred to the committee by the Legislative Assembly on 3 May 2018. The committee has made 11 recommendations to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services to implement from its inquiry to strengthen our pharmacy industry and improve health outcomes for Queenslanders. I want to thank all 210 submitters to the inquiry and the many others who wrote to the committee and gave evidence to the inquiry.

Across Queensland there are over 1,100 pharmacy businesses. Collectively, they dispense about 1.5 billion prescription medicines every year. That is on top of all the other medical and health related products and services they provide every day. One of the key issues that the committee considered in its inquiry was whether to establish a pharmacy council to administer pharmacy ownership laws in Queensland. To assist in this work the committee asked the Deputy Premier to task the Queensland Productivity Commission with conducting a thorough cost-benefit analysis for the establishment of a pharmacy authority. I thank the Deputy Premier for agreeing to the committee's request.

The Queensland Productivity Commission conducted an excellent study, which found no evidence that other Australian states with pharmacy councils had better community outcomes, no evidence that the existing premises legislation is resulting in unsafe conditions in pharmacies in Queensland and no evidence that more intensive enforcement of ownership restrictions would provide greater consumer benefits for Queenslanders. Therefore, the committee recommended against establishing a legislative pharmacy authority—a move that will save the state over \$10 million in additional administrative costs. Those costs would have been passed on to pharmacy customers.

The committee believes that laws relating to pharmacies should be administered by Queensland Health. However, the committee identified the need for a pharmacy advisory body to advise Queensland Health in its administration of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act in the fulfilment of its regulatory responsibilities. I look forward to the minister's response to the committee's recommendation. I commend the committee's report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to address report No.12 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee of the 56th Parliament, that being the *Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland*. At the outset, I acknowledge the great work done by the LNP's Mark McArdle, the member for Caloundra, and Marty Hunt, the member for Nicklin. There were 210 written submissions to this inquiry. It was very important that Queenslanders, as well as professional and community organisations, had their say.


I would like to acknowledge the work of pharmacists across Queensland. Many community based pharmacists do significant work in not only our urban areas but also in rural and regional Queensland as well as in our residential aged-care facilities. Their role in providing opiate substitution therapy and other programs is vitally important. We also have pharmacists in our hospital systems, particularly in Brisbane—in hospitals such as the Wesley, St Andrew's and the Greenslopes Private Hospital. They do a great job. The Pharmacy Guild of Queensland, with Kos Slavos and Trent Twomey, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, with Mark Lock, do great work representing pharmacists in both the community sector and in hospitals. I would also like to acknowledge general practitioners, the Australian Medical Association, the Rural Doctors Association, and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

The committee examined some fairly contentious areas. One of those relates to scope of practice. Many in this House would be aware that collaborative models of care can be very important in achieving good clinical outcomes for patients. Some of the areas that were examined in relation to vaccinations and antibiotic prescribing can be very contentious but, within collaborative models of care, they can provide significant benefits to patients as long as there not any unintended consequences. By that I mean we have significant issues in Queensland in relation to antimicrobial stewardship and antibiotic resistance. Having some of those collaborative models to ensure that we do not have further growth in microbial resistance and antibiotic-resistant bacteria is very important. There are good collaborative models in other jurisdictions. I noted the recommendations of the committee in relation to scope of practice.

Recommendation 6 of the report relates to the establishment a Queensland pharmacy advisory council. The committee found that there could be significant benefits to the establishment of that council. I acknowledge the conclusions of the committee in relation to that issue. The pharmacy advisory council could add value in Queensland.

Finally, I note the committee's recommendations in relation to pharmacy ownership. I think those recommendations are very sound and reasonable. The aim of this report was to enhance patient care in Queensland, to have collaborative models of care and to ensure the potential expansion of vaccination coverage so that some transmittable diseases can be reduced or prevented by vaccinations. That is very important. As a state jurisdiction, the last thing we would want is to continue to have outbreaks of the flu or other illnesses.

Pharmacists provide a wealth of health education as well as health advice and health intervention. We need to ensure that the pharmacy models are robust and sound and that there are not any adverse outcomes when it comes to workforce recruitment and retention, particularly in rural and regional Queensland. Our general practitioners, our medical specialists, our nurses and our midwives are all very important. By working together in collaborative models of care, that can be good for patients and the health system, both public and private. It could also ensure value for the taxpayers in terms of the expenditure of public dollars. I commend this report to the House. I encourage all members to read it, because the recommendations of the committee could provide even better patient and clinical outcomes.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise to speak to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report No. 12, *Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland*. Like all members of this House, I am fortunate to have a number of wonderful community pharmacies in my electorate. These hardworking and dedicated local pharmacists and pharmacy assistants bring so much and provide such an outstanding level of care, concern and compassion to baysiders. I thank them for their commitment and acknowledge their service, both current and historical. Pharmacists are an integral part of our healthcare system and our communities.

I would like to thank the secretariat, Rob Hansen and his amazing team, for their careful and thorough work on this inquiry. May I also acknowledge my colleagues on the committee: the member for Thuringowa, Chair Aaron Harper; the member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle; the member for Maiwar, Michael Berkman; the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt; and the member for Rockhampton, Barry O'Rourke. I thank them for their genuine interest and enthusiasm and the truly bipartisan approach they adopted in relation to this work, mindful of the very significant role pharmacists and pharmacy assistants play in delivering health care in Queensland.


In May 2018, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee was tasked with inquiring into the establishment of a pharmacy council and the transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland. The committee published a detailed issues paper inviting written submissions and we received and published 210 submissions. We requested the Auditor-General conduct an audit of the administration of transfer of pharmacy ownership by the Department of Health for compliance with the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001 and we wrote to the Deputy Premier requesting that the Queensland Productivity Commission conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis of the establishment of a pharmacy council in Queensland.

We held five public hearings, including hearings in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Cairns and Townsville to examine the issues raised by submitters and we met with representatives from the Victorian Pharmacy Authority in Melbourne and sought expert advice from the Department of Health. The committee's inquiry focused on four key issues: the benefits of extending the scope of practice for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants; the administration of transfers of pharmacy ownership by the Department of Health; the pharmacy ownership requirements specified in the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001 and the merits of establishing a separate statutory authority such as a pharmacy council to administer transfers in pharmacy ownership. I thank all submitters to our inquiry and others from the health sector who shared their passion, knowledge and experience for their roles providing health care in Queensland.

We gained invaluable information from organisations such as the Pharmacy Board of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Australian Pharmaceutical Society, the Australian Medical Association and other medical groups, the Auditor-General and the team at the Queensland Audit Office who reviewed pharmacy business transfers and ownership in Queensland over the last two years and whose audit report resulted in a number of recommendations for the health department.

I commend the many community pharmacists who serve their local communities each and every day across our vast state in our cities and in our regional and rural areas and those who participated in our inquiry and who travelled to give evidence. I also thank those pharmacists from the larger franchise pharmacy businesses who also play a valuable role in the pharmacy space, including those embedded in health and hospital services. In the bayside, as I have said, we are fortunate to have a strong network of dedicated community pharmacies with outstanding pharmacists and pharmacy assistants who participate in the very fabric of our community and are often the first care providers and sometimes the only contact for some locals.

During the inquiry we saw the potential for pharmacists to do more than they currently do—with some prescribing of medications in low-risk situations subject to a range of safeguards. However, the committee noted that the AMA and other bodies raised concerns during the inquiry about expanding pharmacists' scope of practice. The committee made 11 recommendations and in framing our recommendations we sought to allay the concerns of the medical profession about changes to pharmacists' scope of practice by including a number of safeguards as part of the more collaborative approach to prescribing. We heard from many pharmacists that they have a great working relationship with their local GPs and we hope that this will continue and strengthen as pharmacists play an important role in our communities. I commend the report to the House.


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.23 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report No. 12, *Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland*. I thank the other members of the committee. I particularly thank the secretariat staff, Rob Hansen, James Gilchrist and inquiry secretary Rod Bogaards. We conducted this inquiry at the same time as the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, often switching focus between the two as we travelled around the state. The committee secretariat did an absolutely outstanding task in staying focused. They were under the pump trying to get us documents and switching between the two inquiries. They did an absolutely marvellous job and I thank them for that.

The Queensland Audit Office and Auditor-General, Mr Brendan Worrall, and his team, were also invaluable in assisting us by reviewing the transfer of ownership of pharmacies in Queensland over the last two years and the procedures followed in relation to the oversight that Queensland Health provides in that scheme. There are rules and laws around who can own a pharmacy in Queensland and other states in Australia have similar laws. Simply put, you must be a pharmacist to own a pharmacy and there are restrictions on the amount of pharmacies you can own. The inquiry heard concerns from pharmacists who suspected that these laws may be being circumvented under certain company structures and that the proper oversight by the department was not adequate to ensure compliance with those current laws.

Pharmacists play a vital role in our healthcare system. Throughout the inquiry the committee had the pleasure of hearing from many pharmacists about their role and their dedication to the communities and patients they serve. I want to make special mention of Lucy Walker. The member for Thuringowa mentioned her as well. She travelled from her Goondiwindi pharmacy to our Toowoomba hearing to give insights into running a local pharmacy in a regional area. Ms Walker's pharmacy was subsequently awarded Queensland Pharmacy of the Year. It was great to have her input into the inquiry. We congratulate her on that award.

The Queensland Productivity Commission conducted a review for the committee of the costs and benefits of establishing a statutory pharmacy authority in Queensland to take on the oversight of compliance with the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001. The findings from the Productivity Commission found there was no evidence that other Australian states with pharmacy councils have better community outcomes. They found no evidence that the existing premises regulation is resulting in unsafe conditions in pharmacies in Queensland and no evidence that more intensive enforcement of ownership restrictions would provide greater consumer benefits in Queensland. The Queensland Productivity Commission recommended not to proceed with this statutory pharmacy council. However, the committee, given other issues brought before it, considered that a pharmacy advisory council would be a good avenue to go down to provide advice on pharmacy issues and ownership concerns to the department to assist it in its role at no cost to the Queensland taxpayer and that was our recommendation.

The committee made a total of 11 recommendations in the report as tabled. I conclude by thanking our pharmacists and staff across Queensland and hope that our recommendations address the concerns of the industry.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report, *Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland*. The background for this inquiry stretches back many years to the implementation of the health practitioner regulation national law, after which Queensland remained in the unusual position that the Health department retained responsibility for the regulation of pharmacy ownership. Some years later this arrangement was dragged back into the spotlight by a fairly controversial series of acquisitions of pharmacies by franchisees of the Ramsay Pharmacy group and concerns aired by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia about whether these franchise arrangements comply with the ownership restrictions.

Skipping over the detail, as other members of the committee have, the central tenet of the ownership restrictions is the requirement that pharmacies are, in effect, owned and controlled by pharmacists. The pharmacy industry is no stranger to complex franchise arrangements that must satisfy the ownership requirements. We are all familiar with the biggest franchise names. The face of the industry has changed pretty significantly with the advent and expansion of what are commonly described as big box pharmacies. They all operate within the same framework.

Without wanting to sound flippant, this inquiry at times felt like a parliamentary mediation of what was fundamentally a dispute between commercial competitors. Key players seemed largely concerned about whether the acquisitions by Ramsay franchisees were lawful and whether the department had made an error in allowing these transfers. The department maintains that the transfers were all lawful. With the assistance of the Queensland Audit Office, the committee saw no sound basis to conclude otherwise. However, there is an apparent need for better processes and controls to ensure compliance and transparency in the administration of elements of the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act. This need is reflected in the committee's report.

The inquiry also considered the fundamentals of the ownership restrictions, which are unique. For example, we might make the comparison to ownership of GP clinics, which are not similarly constrained to being owned by GPs. Much of the evidence from pharmacists themselves sought to make the point that pharmacy owners are fundamentally better equipped to put the interests of their customers first, whereas under an alternative deregulated model that allowed corporate ownership profits would take priority.

We heard a lot of anecdotal evidence about this and various examples of pharmacists going the extra mile to meet the needs of their customers. I have no doubt as to the dedication of these pharmacists to the needs and wellbeing of their customers and I absolutely accept the general view that people are capable of acting with compassion and humanity in a way that companies are not.

The contrary position put by some witnesses was that the role of the dispensing pharmacist is the critical factor in patient outcomes rather than the ownership structure. Indeed, this is to an extent already demonstrated by the countless absentee pharmacist owners who play very little if any role in the delivery of services and customer outcomes under the existing ownership regime. The evidence to this point was essentially all anecdotal and the committee had real difficulty identifying empirical evidence to support either position. In the wash there appeared no compelling reason to reconsider or change the pharmacy ownership restrictions.

In considering the possible role of an alternative regulator for the ownership regulations, the inquiry came to focus heavily on the scope of practice, as we have heard. The position we heard from nearly every practising pharmacist and academic working in this space was that pharmacists are currently not allowed to practise at anywhere near the full scope of their training or capacity.

It seems maybe self-evident that it is a good thing if a pharmacist can provide a wider range of services and treatments so people can avoid an unnecessary trip to the GP, but we heard evidence that there are risks inherent in any change that would limit or reduce the primary care patients currently receive from their GP. The AMA and the Royal Australian College of GPs raised these concerns and described how incidental visits to a GP for simple matters like a repeat prescription may provide an important opportunity for GPs to identify and address other healthcare concerns. The balance between convenience and comprehensive primary health care warrants a cautious approach to the expansion of scope of practice. This is also, I believe, reflected in the committee's report.

In conclusion, the evidence did not ultimately justify a new pharmacy council taking full oversight of ownership regulation, but, in addition to the improved processes recommended, there is clearly an opportunity for a new advisory council to support the department in its administration of the ownership regulations and provide advice on other matters including scope of practice.


I want to take a moment to thank my fellow committee members, all submitters and witnesses to the inquiry, the Queensland Audit Office and the Productivity Commission. As has already been said, we really need to give special thanks to the committee secretariat—Rob Hansen, Rod Bogaards and James Gilchrist—who shouldered an extraordinary workload at that time while we were also in the thick of the inquiry into the Termination of Pregnancy Bill. It was no mean feat. I commend the report to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.33 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee report No. 14 titled *Review of Auditor-General's report No. 4 for 2017-18—Integrated transport planning* tabled on 14 November 2018.

We had a look at this Auditor-General's report. It is a pretty dry argument. We considered the issues involved. Those issues included: implementation of the 13 audit recommendations; the transport coordination plan and regional transport plans; funding to renew the transport network; the impact of severe weather events; exposure to silicates; managing growth on the transport network; and public transport usage. We made only one recommendation. That was that the report be noted. I would like to thank the hardworking members of our secretariat and my fellow committee members for their work on this report.


We had two briefings—a private briefing with the Auditor-General and officers from the Queensland Audit Office and a public briefing with representatives from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Overall, we are satisfied that the Department of Transport and Main Roads is progressing with the implementation of the 13 recommendations, albeit at a slower pace than initially anticipated. I will talk about that in a second. Our committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the audit recommendations. Some of them are complete and all are underway.

While the Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledged the report's conclusion that the department has been effective in developing the integrated planning framework, he noted his disappointment that the report, in his opinion, did not fully reflect the breadth and depth of DTMR's activities to plan for and invest in the transport network. He went on further to say—

Further, the report gives limited attention to the severe weather events, such as tropical storms and cyclones, which regularly disrupt the transport network across Queensland. In addition to their impact on customers, these events require TMR to deliver significant and urgent repair and reconstruction projects within available funding.


That is what I wanted to talk about. With the unprecedented events in Townsville and Western Queensland, I agree that the urgency is the repair of roads. Whilst maintenance is still being done we have to repair the damaged roads. I can sympathise with his statement. As at 30 June 2018 Queensland had 33,367 kilometres of roads. It is a lot to maintain and upgrade. When we have significant events like we are having at the moment, I can understand his comment.

While the committee is satisfied that the department is completing the recommendations, we understand that there is a timing issue. We will continue to monitor them.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.37 pm): I rise to make a brief comment on report No. 14 of the Transport and Public Works Committee titled *Review of the Auditor-General's report No. 4 for 2017-18—Integrated transport planning*. Firstly, I acknowledge my fellow committee members: Mr Shane King, Mr Bart Mellish, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller, Mr Ted Sorensen and Mr Robbie Katter. I also acknowledge the work that Ms Deb Jeffrey and the secretariat put into the preparation of this report.

The member for Traeger, Mr Robbie Katter, is absent from the House this week. I take this opportunity to ask all members to make contact with him and offer whatever assistance they can to what is a national disaster of an unprecedented scale which we rarely see and which is unfolding now in North-West Queensland.

The committee recommended that the House note the contents of the report. I would like to draw the attention of the House to page 23 of the report, which highlights the forward projected \$9 billion shortfall in funding for our road network throughout Queensland. It is my view that if this is not addressed then it will increase exponentially as time goes by and the road network continues to deteriorate. To me it is only further evidence of the incompetence and economic mismanagement of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.38 pm): I am pleased to speak on this report, which is the review of Auditor-General's report No. 4 into integrated transport planning. The Auditor-General's report assessed whether the state's approach to strategic transport planning enables efficient use of transport resources and a transport system that is sustainable over the long term.

The report notes that there are four key pieces of legislation and the state planning policy that guide transport planning in Queensland. The key planning documents include the Transport Coordination Plan—a 10-year framework—regional plans and regional transport plans. I would

probably add to that the *TransformingSEQ* document, released just this week, which is a far-reaching blueprint by the Palaszczuk government and the Council of Mayors South-East Queensland. The *TransformingSEQ* proposal highlights the need for a genuine partnership between all tiers of government to deliver a future for one of Australia's fastest growing regions that puts connectivity, livability and jobs first. I was pleased to see in the document released this week an acknowledgement of open level crossing removals as a way of optimising our transport network and a mention of the Beams Road level crossing in my area.

Going back to the report, the Queensland Audit Office identified that, in developing and implementing various planning documents to achieve preferred transport trends, a number of challenges need to be addressed. These include expected population growth, rapidly changing consumer expectations, extreme weather that affects the transport system, rapidly changing technologies, the need to maintain and improve transport in regional areas, constrained funding for maintaining the transport network, and the need to integrate planning across all levels of government.

I am pleased to see that this government through its departments and agencies is getting on with addressing these challenges. Our committee is also hopefully assisting in looking at some of these challenges through the transport technology inquiry that is currently underway. It is looking into, among other things, automated vehicles, connected vehicles and electric vehicles, and the future of all of those things.


In relation to these challenges faced in integrated transport planning, when we are talking of the huge sums of money needed in major transport projects, no discussion can be complete without mentioning the federal government's role in all of this. I quote from the committee hearing on 11 June last year. The DTMR spokesperson said—

In terms of the challenge of the environments and the transparency of Australian government contributions to investment, it is fairly clear. We have just had the federal budget handed down. We are well aware of the major programs that were included in the budget. What is not as clear at the moment is some of the announcements in the budget, including a large pot of money for roads of strategic importance. There was also an urban congestion fund. There was also a fund around major business cases. At the moment there is no guidance in terms of what the process will be, the time frames and the guidelines that each state will adopt to try to bid for those pots of money. That is probably the uncertain bit.

Basically, we can do all the transport planning we like here in Queensland but, if the federal government does not want to be transparent, up-front and cooperative with the state about what it wants to fund, we will always be behind the eight ball. The constant black mark against the federal government on transport planning is plain for everyone to see—its lack of commitment to Cross River Rail, the single most important transport project in the state.

All 13 Queensland Audit Office recommendations have been agreed to and are being implemented. Specifically, there are eight for DTMR and five for DILGP. These relate to, among other things, strengthening how regional transport plans integrate with regional land use plans, setting baselines for key performance measures, developing a plan to implement the actions from regional transport plans and things like developing performance monitoring mechanisms. In terms of performance monitoring, I was pleased to see a couple of weeks ago that, when measuring public transport usage across South-East Queensland from December 2018 compared to December 2017, there was a 6.5 per cent increase in patronage. That was certainly good to see, particularly for my area.

I would like to thank all of the committee members who took part in the review. I thank the committee secretariat for their ongoing work. I thank the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah. I would also like to wish my wife a happy Valentine's Day.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.43 pm): I would like to also make a contribution in relation to report No. 14 of the Transport and Public Works Committee, and that is the review of the Auditor-General's report No. 4 in relation to integrated transport planning. I am disappointed that it was only a few minutes ago that the minister was here in the chamber and I wish he were here right now. I read the report with interest. Being an old auditor, I had a cup of coffee and read the report and found one particular part of it quite interesting.

Before I get to that, I take the opportunity to thank not only the LNP members on the committee—Col Boyce, the member for Callide, as well as Ted Sorensen, the deputy chair and member for Hervey Bay—but also the other members—the chair, Shane King, Robbie Katter, Bart Mellish and Jo-Ann Miller—in relation to the work that they continue to do on this committee. I also take the opportunity to thank the secretariat because I know that they do a great job as well.

Specifically, the part of this report that I would like to zero in on is contained on page 15, and that is section 2.6.2—‘Transport Coordination Plan and Regional Transport Plans’. I quote from the report where it states—

The department confirmed:

Key elements of the integrated planning framework of Transport and Main Roads include the Transport Coordination Plan and regional transport plans. The Transport Coordination Plan 2017-2027 was released late last year and provides a strategic framework for the planning and management of the transport system in Queensland over a 10-year time frame.

There is the old saying, ‘If you fail to plan then you plan to fail.’ The next section of this report, which is 2.6.3—‘Funding to renew the transport network’—makes for some pretty sobering reading. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads likes to come in here and spruik about the cutting of a new ribbon in relation to new infrastructure. The member for South Brisbane likes to harp on in relation to new developments in infrastructure throughout the state. Specifically, I believe, you have a fundamental duty to look after, first and foremost, your existing kit—your existing infrastructure—particularly in relation to the weather situations we see in Queensland at times. We have a major problem. I am going to quote directly from this report. The report states—

The committee noted QAO’s conclusion:


DTMR has calculated that it has a \$4 billion renewal backlog for its road network as at 30 June 2017. It estimates the renewal gap will increase to more than \$9 billion over the next 10 years. This will affect DTMR’s ability to meet minimum performance targets;—

I repeat: ‘minimum performance targets’—

it will compromise service standards; and it will require DTMR to reprioritise works to address safety-related defects on its network at the expense of works to renew its assets.

In fact, further in the report is a table, titled ‘Figure 1. Renewal funding gap’. It is terrible to read when you look at some of the key elements. Under ‘Programmed maintenance (renewal)’, the backlog as at June 2017 was \$453 million, but over the next 10 years the total need capability gap is around \$2¼ billion. That is just in relation to programmed maintenance—a potential backlog of \$2¼ billion over the next 10 years. Under ‘Bridge/culvert strength (renewal)’, there was a backlog as at June 2017 of just over a billion dollars—not a million dollars but a billion dollars—\$1.084 billion to be precise. Alarmingly, the total need capability gap will blow out again to just under \$1¼ billion over the next 10 years.

We have a situation where we have a minister who must be doing something pretty spectacular when he has his own hashtag ‘rail fail’. Now he is going to have a new hashtag—I can see it coming—in relation to ‘road fail’. This report makes for some very sobering reading and it needs to be brought to the attention of the House. This minister is simply failing.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.48 pm): I, too, would like to make a contribution. I would like to thank the committee and especially our secretariat who work so hard to prepare all of these documents. Sometimes it is not easy to organise all of this. I would like to thank Shane King, our chair, and our fellow members, especially Robbie Katter, the member for Traeger. The floods up north are pretty terrible. A lot of roads will be impassable for some time. They will not know how bad the damage to some of those roads is until the floodwaters have gone down. Then when the trucks start going over them they will end up smashing up a lot of those roads anyway, so there will be a fair bit of maintenance required on those roads. What concerns me in this report are the audit’s conclusions, which are as follows—

The report states that renewal of the existing network has been, and continues to be, underfunded. Underfunding has resulted in risks to the sustainability of the transport network and the overall condition of the transport network falls well short of DTMR’s target standards.


DTMR forecasts that the renewal backlog on the state-controlled road network will exceed \$9 billion over the next decade. Without alternative strategies to address the funding issues, DTMR faces a risk that it will not be able to maintain or improve service standards on the transport network to meet future needs.

When we look at some of those backlogs, especially in rural and regional areas, we see that pavement rehabilitation is funded to about 16 per cent of the need. Sixteen per cent is all they are funding to reseal these roads. Resealing a road makes a huge difference to the length of time that road is kept in good repair. Once roads start cracking up, water can get under the infrastructure and that is when we have huge costs to maintain those roads. I cannot believe that we are only funding 16 per cent of the money that is needed. It is just ridiculous that we have got that far back.

The Audit Office also considers that the funding the DTMR plans to allocate to maintain and renew the network is not enough to stop the transport system from further deteriorating. DTMR has calculated that it had a \$4 billion renewal backlog as at 30 June 2017. This is an enormous backlog. Whether we like it or not, it is stacking up debt. Sooner or later something has to happen to these roads. Imagine having \$4 billion of debt stacked on top of the debt we already have.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: It is all climate change, yes. The money is running around somewhere. That is my frustration with this. When I drive on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road I can see that the road is cracking up and it needs maintenance. I travelled to Bundaberg recently and the main road going into Bundaberg is cracking up. We are just lucky that we did not have the rain that Townsville did. If the Townsville roads were in the same condition as are some of the roads in Wide Bay, they will be cracking up terribly with all the moisture that can get underneath those roads. This planning scheme of maintenance and keeping the transport system working needs to be prioritised so that it works at the end of the day.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.53 pm): I, too, rise to address report No. 14 by the committee as it alludes to the review of the Auditor-General's report No. 4 for 2017-18 titled *Integrated transport planning*. In one sense what we read in the Auditor-General's report is no surprise. It confirms what mums and dads and business owners, particularly across South-East Queensland, are feeling each and every day, and that is congested roads, failing public transport, taking longer to get to and from their home to their place of work, to their business and home to their families, especially across South-East Queensland, including the electorate of Glass House.

What I think is most concerning is the extent to which we have a looming crisis, if we are not already in crisis. We hear from the Auditor-General that the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the then department of local government are developing the foundations but they need more time. I am sorry; we do not have more time. We need this sorted now.


The Auditor-General goes on to say that 'delays in finalising the QTP and publishing the TCP 2017-2027 mean there is a lack of certainty over strategic direction' and 'these delays could result in a disconnect with strategic priorities'. We are already seeing it. Brisbane City Council environs in particular are seeing it. Because of successive Labor SEQ regional plans, we have exorbitant infill targets being imposed on councils without the infrastructure required to get people to and from their place of work or education.

What it means, as other colleagues have already pointed out, is that DTMR is struggling to keep up with the renewal of its existing network. It is underfunded. It forecast that the renewal backlog on the state controlled road network will exceed \$9 billion over the next decade. What the Auditor-General says is that, because of this, DTMR will remain focused on delivering a sustainable transport system by prioritising its funding towards running and maintaining the existing transport network including repair and renewable, and then investing in new infrastructure—and the really scary words are—'when it can'. At the moment DTMR is struggling to keep up with repairing what they already have. There is nothing being put aside to invest in the road and public transport infrastructure that this state, and particularly South-East Queensland, needs.

Not surprisingly, as I said, the report then details what we know mums and dads plainly see every day. That is, the transport modelling for vehicle travel indicates that the transport system performance under most of ShapingSEQ's assumptions show potential average peak travel times will increase significantly by 2041 compared with 2016. We have a crisis now. We cannot wait for this to be sorted out in the coming years. We need to get the transport planning aligned with the regional planning so that the infrastructure is in place as the population growth commences, not after the population growth has finished.

What is most alarming is that, whilst it was focused on Transport and Main Roads and transport planning, it has let the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning completely off the hook. The reality is that a lot of what we are seeing in South-East Queensland is because of ShapingSEQ, which is putting targets on councils that have to achieve exorbitant infill of population without the transport infrastructure to get them around. It is why people in the electorates of Chatsworth, Everton and Aspley are calling out for public transport solutions because they are suddenly seeing three-storey, six-storey and 10-storey developments imposed on the Brisbane City Council without the public transport solutions needed to move those people around.

We have to have a very mature conversation, particularly from the planning department, as to how we accommodate future population growth. We cannot keep putting people into these suburbs without giving them the infrastructure they need. The report suggests that some of the delays were due to changes of government. We have had a generation of Labor now, with the exception of three years under LNP, and the government that needs to be blamed is the Palaszczuk Labor government and their predecessors who have neglected this and allowed it to fester and become the crisis that it has today.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.58 pm): In the time remaining I will make a contribution to the review of the Auditor-General's report titled *Integrated transport planning*. It is a report that should sound alarm bells for everyone in this place who values a strong economy, for everyone in this place who values a strong lifestyle and for everyone who values a safe community. If roads do not function well, if renewal is not occurring, then all of those things are impacted on.

I want to point to what I see is a key way of dealing with this backlog. It is a pleasure to follow the member for Glass House, who has articulated brilliantly how important it is to get your renewal right otherwise you do not have the capacity to fund new capital. Everyone in this place will always be lobbied about new capital, and so we should. We are there to be the representatives of people. We are there to make sure their lives are better. We also have to make sure that what was built by governments decades ago is not left to wither on the vine.

So it is that I seek to talk about the recommendation about strengthening the link between regional transport plans and regional land use plans. It is something that successive governments have failed on. We must have a long hard look at developments and where they occur and how we can get maximum capacity from our networks that are there, how we can seek to maximise those corridors that have capacity—


Debate, on motion of Mr Crisafulli, adjourned.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 250, on motion of Ms Enoch—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (4.00 pm), continuing in reply: It is important to remember that the only reason Queensland is in the situation we are currently in—where we are on the receiving end of interstate dumping, where we are so far behind the rest of the country in terms of recycling rates, where we could not respond quickly to China's decision to impose import restrictions like other states were able to—is that in 2012 the LNP recklessly repealed the waste levy we had in this state. What we have seen over the last few days is LNP member after LNP member stand and try to defend that terrible decision.

The member for Broadwater declared that the opposition would not be supporting this bill, but what he did not say was whether the LNP would once again repeal the levy if they were elected to government in the future, sending Queensland backward once again. He has refused to give industry and communities the certainty of investment and job opportunities that we know will come with the waste levy. I think it is high time the LNP came clean and declared whether they would repeal the waste levy given half the chance.

The member for Broadwater also made some extraordinary claims about how the government will spend waste levy funds. He said that 90 per cent of the waste levy money would return to the government. What rubbish. Apparently, the member for Broadwater has lost his copy of the budget papers because in the 2018-19 budget papers it clearly says right there in black and white that 70 per cent of levy funds will be allocated to industry, councils, scheme start-up and environmental priorities. I am advised that there is no other state in the nation that has hypothecated that same percentage of their waste levy to these causes. I do not know why it is so hard for members opposite to get their heads around this. Frankly, I support the call by the member for Jordan, who was a member of the parliamentary committee that considered this bill, that if the member for Broadwater is going to continue making that false claim he should table his maths.

I also want to reiterate our government's commitment to Queenslanders. It will not cost more to put out your wheelie bin. We are providing local councils with 105 per cent of the cost of municipal solid waste—that is above the cost to send municipal solid waste to landfill—which is designed to incentivise further innovation in their waste management approaches. We have enshrined that in this legislation. Our commitment is rock solid. I am advised that no other state in the nation has a similar commitment.

The member for Broadwater mentioned in his speech households living in retirement villages and other places that have commercial waste management agreements. Let me be very clear again that these Queenslanders are also covered by our commitment. I have instructed the Department of Environment and Science to develop a model for entering into arrangements with waste contractors, business operators and households to ensure there is no direct impact on any resident caused by the introduction of the levy.

Those opposite have also persisted in their scare campaign about the cost of building a new home. There have been claims made in the past that the waste levy will add \$1,500 to the price of a new house. For this to be true, every newly constructed house would have to see around 20 tonnes of materials end up in landfill. Surely we can do better than that. That would mean that right now people who are building their properties would be seeing 20 tonnes of materials go straight to the tip. We know that much of this waste, including any clean earth excavated from the site, is recyclable. Once again, the LNP members have their numbers wrong, but they are not letting the facts get in the way of demonstrating how out of step they are with Queenslanders and their expectations.

It is true though that, as the Minister for Housing pointed out in his contribution, estimates show that overordering concrete on the average four-bedroom home currently costs almost an extra \$1,000. Obviously, careful ordering would save the home owner and reduce waste. The truth is that this government is committed to working with the construction sector to ensure they can play their part in waste minimisation, recovery and recycling. The Master Builders Association and HIA have been members of the government's waste advisory group. As I announced yesterday, the government has committed \$2 million to support waste solutions for the construction and demolition industry.

Long-term waste minimisation will save money in construction, and the industry is aware of that. As the housing minister also pointed out, some of Queensland's largest builders are already doing the work to reduce overordering to reduce costs for their clients. The incentive of a waste levy will support them to do that. Companies like Mirvac, which have diverted 95 per cent of building waste from their developments from landfill in 2017, should be congratulated for the progress they are making. Further, as we have heard, Master Builders has also produced a guide outlining the benefits of waste reduction. There is room for improvement in the construction industry, but by working together I am confident we can reduce waste that is going to landfill.

Members opposite also raised issues about illegal dumping. Let me again inform the House, as I did yesterday, that the government is investing \$25.9 million of levy funds for compliance work to reduce the risk of litter and illegal dumping. We know this action is critically important; that is why we are doing it. We are also taking steps in this bill to look after councils in the non-levy zone by ensuring waste transported in the zone is notified 24 hours in advance and there is a penalty provision if 24 hours notice is not provided for. The purpose of providing 24 hours notice is so that the landfill operator can decide whether they want to accept the leviable waste.

During my second reading speech, I announced that I would be moving amendments to commence the levy on 1 July 2019. This is in response to concerns raised by local government and other stakeholders that commencement of the levy should be aligned with the start of the financial year. The government's willingness to make this change demonstrates its intent to ensure administration of the levy is as simple as possible for local government and private industry and it is further evidence of our collaborative approach to these reforms. We should be clear about this: collaboration is absolutely critical with the multiple initiatives introduced by this government to modernise the way we manage waste and to help us all look at waste in a different way. We have to ensure that we are all working together on this. That is why this collaborative style has been absolutely critical in ensuring that we have a bill now before the House that has had all stakeholders engaged.

A number of the amendments to bill will be required as a consequence of deferring the commencement of the waste levy. For example, the bill no longer needs to amend the City of Brisbane Act and Local Government Act because all the details of the levy will be available in time for council budget meetings for 2019-20 that will set charges for waste management.

During my second reading speech, I also mentioned that I propose to move amendments to the bill to address specific circumstances raised during consultation on the bill and how it will be implemented. The amendments proposed will ease the levy transition for particular circumstances, including by exempting certain waste and waste facilities and particular circumstances at some landfill sites. They will also clarify some provisions.

Many councils advise that they waive landfill gate fees so that residents and businesses can clean up after a serious local event such as a storm or flood, even when it has not been declared a disaster under the Disaster Management Act 2003. A number of amendments to clauses 6 and 20 of the bill will allow for the levy to be waived in similar circumstances. The exemption does not require an application but is subject to notification requirements, and the chief executive may declare limits on the exemption. There are also limits on the period of the exemption, but an application may be made for the waste to be declared exempt for a further period if the need exceeds these limits. This is, of course, further to the provisions related to clean up post a declared disaster.

An amendment to clause 6 is proposed to exempt litter and illegal dumping of waste collected by or for a plantation licensee required to maintain public access to the plantation licence area for recreational purposes, and I thank HQPlantations for raising this concern. Small, remote and unmanned disposal sites will struggle to meet requirements to record leviable waste delivered to the site. An amendment to clause 6 will exclude sites in the non-levy zone authorised to receive 5,000 tonnes or less of waste in a year from those requirements if they have taken all reasonably practical steps to ensure that leviable waste from outside the non-levy zone cannot be lawfully delivered to the site.

Several councils, including the Rockhampton Regional Council and Townsville City Council, identified that at some landfill sites householders deliver certain waste, typically recyclables, to collection points before reaching a point where waste deliveries are recorded. I thank these councils for drawing the attention of the Department of Environment and Science to this arrangement. Rather than forcing these councils to rearrange their sites, an amendment to clause 6 will provide flexibility by removing the requirement to measure waste delivered to a resource recovery area in a small vehicle.

An amendment to clause 6 also clarifies how requirements apply to mixed loads of waste that include exempt waste. This closes a loophole for potential levy evasion. Another amendment to clause 6 clarifies that applications for a bad debt credit are allowed for deliveries to a resource recovery area at a waste disposal site. Orora Limited, Seqwater, Glencore Limited and Queensland Resources Council assisted the department in identifying particular landfills where it would be inappropriate to charge the levy.

Amendments to clause 6 and clause 20 will exclude landfills from the definition of waste facility if they are operating only to support resource activities and the disposal of waste to remediate contamination generated by activities prior to becoming environmentally relevant activities in certain circumstances. The exclusion will be conditional on waste only being generated by the relevant activity. For historic waste, it would be dependent on the activity now being properly licensed and operated, substantially the same as the previous activity and being conducted in the same place. The amendments will also exclude from the definition of 'waste disposal' site facilities that only receive specific types of exempt waste that will be prescribed by regulation.

Following representations from Cairns Regional Council, I will also move an amendment to clause 20 to ensure virgin soils and sediments in parts of Queensland where there are acid sulphate soils are exempt from the levy whilst also ensuring potential harm from these soils has been appropriately dealt with as prescribed by regulation. I thank the Cairns Regional Council and members of the Legislation Technical Working Group for assisting in the development of a practical solution to this issue.

A bill does not reach this point without considerable work from many people, both within and beyond government. The key features of the levy were proposed in a directions paper released in June 2018 to which there were over 100 submissions. These submissions in turn informed the development of the bill, and I thank all those who took the time to make those submissions. I also thank all those who met with the department to discuss the development of the bill, including peak body representatives that participated in the Recycling and Waste Management Stakeholder Advisory Group. I especially want to acknowledge members of the Legislation Technical Working Group who volunteered their valuable time in contributing to meaningful discussions on several drafts of the bill before it was finalised for introduction.

I thank the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee for their inquiry and committee staff who assisted with the inquiry. I would also like to acknowledge the 37 peak waste and recycling representative bodies, other industry representative organisations, businesses, local

governments and members of the public who made submissions to the committee inquiry. I would also like to thank the 27 submitters who made submissions on the consultation draft of the regulation. Valuable information provided during consultation resulted in a range of adjustments to the regulation. Notably, the Goondiwindi Regional Council local government area will be included in the waste levy zone. There will also be a temporary three-year exemption for road scrapings, or road planings as they are also known, for regional councils outside South-East Queensland.

I would like to thank staff in the Department of Environment and Science who have worked tirelessly in the development of this legislation, in particular Tony Roberts, Adrian Jeffreys, Victoria Hutchinson, Karalyn Herse, Ashley Bunce, Ariane Milinovich, Jodie Collins and Matthew English. The bill will provide an incentive for people to reduce the waste they create and find more productive and job-creating uses for their waste. This is good for Queensland, it is good for the economy and it is good for the environment. I commend the bill to the House.

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

AYES, 48:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Furner, Perrett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 5—



Ms ENOCH (4.21 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Ms ENOCH: I move the following amendments—

- 1 **Clause 1 (Short title)**
Page 10, line 5, '*and Other Legislation*'—
omit.
- 2 **Clause 2 (Commencement)**
Page 10, line 7, '4 February 2019'—
omit, insert—
1 June 2019
- 3 **Clause 2 (Commencement)**
Page 10, line 12, '4 March 2019'—
omit, insert—
1 July 2019
- 4 **Clause 5 (Amendment of s 8A (Meaning of waste disposal site))**
Page 11, lines 10 to 12—
omit, insert—
 - (1) Section 8A(b), 'commonly'—
omit, insert—
sometimes
 - (2) Section 8A—
insert—
 - (2) However, a waste facility is not a **waste disposal site** only because a type of exempt waste prescribed by regulation for this definition is disposed of to landfill at the facility.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Leeanne Enoch's amendments [189].

Amendments 1 to 4 amend clauses 1 to 5, short title commencement and proposed section 8A(b). These amendments change particular provisions of the bill as a consequence of deferring the commencement date for the waste levy from 4 March 2019 to 1 July 2019. They also clearly exclude from the waste levy certain facilities that only handle certain types of waste and were never intended to be bound by the detailed site and operational requirements set out in the bill.

Amendment 1 amends clause 1, short title of the bill, to delete the reference to 'and other legislation'. Amendments to the Local Government Act 2009 and City of Brisbane Act 2010 were previously required for a 4 March 2019 levy commencement date; however, as the levy is not proposed to commence until 1 July 2019, these amendments are no longer required.

Amendments 2 and 3 amend clause 2 to change the commencement of particular provisions of the bill as a consequence of deferring the commencement of the waste levy from 4 March 2019 to 1 July 2019. The change of date has the full support of the LGAQ and the industry. It shows that we are a consultative government.

Amendment 4 amends clause 5, section 8A(b), to clearly exclude from the waste levy certain facilities that were never intended to be captured. These facilities take only waste which is prescribed as exempt from the levy. The types of exempt waste will be set out in the associated regulation. They include alum sludge and other residuals from the treatment of drinking water for a period of five years; fly-ash from power stations for 10 years; and wastewater which meets irrigational livestock watering criteria. I thank Seqwater and other operators for drawing attention to their specific circumstances, which I am happy to accommodate.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The amendments do not show a consultative government; they in fact show a government that planned poorly, a government that was not ready, and a government that failed to tell people about their biggest tax heading into an election. I seek to raise a couple of things about this \$1.3 billion tax.

First of all, I will again say that I am sorry, Minister, but if money is going to a council, if money is going to a state government to administer a scheme, and if money is going to consolidated revenue, that is money that is going to government. It is only the money that is going to environmental programs—about one in every 10 cents—that is real money for the environment. The government is trying to somehow say that this is a tax that will benefit the environment, but in fact it is all about the bottom line. It is about a government trying to feed its overspending. This is not a levy; it is a tax.

I also seek to talk about the fact that there was no regulatory impact statement done. I did not believe that in this debate we could see anything more shambolic than the housing minister, who somehow said that Master Builders and HIA have no concept of what it costs to build a home and the impact this will have on building a home. I did not think that would be bettered until the Minister for Environment. For the Minister for Environment to somehow suggest that a builder does not know what is going into his or her home when they are building it and that somehow they have thousands of dollars of waste is a slap in the face. There are builders who know within a couple of bricks. They are doing the right thing, and to suggest that somehow they overorder—I think the value, Minister, was \$1,000 of concrete—is an absurdity. It is a slap in the face. I intend to ensure that every builder in this state knows what the government thinks of them.

Mr WATTS: It is good to get a chance to speak, particularly on clause 1. Obviously I was gagged here today. I would suggest that the Queensland press should be very concerned about being gagged when a government comes into this place and introduces a levy that is in fact a tax. This is a \$1.3 billion tax grab to try and prop up a budget for a government that is clearly addicted to spending. Clause 1 should say 'government tax grab' because that is what they are doing. I want to clarify something because I was unable to speak earlier.

Will this tax grab, as per the short title of the bill, apply to DV shelters? Will it apply to disability homes? Will it apply to the waste that comes out of the charitable organisations that do good work in this state every day? We know that it will apply to every single small business in this state. It is a fiction that the people of Queensland will not have to pay more money and that this levy will have no impact on them. Where does the \$1.3 billion come from? Whose pocket does it come out of? To suggest that everybody will reduce their waste consumption is laughable, because if everybody reduces their waste then why is the government budgeting for \$1.3 billion to be kicking into the coffers? Clearly this money

is coming out of the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. Clearly this money is coming out of charities here in Queensland. Clearly this money is coming out of every organisation that does not meet the exemption requirements.

This is a tax. It is a serious grab for money. It was not outlined going into the election. I put it to you that the people in those charities, the people in those disability services and the people in those DV services and other organisations who provide accommodation and other facilities for disadvantaged people in this state will all have to pay this tax. They will all have to pay this tax. The charities will have to raise more money. Schools will have to pay this tax. Everybody is going to have to pay this tax, so some of this money will go around and around in circles. The government will have to fund organisations with a little bit more money so that it can receive it back in its revenue. This is nothing more than a blatant tax grab. Today we have seen this parliament try to silence members talking about this tax grab because they are embarrassed about taking money out of the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders.

Mr LISTER: I rise to speak about the amendments moved en bloc. I am very pleased to have the chance. Like the member for Toowoomba North, I was gagged today. I was unable to offer some valuable insights on behalf of my electors in Southern Downs. This whole bill is an utter sham. We have been given an embarrassing litany of excuses and pretexts for why we need this bill in the first place.

Beyond that, we see the incompetence of an administration that cannot get its legislation right, even when it comes before the House. We have seen a change to the implementation date—again. I think the last time we were talking about a change to the implementation date was because those odious Labor mates in the old Ipswich city council suddenly said they were going to cease recycling. That was one pretext. It is obvious that the implementation date has had to be changed to avoid a looming disaster in local government and for the budget.

The concessions for spoil, forestry, illegal dumping and so forth do not apply to the farmers in my electorate of Southern Downs. Because people will be facing a tax of \$75 a tonne on their waste, I will bet a pound to a penny that that waste will end up dumped on the side of the road—in my constituents' paddocks. There is no provision in the bill for them to receive any compensation. This is the sort of thing that was mentioned during the committee process and it has been mentioned by members in this House today—earlier I heard the member for Mirani talking about this very issue—but there is no recognition of it in the bill.

Not only is this a terrible bill because of the impact it has on the finances of people directly—although the government says there are no direct impacts on people; there is also the impact of \$1.3 billion being scraped out of the economy. You do not need to be an expert in economics to know that if you hit the economy with a \$1.3 billion tax it will affect everybody. It is going from the productive, private sector of the economy into the coffers of this government—this government that spends it so badly, spraying it about in a waste, trying to appease the greens in their inner-city electorates. I can say for certain that the people of Southern Downs are not at all entertained by the prospect of this tax or these amendments. I urge that they all be opposed.

Amendments agreed to.

Mr WATTS: I want to raise something further in relation to these amendments. It goes to these family-friendly hours that we have been running in this parliament and the inability of this parliament to conduct itself in an orderly manner. Not only do you gag members from having their say; I see that in clause 2 you have had to change the date. Is it because we missed the sitting in December? Is that the reason this legislation was not passed on time? Is there some hold-up in your pipeline of legislation or is it that you are just—

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

Mr WATTS:—running your dictatorship here in Queensland that you cannot manage business through this House?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba North, you have said 'you' several times to the government. I have directed you to put all of your comments through the chair. Please, through the chair.

Mr WATTS: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am concerned that the Labor government is treating this parliament as a plaything. I am concerned that it does not take seriously the representation of my community in Toowoomba North. This bill is a massive impost on small business owners right across Queensland but most particularly in Toowoomba North.

Changing the date just goes to show the incompetence of this government. Figures were put in the budget, but clearly none of that money will have been collected by the time the next budget is put out. Moving the commencement date goes to the core of how this government is running this parliament. They believe it is their plaything. They believe that they can silence everybody whenever they wish. They believe that I should not be able to stand up and speak for the constituents of Toowoomba North. I can assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I can assure those members opposite that I will take the opportunities that the standing orders, which have been developed over a very long period of time in this state, give members to speak. I have great confidence in the standing orders in this place to try to rein in the dictatorship that I see operating opposite. I will take every opportunity afforded to me to speak up for the people of Toowoomba North.

As the government reaches into people's pockets and grabs what small change they have left, after all the other taxes that have been put on them, the bills of every single restaurant will go up. They have to; restaurants have to pass on the costs. This will be the case with every single pub and club. Every outlet in this state that generates any kind of waste will have to pay more money. Therefore, they will have to put up their prices. Prices in this state will go up. That will affect mums and dads. I hope that as the government introduces this tax it also increases people's wages to deal with the tax.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you need to be in your allocated seat if you are going to interject; otherwise you will be warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I certainly welcome the remedy of the oversight of disaster waste not being included as an exempt form. That would have been horrendous for every community facing that circumstance. I refer to dredge spoil. The minister spoke about the acid sulphate soils that Cairns had put forward. However, there is a glaring oversight that has not been rectified by the changes we are talking about today and that will impact mums and dads who live in retirement villages and unit complexes. The minister, in good faith, has said, 'We will look at that in the regulations,' but parliament is the body that can protect those people.

We heard the Premier say that people would not be impacted by this. That is a nonsense, and we have proven that. Right across Queensland, councils have said that there will be rates increases. We heard in the case of Mount Isa rates increases of over \$200 per rateable property. Right across-the-board people have spoken about that. Of course that gets passed on. Every business will be impacted. Every community will be impacted.

Ms Jones: Just like New South Wales and Victoria and South Australia and WA and the ACT.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am not taking interjections at the moment. To say, 'She'll be right mate,' and suggest that issues affecting Queenslanders who live in places such as boarding houses, retirement villages and unit complexes can be left to the regulations, which can be changed with the stroke of a pen, is not right. I have urged the minister to address those issues in these changes. Whilst I welcome the amendments put forward, they certainly fall short in terms of giving the protection that everyday Queenslanders need.

Mr SORENSEN: I was expecting some amendments, especially relating to retirees. The committee report shows that Labor will not extend rebates to retirement homes, hitting retirees with another tax. This is affecting the residents of Hervey Bay, a number of whom live in nursing homes, retirement villages and so on. This government is treating these retirees with contempt. It is a bit like Shorten's little buddy Chris Bowen telling retirees that if they do not like it they should vote for somebody else. I hope they do! This is just another tax on retirees who cannot afford any more, and they are doing it tough. I know many women retirees who are doing it really tough.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Mr SORENSEN: I do not need any smart comments from you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier, that was uncalled for.

Mr SORENSEN: I am talking about retirees who are doing it tough and it is just—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, I will not have these snide comments back and forth across the chamber. The member on his feet is not being provocative. I need you to listen in silence, otherwise I will start naming members under the standing orders.

Mr SORENSEN: I want to see some amendments to this legislation to protect retirees from this tax, and it is a tax. It is nothing else. It gets raised by local governments and handed over to the state government. That is pretty unreasonable because the local governments are going to get the blame for

it, aren't they? Local government is going to cop it, because I have been in local government. The state government has expected us to raise fire levies and other levies, but the local governments are going to get the blame for this tax. You watch. Next time it comes around to rates time and there is another \$75 on the bill and people go to the tip and there is another \$75, local government will get the blame for it, not the Labor government. It is hiding a little tax away and blaming it on the council. Blame it on somebody else. That is all you do—blame somebody else for everything.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Ms ENOCH: Just to set the record straight, obviously the LNP still has no clue about the issues around this bill in terms of the fact that we must reduce the amount of waste that is going to landfill. It is not possible to continue the way we are. When we consider that more than 10 million tonnes of waste is ending up in landfill right now, it is outstripping our population as a state and there is an economic opportunity in terms of the amount of waste going into landfill. We need to be redirecting it into recycling and recovery. We need to be supporting industry. To do that, we have to come in line with the rest of the country. Every other state in mainland Australia has a waste levy and we need to come in line with them. Unfortunately for those opposite, they have not been in touch with their own constituents. Right across Queensland people are absolutely tuning in with regard to the environment and in terms of climate change. They are tuning in to the fact that we must do better at our waste recovery and we must do better in the way that we deal with waste.

This government has also made it very clear many times that we are providing up-front in advance payments to councils of 105 per cent of the cost of municipal solid waste and we are working through various situations for all residents to ensure that there is no direct impact on residents as a result of this levy. Those opposite are in here crying crocodile tears about this. If they were so passionate about it, they would have moved their own amendments. If they are so against the levy, then why does one of them not stand up, have a bit of a spine and say that they would repeal this levy if they were to win government?

Clauses 1 to 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6—



Ms ENOCH (4.43 pm): I move the following amendments—

5 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 13, after line 11—

insert—

(aa) serious local event waste; or

6 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 14, line 1, after 'spoil'—

insert—

if, for dredge spoil that is acid sulfate soil, the dredge spoil has been treated in accordance with best practice environmental management, within the meaning of the Environmental Protection Act, section 21, for the treatment and management of acid sulfate soils, as stated in a guideline prescribed by regulation

7 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 14, lines 3 and 4, 'or a local government'—

omit, insert—

, a local government or a plantation licensee under the *Forestry Act 1959*

8 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 15, lines 6 to 13—

omit, insert—

2021—either of the following periods—

(i) the period starting on 1 July 2019 and ending on 30 June 2020;

(ii) the period starting on 1 July 2020 and ending on 30 June 2021; or

9 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 16, after line 10—

insert—

serious local event—

1 A *serious local event* is a serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by a local government and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption.

- 2 For paragraph 1—
- (a) a serious disruption is—
- (i) loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or
 - (ii) widespread or severe property loss or damage; or
 - (iii) widespread or severe damage to the environment; and
- (b) an event is an event under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, section 16.

serious local event waste—

- (a) means waste generated by activities in the immediate preparation for, or by or because of, a serious local event—
- (i) but only within the limits, if any, declared by the chief executive under section 27B, for the serious local event; and
 - (ii) subject to the requirements of section 27A; but
- (b) does not include waste generated by activities in general preparation for storms that are predicted or are likely to occur in a particular season each year or in anticipation of the next cyclone season.

10 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 17, after line 23—

insert—

Division 1A Serious local event waste

27A Notifying chief executive that waste is serious local event waste in particular circumstances

- (1) This section applies if the chief executive officer of a local government reasonably believes—
- (a) there is or will be a serious local event in the local government's local government area; and
 - (b) an exemption from the levy on types of waste generated as a result of the serious local event and delivered to particular waste disposal sites should be allowed.
- (2) The chief executive officer must notify the chief executive as soon as practicable of the following matters in relation to waste that has been or will be generated as a result of the serious local event—
- (a) the type of waste that is to be serious local event waste;
 - (b) the waste disposal sites at which the waste will be disposed of;
 - (c) the period for which the waste is to be serious local event waste.
- (3) The maximum period for subsection (2)(c) is the period starting 7 days immediately before the serious local event starts or is predicted to start and ending 28 days after the serious local event ends.
- (4) If the chief executive officer acts under subsection (2), and subject to section 27B, the type of waste stated in the notice is serious local event waste if—
- (a) waste of that type is delivered to a stated waste disposal site during the stated period; and
 - (b) the site operator of the waste disposal site does not charge for the delivery of the waste to the site.

27B Chief executive may declare limits for serious local event waste

- (1) The chief executive may, by publication on the department's website, declare limits applying to the status of waste as serious local event waste in relation to a particular serious local event.
- Examples of declared limits—
- a declaration that waste is serious local event waste only for a stated period
 - a declaration that waste is serious local event waste only if it is disposed of at a stated site
 - a declaration that, after a stated day, waste is serious local event waste only if delivered by stated entities
- (2) If the chief executive makes a declaration under subsection (1), the chief executive must take all reasonable steps to ensure that persons likely to be directly affected by the declaration are made aware of it, including, for example, by advertising in newspapers, on radio or on television.
- (3) A declaration made under subsection (1) is not invalid merely because of a failure to comply with subsection (2).

11 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 18, line 10, 'listed on'—

omit, insert—

recorded in

Amendments Nos 5 to 11 amend proposed sections 26 to 28 in clause 6. These amendments insert provisions to establish an exemption from the levy for serious local event waste. These amendments also clarify and provide for certain types of waste to be exempt from the levy. Amendment No. 5 amends clause 6 to add serious local event waste to the definition of exempt waste under proposed section 26. This will help local governments and communities in preparing for and responding to a serious local event that may not reach the threshold to be a declared disaster under the Disaster Management Act 2003. I want to put on the record my thanks to the Bundaberg Regional Council and others for their detailed advice and input on this amendment.

Amendment No. 6 amends proposed section 26 in clause 6 to amend the description of dredge spoil under the definition of exempt waste to add appropriately managed acid sulphate soils. This will ensure that dredge spoil that includes acid sulphate soil is covered by the exemption. However, to protect the environment, the exemption is valid only if the material is treated in accordance with best practice environmental management. I thank North Queensland councils and the Cairns Port Authority for raising this issue.

Amendment No. 7 amends proposed section 26 in clause 6 to add an exemption for plantation licensees under the Forestry Act 1959. The current sole plantation licensee, HQPlantations, is required to maintain public access to the plantation licence area for recreational purposes. Litter and illegal dumping can be a significant issue and the licensee is required to dispose of this waste. I thank HQPlantations for drawing attention to the important work it does in managing litter and illegal dumping and I am pleased to include it in the exemption provision.

Amendment No. 8 amends proposed section 26 in clause 6 in terms of the definition of levy period to accommodate deferment of commencement of the waste levy to 1 July 2019.

Amendments Nos 9 and 10 amend proposed section 26 part 2 in clause 6 to insert provisions to establish an exemption from the levy for serious local event waste. A serious local event is defined as a serious disruption in a community caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by a local government and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption. Serious local event waste is waste generated by activities in the immediate preparation for or as a result of a serious local event. Preparation is not intended to include general storm season preparation.

Again, I thank the Bundaberg Regional Council and others for their detailed advice and input on this amendment. This is another example of how our government is listening to and working with local councils to assist them in the levy rollout. In practice, many councils waive their gate fees following a severe local storm or flood, so this amendment provides extra support for communities to ensure councils are not paying the levy when they are not receiving gate fees. This is about certainty for councils and communities.

Amendment No. 11 amends proposed section 28 in clause 6 to correct the term 'listed on' for 'recorded in' in proposed subsection (c). The purpose of this amendment is to correct terminology in accordance with a precedent set in the Environmental Protection Act 1994. This amendment ensures correct interpretation of this provision.

Mr WATTS: I have a question for the minister in relation to amendment No. 10 to clause 6 relating to proposed section 27A(3). The amendment states—

The maximum period for subsection (2)(c) is the period starting 7 days immediately before the serious local event starts or is predicted to start and ending 28 days after the serious local event ends.

In 2011 my community of Toowoomba North had a very serious event, as people would be aware. There were some tragic circumstances around that and there was a lot of destruction around that as well. My question to the minister is: what defines the ending of the serious local event? There were homes in and around my electorate, particularly in Murphys Creek, that were impacted and they had to wait for serious insurance claims to be paid for and some people were waiting over 12 months. Much of the stuff that they would need to pull out and take away would be dependent on what happens with the insurance company.

My question, Minister, is: what defines the end of a serious local event? Who is making that decision? How will that affect people who have debris that they need to clear away after such an event such as the floods that we faced in Toowoomba? Will that 28-day period be long enough for them to be able to get those claims dealt with in order for them to be able to get contractors in to remove that debris and waste?

Sometimes when a serious event occurs in a community contractors are thin on ground because there is such a massive demand for them. I seek guidance from the minister as to a definition of when the 28 days ends and whether there will be any ability to be able to extend that time if the circumstances require it because of either insurance claims or the inability of contractors to be able to get rid of all the debris in that 28-day period.

Mr POWELL: I want to address in particular the amendment regarding concessions for illegal dumping in forestry. To my mind, this amendment is an admission of one of the significant failings of this waste tax. It stratospherically drives up illegal dumping, particularly in communities that have high levels of plantation forestry. When Labor brought in its last waste tax, I recall we saw in the forests around Beerburum, the Glass House Mountains, Beerwah and Peachester an extraordinary amount of illegal dumping. Even after the LNP removed the tax during its term of government, as the then minister for environment I still had to work with HQPlantations to install CCTVs and other forms of detection to try to nip the dumping in the bud, but the illegal dumping continued long after the tax was removed.

We have here an admission that that is going to happen again. Yes, HQPlantations will do fantastic work in relation to that illegal dumping, but that work is taking them away from their core duties, which is growing trees, harvesting them and sending them off to millers. HQPlantations have a great relationship with the local four-wheel drive clubs and they have a great relationship with clubs such as the Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network, all of which do fantastic work. Every year on Clean Up Australia Day I help HQPlantations pick up this rubbish. We have an admission here that that illegal dumping is going to come back the minute this bill is passed.

It is not acceptable that we have to move an amendment to waive the fee to clean up illegal dumping. That illegal dumping should not be happening in the first place. We have here a tax that is a burden on the community, that is a burden on organisations such as HQPlantations.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the members for their contributions. I want to address the question asked by the member for Toowoomba North about the 28-day period. This amendment relates to local severe events and not events that have been declared disasters. Declared disasters, such as the one the member for Toowoomba North mentioned, are already covered in the bill.

This amendment is about including local severe events. Through this amendment, we are ensuring that councils need to notify that they have triggered this local severe event and they get immediately 28 days. If councils decide that they require longer than those 28 days, that is when they would make another application. It is up to the councils to decide whether more time is required to be able to deal with a local severe event, but it is very different from events that are declared disasters.

Amendments agreed to.



Ms ENOCH (4.53 pm): I move the following amendments—

12 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 18, line 20—

omit, insert—

- (e) biosecurity waste;
- (f) serious local event waste.

13 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 18, after line 24—

insert—

- (3A) In addition, if the application is about serious local event waste, the application may be made only by the chief executive officer of the local government in whose local government area the serious local event waste was generated.

14 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 19, lines 14 to 17—

omit.

15 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 26, after lines 5 and 16—

insert—

- (1A) For subsection (1)(b), the rate of the waste levy for exempt waste is taken to be zero.

These amendments provide for an exempt waste application to be made for serious local event waste and to clarify provisions. Amendments Nos 12 and 13 amend new section 28 in clause 6 to provide for an exempt waste application to be made for serious local event waste if a local government needs to extend the initial exemption period beyond 28 days. These amendments support local governments and communities by recognising that sometimes a longer period may be needed to respond to a serious local event and provide the flexibility in the legislation to respond accordingly. I am advised that it would be unusual for an application to be rejected. It is simply a matter of good governance to put a time frame on these events and then manage extensions appropriately.

Amendment No. 14 amends new section 28 of clause 6 to omit definitions for a contaminated land register and an environmental management register from this new section. The purpose of this amendment is to remove duplicate definitions as these will now be defined in the dictionary as a result of amendments Nos 50 and 51, which I will describe later.

Amendment No. 15 amends proposed new sections 41 and 42 in clause 6 to state clearly that exempt waste incurs a levy rate of zero dollars. This is a technical amendment that is needed to ensure that mixed loads arriving at a leviable landfill disposal site pay the correct levy and are properly recorded. They also help all operators of waste disposal sites by preventing undue administrative complexities and close a potential levy avoidance loophole.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The minister is, in fact, right about clause 15. Sadly, if somebody is not able to separate their load, that clause also provides the prospect of that person being charged as though the entire load is contaminated. That is one of the issues.

There is so much that I would love to debate today. I am going to table the list of those members who have not had a chance to speak. The member for Moggill was on his feet making a contribution and was gagged. More than a dozen members, such as the member for Nicklin, do not have the chance to go back to their community and say, 'I had a crack for you.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Broadwater, you use this time to speak to the clauses that we are debating. I ask you to come back to those clauses.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you, but I must table this first. Indeed, the changes to the way we respond post a disaster is tremendous because that is when communities need local voices. They needed them today. They needed the ability for this place to debate the biggest new tax in this parliament—one that was not taken to an election, one that totals more than the four that were cobbled together at two minutes to midnight after the blackout period—yet more than a dozen members will not have a say on it. That is not free speech and that is not a democratic parliament. Whether they are a member of the government, whether they are a member of the official opposition or, indeed, on the crossbench, every member should have a right to speak to a bill of this significance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Broadwater. Under the provisions of the business program—

Mr CRISAFULLI: And I have been gagged whilst talking about a gag.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is a gagathon.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Broadwater, resume your seat. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 12 to 48, as circulated, be agreed to and clauses 6 to 20, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Amendments as circulated—

12 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 18, line 20—

omit, insert—

- (e) biosecurity waste;
- (f) serious local event waste.

13 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))

Page 18, after line 24—

insert—

- (3A) In addition, if the application is about serious local event waste, the application may be made only by the chief executive officer of the local government in whose local government area the serious local event waste was generated.

- 14 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 19, lines 14 to 17—
omit.
- 15 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 26, after lines 5 and 16—
insert—
(1A) For subsection (1)(b), the rate of the waste levy for exempt waste is taken to be zero.
- 16 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 33, lines 22, 25 and 26, page 34, lines 13 and 28, page 35, line 15, page 37, line 15 and page 38, lines 6 and 12, 'levyable'—
omit.
- 17 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 39, lines 19 and 20, from 'This' to 'site'—
omit, insert—
The operator of a waste disposal site in the waste levy zone must ensure a weighbridge is installed at the site
- 18 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 39, line 25, '4 March 2019'—
omit, insert—
1 July 2019
- 19 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 39, line 32 to page 40, line 2—
omit.
- 20 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 40, after line 3—
insert—
(2) If a waste disposal site is in the non-levy zone and receives during the period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 at least 300 tonnes of levyable waste generated outside the non-levy zone, the operator must ensure a weighbridge is installed at the site by 30 June 2020.
Maximum penalty—300 penalty units.
- 21 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 40, line 4, 'If the levyable'—
omit, insert—
From 1 January 2020, if a
- 22 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 40, lines 11 to 15—
omit.
- 23 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 40, line 17, 'levyable'—
omit.
- 24 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 42, line 3, before 'Waste'—
insert—
(1)
- 25 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 42, line 10, after 'delivered'—
insert—
in a vehicle with a GCM or GVM of more than 4.5 tonnes

- 26 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 42, after line 18—
insert—
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a levyable waste disposal site in the non-levy zone if the operator of the site—
 - (a) is required to hold an environmental authority for the disposal of not more than 5,000 tonnes of waste in a year at the site; and
 - (b) has taken all reasonable practical steps to ensure that levyable waste generated at a place outside the non-levy zone can not be lawfully delivered to the site.
- 27 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 50, lines 24 to 26—
omit, insert—
- (b) either—
 - (i) from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019—at least 300 tonnes of levyable waste, generated outside the non-levy zone, is received at the site; or
 - (ii) from 1 January 2020—at least 600 tonnes of levyable waste, generated outside the non-levy zone, is received at the site during a year.
- 28 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 51, lines 21 to 25—
omit.
- 29 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 54, lines 31 and 32—
omit.
- 30 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 67, line 4, 'levyable'—
omit.
- 31 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 67, lines 6 and 7, 'of a levyable waste disposal site'—
omit.
- 32 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 70, lines 10 and 16 and page 72, line 27, 'levyable'—
omit.
- 33 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 80, line 31 to page 81, line 2—
omit, insert—
- (b) either—
 - (i) from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019—at least 300 tonnes of levyable waste, generated outside the non-levy zone, is received at the resource recovery area; or
 - (ii) from 1 January 2020—at least 600 tonnes of levyable waste, generated outside the non-levy zone, is received at the resource recovery area during a year.
- 34 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 82, lines 6 to 10—
omit.
- 35 Clause 6 (Replacement of ch 3 (Obligations of operator of waste disposal site))**
Page 84, line 28, 'or'—
omit, insert—
- of
- 36 After clause 9**
Page 89, after line 23—
insert—
- 9A Amendment of s 204 (Power to enter)**
Section 204(1), 'section 41(1)'—
omit, insert—
- section 53(2)

9B Amendment of s 206 (Application of div 1)

Section 206, 'section 41(1)'—

omit, insert—

section 53(2)

37 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)

Page 97, lines 8 and 9—

*omit, insert—***for particular residue waste during transition period****38 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)**

Page 99, line 1—

*omit.***39 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)**

Page 102, line 1, '45%'—

omit, insert—

33%

40 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)

Page 105, line 24, '1,000'—

omit, insert—

2,000

41 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)

Page 105, lines 27 and 28—

omit, insert—

an exemption during the transition period from the requirements under section 57.

42 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)

Page 107, lines 28 to 30, after 'practicable'—

omit, insert—

to use the weighbridge to measure and record waste or other material delivered to the site in a vehicle with a GCM or GVM of 4.5 tonnes or less; and

43 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)

Page 108, lines 15 and 16 and page 109, lines 28 and 29, '4 February 2019 and the end of April 2019'—

omit, insert—

1 June 2019 and the end of August 2019

44 Clause 19 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 3)

Page 109, line 30, after 'area'—

insert—

for a waste disposal site in the waste levy zone

45 Clause 20 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))

Page 112, lines 3 to 6—

*omit, insert—***clean earth—**

- (a) means earth that is not contaminated with waste or otherwise contaminated with a hazardous contaminant; but
- (b) does not include acid sulphate soil, other than acid sulphate soil that—
 - (i) is not contaminated with waste, or otherwise contaminated with a hazardous contaminant, other than naturally occurring iron sulphides that produce sulphuric acid when exposed to air; and
 - (ii) has been treated in accordance with best practice environmental management, within the meaning of the Environmental Protection Act, section 21, for the treatment and management of acid sulfate soils, as stated in a guideline prescribed by regulation.

contaminated land register see the Environmental Protection Act, schedule 4.

46 Clause 20 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))

Page 112, after line 17—

*insert—****environmental management register*** see the Environmental Protection Act, schedule 4.**47 Clause 20 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**

Page 113, after line 21—

*insert—****serious local event***, for chapter 3, see section 26.***serious local event waste***, for chapter 3, see section 26.**48 Clause 20 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**

Page 114, lines 1 to 10—

omit, insert—(3) Schedule, definition *waste facility*, paragraph 2—*omit, insert—*2 However, a *waste facility* does not include any of the following facilities—

- (a) a facility that is lawfully operated for the sole purpose of disposing of waste generated by an environmentally relevant activity carried out under the Environmental Protection Act if—
 - (i) the waste is or was generated only by, and its generation is or was ancillary to, the operation of the activity; and
 - (ii) the activity is not a waste management ERA; and
 - (iii) the facility is operated by or for the entity carrying out the activity; and
 - (iv) the facility is authorised under the same environmental authority as the activity;
- (b) a facility that is lawfully operated for the sole purpose of disposing of waste generated by 1 or more resource activities carried out under the Environmental Protection Act if—
 - (i) the waste is or was generated only by, and its generation is or was ancillary to, the operation of 1 or more of the resource activities; and
 - (ii) the facility is operated by or for an entity carrying out 1 or more of the resource activities; and
 - (iii) the facility is authorised under the same environmental authority as 1 of the resource activities;
- (c) a facility that is lawfully operated for the sole purpose of disposing of waste generated by the processing, handling, storage or transport of materials from a resource activity carried out under the Environmental Protection Act if—
 - (i) the waste is or was generated only by, and its generation is or was ancillary to, the processing, handling, storage or transport of the materials from the resource activity; and
 - (ii) the facility is operated by or for the entity carrying out the resource activity; and
 - (iii) the facility is authorised under the same environmental authority as the resource activity;
- (d) a facility that is lawfully operated for the sole purpose of disposing of waste generated to remediate contaminated land recorded in the environmental management register or contaminated land register if—
 - (i) the waste was generated by an activity (the ***initial activity***) lawfully carried out on the contaminated land before the initial activity became an environmentally relevant activity under the Environmental Protection Act (the ***relevant activity***); and
 - (ii) from the day the initial activity became the relevant activity, the waste is or was generated by the relevant activity carried out on the contaminated land; and

- (iii) all of the following apply—
- (A) the waste is or was generated only by, and its generation is or was ancillary to, the operation of the initial activity or relevant activity;
 - (B) the relevant activity is not a resource activity under the Environmental Protection Act or a waste management ERA;
 - (C) the facility is operated by or for the entity carrying out the relevant activity;
 - (D) the facility is authorised under the same environmental authority as the relevant activity.
- (4) Schedule, definition *waste management ERA*, paragraphs (b) to (m)—
omit, insert—
- (b) mechanically crushing, milling, grinding, shredding or sorting waste;
 - (c) mechanically reprocessing waste;
 - (d) battery recycling;
 - (e) composting organic material, anaerobically digesting organic material or manufacturing soil conditioner;
 - (f) waste reprocessing or treatment;
 - (g) waste storage;
 - (h) regulated waste transport;
 - (i) regulated waste treatment;
 - (j) tyre recycling;
 - (k) waste disposal;
 - (l) waste incineration, thermal waste reprocessing or thermal treatment;
 - (m) operating a waste transfer station or resource recovery facility;
 - (n) maintaining a decommissioned waste disposal facility.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 24, as read, negatived.

Third Reading

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

AYES, 48:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 38:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Pair: Furner, Perrett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill, as amended, read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 51 and the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—


51 Long title

Long title, 'the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the *Local Government Act 2009* and'—
omit.


Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.04 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136(3), that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill by 16 April 2019; the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee report on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill by 28 March 2019; the Transport and Public Works Committee report on the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Bill by 29 March 2019 and the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill by 5 April 2019; and the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Police Service Administration (Discipline Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 April 2019.

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.06 pm): The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's report No. 9 of 2018-19, *Energy: 2017-18 Results of financial audits*, be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee; the Auditor-General's report No. 10 of 2018-19, *Digitising public hospitals*, be referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee; the Auditor-General's report No. 11 of 2018-19, *Transport: 2017-18 Results of financial audits*, be referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee; and the Auditor-General's report No. 12 of 2018-19, *Market-led proposals*, be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.06 pm) by leave, without notice: I move—


That the date for the Transport and Public Works Committee to report to the Legislative Assembly on the inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry be extended from 26 April to 24 May 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.07 pm) by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name be agreed to, effective from 15 February 2019.

1. Standing Order 4, omit the heading “4. Standing Orders may be suspended” and insert:

“4. Standing and Sessional Orders may be suspended”
2. Standing Order 20, omit and insert—

“20. Custody of committee records

(1) Committee records remain in the custody of the Clerk and must not be destroyed or disposed of except by resolution of the House.

(2) A document presented to a committee but ordered by a committee not to be received and returned, is not a record to which these Standing Orders apply.

(3) Evidence or documents presented to, or produced by, a committee which have not already been published or authorised for release by the House or a committee and the minutes of committee meetings may be disclosed to any person if:

 - (a) the documents have been in the custody of the Clerk for at least 30 years; and
 - (b) in the opinion of the Speaker, it is appropriate that they be disclosed.

(4) The exception to (3) above is that documents produced by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (PCCC) and its predecessors are exempt from disclosure under (3) for a period of at least 100 years.

(5) With respect to Ethics Committee documents, when considering the appropriateness of disclosure in (3)(b) above the Speaker should apply the same criteria as the committee is required to consider in SO 211B(4).

(6) The Speaker may attach any conditions or restrictions on the release of a document under (3).

(7) For the purposes of this Standing Order, the Clerk includes the Clerk’s nominated delegate.”
3. Standing Order 37, omit footnote 17 and consequential renumbering of all following footnotes.
4. Standing Order 40(4) omit the words “the least number of votes and or when” and insert—

“the least number of votes or when”
5. Standing Order 65, omit 65(1) and insert—

“(1) The notice of motion for debate during Private Members’ Motion may be given by stating the terms in the House immediately prior to Question Time and by delivering to the Clerk a printed copy of the notice.”
6. Standing Order 119, omit (4)(c) and insert—

“(c) persons may elect to indicate their support of the petition (at least one person must “join the petition”) by electronically providing their name, address (including postcode), email address and signifying their intention to join the petition.”
7. Standing Order 147, omit and insert—

“147. Amendments to clauses, schedules etc.

(1) On a question to a clause, schedule, or preamble amendments may be proposed to the clause, schedule, or preamble to:

 - (a) omit the clause, schedule or preamble;
 - (b) omit words;
 - (c) omit words in order to add or insert other words instead; or
 - (d) add or insert words.

(2) If an amendment is proposed, a new question stands “That the amendment be agreed to”.

(3) If an amendment in 1(b) to (d) is agreed to, a new question stands “That the clause (or schedule or preamble), as amended, stand part of the Bill”.
8. Standing Order 170, omit and insert—

170. Withdrawal of Bills

(1) The order for the first reading or any future stage of a Bill having been read, may be discharged and the Bill withdrawn by a motion with the leave of the House.

(2) A Bill withdrawn or rejected may be reintroduced in the same session.
9. Standing Order 183, omit the heading and 183(1) and insert—

“183. Questions taken on notice at the hearing and additional information

(1) A Minister may, at their discretion, inform a portfolio committee at an estimates hearing that an answer to a question, or part of a question, asked of them or of someone else on their behalf at the hearing will be taken on notice and provided later to the committee.”
10. Standing Order 184, omit the heading and 184 and insert—

“184. Availability of transcripts and tabled documents

(1) The Chief Reporter is authorised to release the transcript of a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing as it becomes available, subject to any express direction of the committee.

(2) A Minister or any witness may only table a document at a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing with the leave of the committee.

(3) Any document tabled at a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing is deemed to be authorised for release by the committee unless the committee expressly orders otherwise.”

11. Standing Order 189, omit and insert—

“189. Tabling and consideration of reports

(1) The Chairperson of each committee must table in the House the committee’s report on the proposed expenditures stated in the Appropriation Bills and referred to the committee together with any other additional information which the committee agrees to table.

(2) The Chairperson of each committee is deemed to have satisfied the requirements of (1) if they present the committee’s report and any other additional information to the Clerk when the House is not sitting in accordance with SO 217, in which case the report is deemed to have been tabled and authorised for publication by the House on the date it is presented to the Clerk.

(3) The report is to be received by the House without debate and its consideration deferred until the consideration of the Bills in consideration in detail.”

12. Standing Order 201, omit footnote 29 (renumbered 28) and insert new footnote—

28 The *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides that a quorum for the **Committee of the Legislative Assembly** is—(a) if the committee includes a cross bench member under section 81(2)—5 members; or (b) otherwise—4 members (see s.83). A quorum for a **Portfolio Committee** depends on the non-government membership of the Assembly. When there is 13 or less non-government members the committee comprises 8 members and a quorum is 5 members including at least 1 non-government member (see s.91). When there are 14 to 23 non-government members, the committee comprises 7 members and a quorum is 4 members including at least 1 non-government member (see s.91A). When there are 24 to 46 non-government members, the committee comprises 6 members and a quorum is 4 members (see s.91B). When there are 47 or more non-government members the committee comprises 6 members and a quorum is 4 members (see s.91C). The **Ethics Committee** comprises 6 members and a quorum is 4 members (see ss.103 and 4A). The *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* provides that the **Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee** comprises 7 members and a quorum is 4 members (see ss.300 and 302).

13. Standing Order 204A, omit and insert—

“204A. Resolution may be determined outside of meeting by vote on circulated, written motion

(1)The Chairperson of a committee may authorise the committee’s Committee Secretary to circulate a vote outside committee meeting document to all members of the committee.

(2)A vote outside committee meeting document (“the document”) must:

- (a) be in writing;
- (b) be circulated to each member of the committee in person, by post, facsimile transmission, email, or other electronic means;
- (c) contain an explanation by the Chairperson as to why the motion or motions are being put to the committee outside of a formal meeting;
- (d) contain the motion or motions put by the Chairperson or another member;
- (e) contain a choice for the member to indicate whether they are voting Aye or No to each motion proposed;
- (f) contain a place for the member to sign or to authorise their vote via electronic means; and
- (g) indicate the time by which the member must return the completed document, which must not be less than 72 hours after which the document should, in the normal course of business, have been received by the member.

(3)A member of a committee may signify whether they are voting Aye or No to each motion proposed on the document by indicating in the place provided in accordance with subsection 2(f) and returning the document to the Committee Secretary, in person, by post, facsimile transmission, email, or other electronic means.

(4)The rules regarding voting entitlements and determination of questions that apply to the committee by virtue of statute or standing orders apply and a motion in a vote outside committee meeting document is resolved in the affirmative only if:

- (a) the number of members who return a completed vote outside committee meeting document is equal to or exceeds the number of members that constitute the normal quorum of the committee for a meeting; and
- (b) the number of votes in the affirmative are equal to or exceed the majority of votes required.

(5)The result of any vote outside a committee meeting shall be confirmed and minuted at the committee’s next meeting.

(6)A vote outside of committee meeting cannot be conducted in respect of the following:

- (a) a motion to appoint a Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson;
- (b) a motion to support or approve an appointment required by statute;
- (c) a motion to adopt or amend a committee report; and
- (d) a motion to call for persons, papers or things or summons any person or thing.”

14. Standing Order 211, omit and insert—

“211 Confidentiality of proceedings for Portfolio Committees and the Committee of the Legislative Assembly

(1) The proceedings of a portfolio committee, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly or a select committee or a subcommittee of any of those committees that is not open to the public or authorised to be published remains strictly confidential to the committee until the committee has reported those proceedings to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not prevent—

(a) the disclosure, by a committee in (1) or by a member of the committee or an officer of the committee, of proceedings to a member of Parliament or to the Clerk or another officer of the House in the course of their duties;

(b) the disclosure, by a member of the committee or an officer of the committee, to an electorate officer, opposition officer or ministerial officer engaged to assist a member of the committee;

(c) a public servant or an officer of a public entity informing their immediate supervisor, Director General or Chief Executive Officer, or responsible Minister of the evidence they have provided to a committee in (1) or evidence sought by a committee; and

(d) the disclosure of proceedings otherwise in accordance with these Standing Orders.

(3) Despite (2), a committee in (1) may resolve that some or all of its proceedings relating to an inquiry or report remain confidential to the committee, its members and officers until the committee has reported those proceedings to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(4) Despite (2), no member shall in the House refer to any proceedings of a committee in (1) until the committee has reported those proceedings to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(5) A committee in (1) may authorise a submission to it to be published at any time after receiving it.

(6) A submission in (5), if not already authorised to be published, is deemed authorised to be published on the committee hearing oral evidence from the witness who made the submission subject to any express resolution of the committee to the contrary.

(7) Paragraph (1) does not prevent the release of a submission by the person who submitted it.”

15. Standing Order 211, omit footnote 31 (renumbered 30) and insert new footnote—

“30. See section 9 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*: Meaning of proceedings in the Assembly and also Schedule 1 (Dictionary) of these Standing Orders for what is included in “Proceedings” for Standing Orders 211, 211A and 211B.”

16. Standing Order 212, omit (2)(b) and insert—

“(b) every motion or amendment proposed in the committee and the mover; and”

17. Standing Order 214, omit and insert—

“214. Dissenting reports and statements of reservation

(1) Any member who does not agree with the report, or any part of the report, must give the Committee Secretary notice that they intend to add a dissenting report or statement of reservation to the committee’s report.

(2) A dissenting report or statement of reservation must be provided to the Committee Secretary within seven calendar days of the committee adopting the report and must be signed by the member.

(3) When a committee is required by the House or statute to report on a matter on or before a certain date, a dissenting report or a statement of reservation must be provided to the committee’s Committee Secretary by 5.00pm on the day prior to the reporting date, despite (2).”

18. Standing Order 266, omit and insert—

“266. Examples of contempt

Without limiting the power of the House, it may treat as a contempt any of the following:

(1) breaching or interfering with any of the powers, rights and immunities of the House;

(2) deliberately misleading the House or a committee (by way of submission, statement, evidence or petition) (See also s.57 Criminal Code);

(3) serving legal process or causing legal process to be served within the precincts of Parliament, without the authority of the House or the Speaker;

(4) removing, without authority, any documents or records belonging to the House;

(5) falsifying or altering any documents or records belonging to the House;

(6) as a member, receiving or soliciting a bribe to influence the member’s conduct in respect of proceedings in the House or a committee;

(7) as a member, accepting fees for professional services rendered by the member in connection with proceedings in the House or a committee;

(8) offering or attempting to bribe a member to influence the member’s conduct in respect of proceedings in the House or a committee (see also Example 5 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act and ss.59 and 60 Criminal Code);

(9) assaulting, threatening or intimidating a member or an officer of the House acting in the discharge of the member’s or the officer’s duty (see also Example 2 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);

(10) obstructing or molesting a member or an officer of the House in the discharge of the member’s or the officer’s duty;

(11) misconducting oneself in the presence of the House or a committee;

(12) divulging the proceedings or the report of a committee or a subcommittee contrary to Standing Orders;

(13) publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee;

- (14) failing to attend before the House or a committee after being summoned to do so by the House or the committee;
 - (15) intimidating, preventing or hindering a witness from giving evidence or giving evidence in full to the House or a committee (see also Example 9 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);
 - (16) refusing to answer a question or provide information required by the House or a committee except as permitted by the House's rules or statute;
 - (17) assaulting, threatening or disadvantaging a member on account of the member's conduct in the House or a committee (see also Example 2 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);
 - (18) assaulting, threatening or disadvantaging a person on account of evidence given by that person to the House or a committee (see also Examples 9 and 10 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);
 - (19) assaulting, obstructing or insulting a member coming to or going from the House or a committee proceeding (see also Example 1 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);
 - (20) sending to a member a threatening letter on account of the member's conduct in the House or a committee (see also Examples 2 and 4 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);
 - (21) sending a challenge to fight a member (see also Example 4 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act);
 - (22) wilfully disobeying an order of the House or disrupting the orderly conduct of the business of the House or a committee;
 - (23) except by a substantive motion of censure, commenting or reflecting on the decisions or actions of the Chair, whether relating to actions inside the House or the character of the Chair in general;
 - (24) contravening the requirements and orders imposed by operation of the Parliament of Queensland Act (see also Examples 7 and 8 s.37 Parliament of Queensland Act and s.58 Criminal Code);
 - (25) a member or officer involving themselves in planning or executing a disruption of a proceeding of the Legislative Assembly or its committee; and
- (For the purpose of (25), "officer" includes Parliamentary Service or Ministerial Service officers or any other permanent parliamentary precinct pass holder with privileged access to the precinct)
- (26) making public statements (either orally or in writing) inciting or encouraging disruption of the Legislative Assembly by bringing the proper proceedings of the Legislative Assembly or its committees into disrepute.

19. Standing Order 290, omit and insert—

"290. Voting

- (1) The method of election of a new Senator shall be by the open voting of the members present at the meeting.
- (2) Every member present shall vote.
- (3) The Speaker has no deliberative vote, but if the votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- (4) The same candidate may be again nominated, but not until after the names of other candidates previously nominated have been voted upon.
- (5) The voting shall take place as often as may be necessary until a Senator has been elected, and, if necessary, the meeting may be adjourned until a later date, when further nominations may be made and fresh votes taken."

20. Schedule 1 Dictionary, omit definitions for "Committee Secretary", "Member of the Judiciary" and "Proceedings" and insert in lieu—

" **"Committee Secretary"** means a parliamentary officer that the Clerk or their delegate has appointed to attend a committee and includes an Inquiry Secretary or a person acting as Committee Secretary or Inquiry Secretary."

...

" **"Member of the judiciary"** means a judge of the District Court or higher or equivalents in other jurisdictions."

...

" **"Proceedings"** for Standing Order 211, 211A and 211B includes:

- (a) evidence taken by the committee by way of hearings;
- (b) written or oral submissions presented to the committee;
- (c) written briefing papers and other documents prepared for the committee by its Committee Secretary, other expert advisors or departmental advisors;
- (d) draft reports by the committee;
- (e) correspondence between the committee and witnesses, departments and Ministers; and
- (f) private deliberations of the committee and the records of those proceedings."

21. Schedule 8, omit heading and insert—

'SCHEDULE 8—CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING OR APPEARING BEFORE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

22. Schedule 8, after heading "Introduction", omit paragraph 1 and insert—


1. This *Code of Practice for Public Service employees assisting or appearing before Portfolio Committees* ("Code") provides guidance for public service employees dealing with portfolio committees ("committees") as either an assistant or as a witness.'

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

Correspondence and Issues Paper

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.07 pm): I wish to advise that I have received correspondence from the chairperson of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee regarding the committee's issues paper which was tabled this morning. I have been advised that there was an incorrect date on page 10 of the report and the chairperson has asked that the updated paper be tabled. I table a copy of the updated paper on behalf of the chairperson and a copy of his correspondence about this matter.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 February 2019, from the Chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Mr Aaron Harper MP, to the Leader of the House, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, enclosing a corrected issues paper and requesting it be tabled [190].

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Paper No. 3, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying [191].

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 31 October 2018 (see p. 3190).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the work of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in considering the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and for the committee's report tabled on 4 February 2019. I would also like to thank all the stakeholders who made written submissions to the committee, attended the public hearing on 5 December 2018 and participated in the national consultation processes on the bill. The input from stakeholders has contributed to legislation that is well considered and balanced and that promises to provide significant benefits for patients and health practitioners.

The committee's report made two recommendations. The first recommendation was that the bill be passed. I appreciate the committee's support for the bill. The committee's second recommendation asked me to advise the House about the scope and timing of an education program to raise awareness and understanding by health practitioners and other stakeholders about the mandatory reporting reforms in the bill. The government accepts this recommendation and I will outline the plans for that education program shortly. I will also address the statement of reservations by the LNP members of the committee. I table the government's response to the report of the committee on the bill.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 17—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, government response [192].

As I outlined in my speech to this House on 31 October 2018, the bill makes priority reforms to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as agreed by health ministers at the meeting of the COAG Health Council on 12 October 2018. The national law, which has operated in all states and territories since 2010, establishes a national scheme for the regulation of over 700,000 health practitioners and students across Australia in 24 health occupations, including doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists and psychologists.

The overarching purpose of the reforms to the national law is to improve patient safety, enhance protection for consumers of health services and ensure health practitioners have confidence to seek treatment for health conditions. The bill introduces changes that will make it easier for registered health

professionals to seek help for health issues by making it clear that a treating practitioner is only required to make a mandatory report if a practitioner patient has an impairment that cannot be managed appropriately through treatment and is placing the public at substantial risk of harm. By encouraging practitioners to seek help to manage their health issues, the bill will promote better and safer care for both practitioners and their patients.

The bill will also strengthen penalties for persons who falsely hold themselves out as a registered health practitioner. Anyone who tricks sick people into believing they are medical professionals and then does nothing to help them or, worse, maims them with dangerous treatments is nothing short of despicable. The scam artists and fraudsters are on notice.

The bill will double the maximum fines for these offences and introduce an imprisonment term of up to three years for the most serious conduct. A number of stakeholder submissions to the committee noted increased penalties will provide more effective deterrents and greater protection for the public as well as promote increased trust and confidence in registered health practitioners and the healthcare system.

Mandatory reporting has been part of the national law since it was adopted by all states and territories in 2010. Mandatory reporting protects the public by ensuring that regulators are notified about registered health practitioners who place the public at risk. In Queensland mandatory reports are made to the office of the Health Ombudsman and dealt with under Queensland's co-regulatory arrangements. In other states and territories mandatory reports are made to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, AHPRA, and the national boards.

To address concerns raised that the current mandatory reporting requirements discourage health practitioners from seeking treatment for their health concerns, especially their mental health, the bill introduces an improved framework for mandatory reporting by treating practitioners. The requirement to make a mandatory report about a practitioner is not a new one. Mandatory reporting has been a key feature of the national law since its inception and is supported by the COAG Health Council.

A significant feature of the reforms is the establishment of a higher threshold for when a treating practitioner must make a mandatory report. Except in relation to sexual misconduct, a treating practitioner will only be required to make a mandatory report if their practitioner patient has an impairment or is engaging in conduct that places the public at a substantial risk of harm.

This is a high threshold which is appropriate given the unique insight that a treating practitioner has into the health of their patients. That insight enables them to consider the available treatment options and strategies that the practitioner patient is willing to take to practise their profession safely. The revised approach will maintain strong protections for public safety while providing clarity to treating practitioners about their mandatory reporting obligations. It will also give practitioners the confidence they need to seek help to manage their health and wellbeing.

The bill includes guidance about the factors a treating practitioner may consider in making an assessment about whether a practitioner patient meets the threshold for reporting. The guidance factors underscore the need to examine the practitioner patient's health issues and other circumstances in a holistic way. For example, a treating practitioner may consider the nature, extent and severity of the practitioner patient's impairment, whether the impairment can be managed through appropriate treatment and whether the practitioner patient is willing to take steps to manage their impairment.

Taken together, the higher reporting threshold, holistic approach and guidance factors in the bill send a very clear message to practitioners that if they seek treatment and are willing to take steps to ensure that they can practise safely their treating practitioner will not be required to make a mandatory report. As important as it is to encourage registered health practitioners to seek treatment for their health issues, it is paramount that any reforms in this area do not prevent regulators from being made aware of practitioners who pose a danger to the public. Mandatory reporting by treating practitioners for impairment, intoxication by drugs and alcohol and practise outside of professional standards is essential if it meets the threshold of substantial risk of harm to the public.

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

The existing Queensland provision modifies the national law for mandatory reporting by treating practitioners. Queensland's current legislation uses the same reporting threshold as the bill of substantial risk of harm for reporting impairment. Although the reporting threshold is the same, the current Queensland provision is not as comprehensive as the approach set out in the national law. For example, the Queensland provision does not include the guidance factors which provide further clarity to treating practitioners about matters they may consider in deciding if a practitioner patient meets the threshold of substantial risk of harm. For clarity and to promote national consistency, Queensland has agreed to adopt the national law approach to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners as provided for in the bill. This will ensure that all elements of the mandatory reporting reforms in the bill will apply in Queensland.

I now turn to the government's response to the parliamentary committee's report. I note the committee recommended the bill be passed. The committee's other recommendation was that I advise the House of the scope and timing of the proposed education program to raise awareness and understanding of the proposed mandatory reporting requirements. Education about the changes to the mandatory reporting framework are integral not only to help practitioners understand the mandatory reporting reforms but also to address some of the broader challenges health practitioners have in accessing health care.

A comprehensive education program is also important to address some of the misconceptions and misinformation that is presently being circulated about mandatory reporting. A number of public comments about the bill have unhelpfully given the impression that mandatory reporting of impairment by treating practitioners is new or that the bill requires more reporting by treating practitioners than is currently required. That is simply not the case, and anyone who keeps peddling this falsehood is scaring health practitioners out of getting help.

A comprehensive education campaign will need to not only educate practitioners and other stakeholders about the reforms but also address the broader cultural and institutional factors that prevent medical professionals from seeking help. To be successful, it will require the support of professional associations who can help change the culture and attitudes that prevail among health practitioners when it comes to looking after their own health and wellbeing.

Legislation on its own cannot change ingrained attitudes and culture. At the COAG Health Council, Australian health ministers agreed to direct AHPRA to work with relevant regulatory bodies and employers to develop a communication and awareness plan about the reforms. The proposed education campaign will aim to inform registered health practitioners of the importance of managing their health and wellbeing, raise awareness and understanding of the mandatory reporting requirements, and reassure registered health practitioners that the amendments to the national law are designed to help practitioners to seek help for their health and wellbeing when needed.

The target audience for the education campaign will include all registered health practitioners, including both treating practitioners and practitioners who may need treatment. The campaign will also target professional bodies, including peak professional associations and professional and specialist colleges; professional indemnity providers; and employers and health services. AHPRA has advised that case studies and examples will be used in educational materials to explain the reforms and dispel myths related to mandatory reporting requirements and outcomes.

Subject to the passage of the bill, the national boards will need to develop and consult with stakeholders about revised guidelines for mandatory reporting. The education campaign will be led by AHPRA and be delivered in late 2019 or early 2020.


Although generally supportive of the bill, the LNP members of the committee recommended that the House consider adopting a modified version of the Western Australian model which would provide a complete exemption from mandatory reporting by treating practitioners with the exception of reporting of sexual misconduct. Despite requests from the committee, stakeholders were unable to provide any reliable evidence to support their claim that a complete exemption from mandatory reporting will lead to better health outcomes for health practitioners or for patients than the approach provided for in the bill. What we do know, though, is that the number of mandatory reports made by treating practitioners across all states and territories is very small.

All Australian state and territory health ministers and the Commonwealth health minister gave careful consideration to the Western Australian response but rejected it before agreeing to adopt the reforms in the bill. The primary reason for rejecting the Western Australian approach is that health

ministers were not convinced that a complete exemption would provide adequate protection for the public. The parliamentary committee also agreed that this is the right approach after its thorough examination of the bill. I believe these reforms protect the rights of health practitioners to seek treatment for their own health and wellbeing while also protecting the safety of health consumers.

Through a balanced and holistic approach to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners, this bill will make it easier for health practitioners to seek treatment for their health issues, including mental health issues, and will send a clear signal that no health professional should suffer silently with an impairment because they are afraid to seek help or to be open and honest with their treating practitioner. At the same time, the bill will ensure that regulators continue to be provided with reports to identify practitioners who could jeopardise public safety.

Stakeholders have an important role to play in bringing about cultural change. This begins with educating practitioners about the reforms to mandatory reporting and the very real opportunities they provide for practitioners to seek treatment. I commend the Australian Medical Association and other stakeholders who, despite having advocated strongly for a different model, have recognised that the bill is an improvement on current mandatory reporting arrangements. I look forward to working with the AMAQ to raise awareness of these reforms and assure Queensland's health practitioners that it is okay to ask for help. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill was introduced by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on 31 October 2018 following agreements made by the COAG Health Council.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the bill amends the health practitioner regulation national law as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments Health Council on 12 October 2018 to introduce reforms to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners, to ensure health practitioners have confidence to seek treatment for health conditions whilst protecting the public from harm; and to double the penalties for holding out and related offences under the national law from \$30,000 to \$60,000 and introduce a maximum imprisonment term of three years for the most serious offences.

The bill makes consequential amendments to the Queensland local application provisions of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 to align Queensland's approach to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners with the approach in the national law by removing a Queensland specific provision; and to provide for circumstances in which the holding out and related offences are prosecuted on indictment and summarily in Queensland. The bill also makes consequential amendments to the Ambulance Service Act 1991 and the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011.

From the outset, I want to make clear that the LNP will not be opposing the bill. We are happy to see increased penalties for what is referred to as holding and related offences. This refers to people who impersonate a health practitioner—which is obviously extremely dangerous and a risk to public safety. Of course, we all remember a recent case where this happened in Queensland. In January 2018, a court heard that a Queensland man Nicholas Delaney—also referred to as 'Dr Love'—stole security credentials and wandered around the then Lady Cilento children's hospital for seven months in 2017. During that time, he posed as a hospital surgeon. He was fined \$3,000 but no conviction was recorded. That brought national shame and embarrassment to Queensland and the lax hospital security measures at our No. 1 children's hospital, sparking a major review.

In September last year, it was further revealed that following the review there was a major security overhaul required. Despite a promised 11-point action plan to address the issue, we still hold major concerns that anyone could throw on a pair of scrubs, put a stethoscope and a lanyard around their neck and go around unchallenged in our hospitals. In fact, when asked in the House on 16 May last year about releasing the security review, the minister refused to address that issue. It was the usual 'all talk, no action' approach to openness and transparency that has become the norm with this government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you are straying away from the long title of the bill.

Ms BATES: However, thanks to right to information, we were able to uncover the massive security overhaul requirement for the benefit of Queenslanders. Of course, who could forget the UK doctor who was in line for the \$400,000 clinical director's job in Cairns in 2017, despite a simple Google search revealing that he was banned as a company director for seven years in the UK? We support these proposed amendments to increase penalties.

The main elements in the bill relate to mandatory reporting requirements for treating practitioners. As I mentioned before, we will not be opposing the bill, but we are moving amendments regarding mandatory reporting. We believe that after a decade there is enough evidence to suggest that the Western Australian model is the optimal model and we support that introduction in Queensland. The only issue where we support mandatory reporting is where it involves sexual misconduct.

As the explanatory notes indicate and by way of background, the national law was established through COAG over 10 years ago. The national law established 15 national boards that register and regulate health practitioners from 16 regulated health professions. It also established the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, or AHPRA, to provide regulatory services for the national boards and advice and assistance to the COAG Health Council in relation to the national scheme.

The national scheme and national law ensure that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. It allows health practitioners to have a single registration recognised anywhere in Australia and provides mechanisms for detecting and addressing practitioner health, conduct or performance issues.

The national law also provides powers to prosecute persons who falsely hold themselves out to be registered or use a protected professional title. Medical professionals have long held concerns about the stated public policy benefits of the reforms as being in the interest of patient safety. However, after a decade the reality is that it is questionable that those outcomes have been realised.

One of the main concerns raised by medical professionals is that mandatory reporting discourages registered health professionals from seeking the medical treatment that they need for fear of losing their professional practice. In that regard there were a number of submissions to the parliamentary committee on that specific issue and the concerns of representative groups of medical professionals concerned about the health and welfare of their members. Unlike the government, we support their concerns. In its submission the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners stated—

The current mandatory reporting arrangements are of serious concern to the RACGP and its members, and have been since the inception of the National Law in 2009. The amendments outlined in this Bill make no material difference to the current arrangements which are, as previously stated, unsatisfactory.

The RACGP accepts that mandatory reporting, as applicable to employees, colleagues, and managers, has an important role in protecting public safety.

However, treating practitioner mandatory reporting of medical conditions and impairments remains a barrier for practitioner-patients requiring care/treatment, as they fear the consequences of being reported by their treating doctor. This barrier can have a negative effect on the wellbeing of our health workforce, and in turn patient safety.

The only issue that a treating practitioner should be subject to on mandatory reporting is where there is evidence of sexual misconduct.

It is important that practitioner health is protected. Barriers to treatment, whether real or perceived, must be removed. A shared understanding between policy makers and practitioners of the *intent* of any amendments to the National Law is vital, so that practitioners feel confident about their rights and responsibilities. All practitioners will require education and further information to enable them to understand the mandatory reporting requirements that apply in their jurisdiction. Any ongoing lack of clarity in this important matter is unacceptable to the RACGP.

The Australian Medical Association raised similar issues. In its submission it stated—

The AMA has long called for changes to the Mandatory Reporting law. Australia's medical practitioners desperately need legislation that does not actively discourage them from seeking medical treatment when they need it. Practitioners are also patients and should have equal rights to access confidential high-quality medical treatment as their own patients and all other Australians.

As the AMA has continually stated, the unintended consequences from the operation of the current National Law are far reaching. Doctors are avoiding seeking treatment for their own health concerns, particularly mental health concerns, out of fear of the consequences and they and their families are suffering as a result. Ironically, current mandatory reporting law put in place to protect the public is actually more likely to expose it to untreated, unwell doctors. For the treating practitioner, it has also had a detrimental impact on the confidentiality of the doctor-patient relationship, impairing the ability of the practitioner to deliver an appropriate level of care.

However, just like we have seen with the botched rollout of Labor's integrated electronic medical record system, the concerns of doctors are being ignored, and as a result patient safety will continue to be at risk. One group that you would think Labor would listen to over many others are the unions. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union also made a submission to the parliamentary committee in relation to this bill and, in particular, also raised concerns about the mandatory reporting obligations. It stated—

From the perspective of the health practitioner seeking treatment for a mental health disorder or an alcohol or other drug dependence, the development of a therapeutic relationship with the treating practitioner is of the utmost importance. Essential to that therapeutic relationship is trust and confidentiality.

If the treating practitioner is then required to formally notify the regulatory authority of the patient's impairment, inevitably leading to forced restrictions to practice that can be imposed for up to two years, that therapeutic relationship can be very difficult to maintain.

In a recent survey of Australian mental health professionals (Edwards & Crisp, 2017) 57% indicated the mandatory reporting requirement would act as a barrier to seeking help if they were distressed. The prevalence of stigmatising attitudes, concern for lack of confidentiality, embarrassment, preference for self-help and career concerns are further impediments (Beyond Blue, 2013). Legislated, compulsory notification can therefore become counterproductive if it deters practitioners from seeking assistance.

...

The QNMU believes the National Law as in force in Queensland should mirror the National Law provisions in Western Australia and provide treating practitioners with a complete exemption from making a mandatory notification of a nurse or midwife who has sought treatment for a health impairment.

Given the size of the membership, the QNMU would be the largest stakeholder that is negatively impacted by Labor's refusal to make the appropriate changes to the mandatory reporting system. Former state and national AMA president Dr Bill Glasson AO also made a heartfelt plea to the parliamentary committee. In his submission, amongst other things, he stated—

Any barrier to the best and most comprehensive treatment must be removed for any Queenslanders seeking help. However, currently in every state bar WA, a health practitioner cannot seek treatment for a mental health condition without fear of being reported to AHPRA and publicly identified.

...

This has led to health practitioners not seeking help for these conditions & ultimately to a high number of suicides. From 2001 to 2012, 369 suicides were reported across a range of health professionals across Australia ... between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2014, there were 153 health professionals who died as a result of suicide. Within the profession, that represented a suicide rate of 0.03 per cent, the highest among white-collar workers.

Beyondblue's 2013 survey of more than 12,000 doctors found that one in three were concerned that seeking treatment could have an adverse effect on their registration and right to practise. Additionally, one in two respondents raised lack of confidentiality as a barrier to seeking help.

A number of submitters raised general concerns around the lack of consultation. While they understand that there were discussions about issues and their input was sought, particularly from a COAG level, their concerns have seemingly fallen on deaf ears. Rather than a proper consultation process, it sounds more like a 'this is what we are doing' process because from their perspective it was a complete waste of time.

The issue of mandatory reporting is a complex public policy issue. There is the obligation to protect the public while balancing the health and welfare of registered health practitioners. However, the effect of the current regime is that doctors and nurses are too scared to seek help. That has the perverse outcome of putting patient safety at risk. We trust medical practitioners every day to make decisions based upon their training, expertise and obligations to act ethically to protect Queenslanders from harm. Surely we should do the same when we are treating a fellow medical practitioner. I say that as an MP and a registered nurse, and someone who has been a health professional in a variety of roles over many years.


On this side of the House we believe that Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system regardless of where they live but also who they are. There should not be different rules for different people depending on what their job is. We should be trying to help our nurses and encourage them to seek the medical help they personally need. We should be listening to the concerns of our doctors and doing what is in the best interests of patient safety.

We urge the government to not only listen but actually act on the concerns of clinicians. Those opposite claim to be about science and evidence only when it suits them. While there have been changes to the mandatory reporting regime since its introduction in 2009, there have been changes to improve the system but the concerns of clinicians remain and have only grown stronger. As the deputy director-general of Queensland Health indicated in a public briefing to the parliamentary committee—

The Western Australia model relies on the professional ethics and expectations of the individual treating practitioner. Practitioners do have a legal duty to protect the public from harm. That is set out in their ethical and professional conducts.

The need for change has been accepted but, as we proposed in our amendments, the changes being implemented do not go far enough in ensuring that health practitioners do not have barriers to medical treatment and that the system encourages them to seek treatment, not professionally reprimand them for doing so. While the government seems more interested in national consistency, we are focused on patient safety and the health and welfare of Queensland health professionals—be it doctors, nurses, midwives or dentists. I urge the health minister to listen to clinicians and act in the

interests of Queenslanders. I also urge the crossbench members to support our sensible amendments that get the balance right. While national consistency is always an important consideration, it is up to the government to do what is right for our state as the priority.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.40 pm): I rise to support the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill was referred to our health committee on 31 October 2018. The bill proposes to raise the mandatory reporting threshold for treating practitioners. A treating practitioner will only be required to make a mandatory report if their practitioner patient's conduct involving intoxication, impairment or substandard practice places the public at substantial risk of harm. These reforms are aimed at ensuring health practitioners seek treatment for health conditions—such as a mental health issue or an alcohol or drug problem—without fear of being subject to mandatory reporting.

On 6 November 2018 the committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions on the bill. The committee received a public briefing about the bill from the Department of Health on 12 November 2018. The bill seeks to amend the health practitioner regulation national law as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments Health Council on 12 October 2018. The bill will introduce reforms to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners to ensure health practitioners have confidence to seek treatment for health conditions, while protecting the public from harm. The bill will double the penalties for holding out and related offences under the national law from \$30,000 to \$60,000 and introduce a maximum imprisonment term of three years for the most serious offences.

I think it is important to note that Queensland, as the host jurisdiction, has a very important role to play in the passing of this bill. If the bill is passed, the amendments would automatically apply in all states and territories except Western Australia, which must pass corresponding legislation. It is important to share with members that this began with a national discussion paper in 2017. It invited submitter comments from key stakeholders—such as the AMA, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and AHPRA—on four options for reforms to mandatory reporting by treating practitioners.

Issues raised included concerns about patient confidentiality and requirements to report past conduct and a lack of national consistency. Half of the submissions were supportive of a model that would continue to require mandatory reporting by treating practitioners for intoxication, practice outside of professional standards and sexual misconduct. In Queensland, stakeholders included AMAQ, the QNMU, Health Consumers Queensland, AHPRA, MIGA and others. Twenty-nine submissions were received before the closing date of 26 November 2018.

We must remember that the stated objective of the mandatory reporting reforms is to ensure health practitioners have confidence to seek treatment for their health conditions while protecting the public from harm. A number of submitters expressed some concern over these changes, such as the AMAQ, particularly around the threshold of reporting in relation to the likelihood of harm or the level of harm. Dr Michael Clements of the RACGP saw the professional and ethical obligations of doctors as sufficient—like the Western Australian model—for the reporting of practitioner patients by treating practitioners. He remarked—

We do not need mandatory reporting. If we have a patient in front of us who we genuinely believe is a risk to the public, we already notify under the voluntary rules.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists suggested the 'exceedingly nuanced language' in the bill would not give health practitioners the confidence to seek help. They stated—

The RANZCP is concerned that the proposed reform may not improve the confidence of health practitioners in the legal protections afforded to them to seek help for an 'impairment'.

In contrast, Mr Martin Fletcher, the CEO of AHPRA, suggested there is a misunderstanding in the health profession about what mandatory reporting means and what it requires practitioners to do. He went on to say—

There are crippling fears about what regulators will do when they get a mandatory report and there are distressing stories of doctors and other health practitioners being afraid to seek the care they need because of fear of losing their registration. This is despite the fact that no registered health practitioner in the jurisdictions in which we administer the national law has had their registration cancelled by a tribunal as a result of a mandatory report about an impairment.

Mr Fletcher also made the point that in less than one per cent of notifications, both mandatory and voluntary, for all grounds—sexual misconduct, intoxication, impairment and substandard practice—do registered health practitioners have their registration cancelled. Importantly, no registered health practitioner has had their registration cancelled as a result of a mandatory report related to impairment.

This bill sends a clear signal that treating practitioners are not required to automatically make a mandatory report if a practitioner patient has a health condition. The bill allows treating practitioners to use their professional judgement and expertise to consider the nature of the practitioner patient's impairment and the proposed treatment plan. The proposed reforms make it clear that not every impairment needs to be reported. A mandatory report is only required if the practitioner patient's impairment exceeds the threshold of substantial risk of harm.

The committee expects that if the bill is passed AHPRA and the national boards will provide further guidance on the higher threshold for reporting in guidelines to be developed. The minister spoke about how the health professional will be educated through the programs, particularly when he responded to our second recommendation. The committee considers that the substantial risk of harm test for mandatory reporting by treating practitioners strikes the right balance between the health of the practitioner patient and the health of the broader community.

The bill ensures health practitioners can seek help for health conditions by raising the mandatory reporting threshold for treating practitioners, while at the same time maintaining strong protections for health consumers. It does this by retaining mandatory reporting where a treating practitioner reasonably believes the public is at substantial risk of harm.

I want to turn to the member for Mudgeeraba's comments about the proposed amendments they distributed to the House earlier. They want to amend the reporting requirements to align with the Western Australian model that there is no mandatory reporting obligation for a treating practitioner of another registered health practitioner unless the issue involves sexual misconduct. I find it interesting that the member for Mudgeeraba, who is a former health professional who worked for many, many years in nursing, would actually support mandatory reporting for just sexual misconduct. We cannot have health practitioners in this state with impairments, intoxication, drug addiction or any other particular issues treating patients. I agree with the member for Mudgeeraba that patient safety must come first.

I turn to COAG's consideration of the Western Australian model—the lite model—at its meetings in November 2017 and April 2018. Queensland Health advised the committee that health ministers decided not to adopt the Western Australian model. The COAG Health Council communique issued on 13 April 2018 stated—

... Ministers agreed unanimously to take steps to protect patients and strengthen the law to remove barriers for registered health professionals to seek appropriate treatment for impairments including mental health.

Ministers agreed to a nationally consistent approach to mandatory reporting which will be drafted and proposes exemptions from the reporting of notifiable conduct by treating practitioners—

if the treating practitioner considered it will not place the public at substantial risk of harm—

(noting Western Australia's current arrangements—

allow for the reporting of only sexual misconduct. It goes on—

The legislation will include strong protection for patients and will remove barriers for registered health professionals to seek appropriate treatment. The legislation will specifically include a requirement to report past, present and the risk of future sexual misconduct and a requirement to report current and the risk of future instances of intoxication at work and practice outside of accepted standards.

As a committee, we listened to the stakeholders. We believe that the recommendations we proposed in the report strike the right balance. They protect both the health practitioners and health consumers in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (5.50 pm): I rise in the House tonight to make a contribution to the debate on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I start by thanking the members of the committee, the secretariat, the submitters and Department of Health officers who briefed us on two separate occasions in relation to the terms of the bill.

The bill amends the national law in relation to mandatory reporting as it applies in Queensland. I refer members to page 7 of the report by the committee that outlines the provisions of the reporting requirements as they apply in Queensland currently and the proposed new provisions which may well be amended by the bill before the House.

In essence, the bill and the current act deal with impairment, intoxication, substandard practice and sexual misconduct. At this point the current provisions in relation to impairment are that if a practitioner is placing the public at risk of substantial harm by practising with an impairment, they must be reported to the OHO. In regard to intoxication, if the practitioner has practised whilst intoxicated by

alcohol or drugs, then that practitioner must be reported to the OHO by a treating practitioner. The proposed bill amends that and other provisions in relation to substandard practice and sexual misconduct, and two examples will suffice.

In relation to impairment, the new bill will state that if a practitioner has placed the public at risk of substantial harm by practising with an impairment, a mandatory report must be filed and guidance factors in the bill, which will come out later, will also apply. In regard to intoxication, if a practitioner is placing the public at substantial risk of harm by practising while intoxicated by alcohol or drugs, a treating practitioner must mandatorily report the practitioner he is treating. There may well be a subtle difference between the current law and what is proposed. Certainly to an extent they are different, yet the obligation at a point in time continues to exist that a mandatory report to the OHO must be made under the current proposed terms of the Queensland legislation.

The WA model is quite distinct, and I refer to page 3 of the explanatory notes, which state—

Western Australia exempts treating practitioners from mandatory reporting for all forms of notifiable conduct if their patient is a registered health practitioner. However, treating practitioners may make voluntary reports based on their professional and ethical obligations to report matters that may place the public at risk of harm.

Indeed that quote from the notes is derived from section 141 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010. Section 141 deals with mandatory notifications by health practitioners. Notifiable conduct is defined by section 140 of that act. Section 141 states—

- (1) This section applies to a registered health practitioner ... who, in the course of practising the first health practitioner's profession, forms a reasonable belief that—
- (a) another registered health practitioner ... has behaved in a way that constitutes notifiable conduct; or
 - (b) a student has an impairment that, in the course of the student undertaking clinical training, may place the public at substantial risk of harm.

Subsection (2) of 141 states—

The first health practitioner must, as soon as practicable after forming the reasonable belief, notify the National Agency of the second health practitioner's notifiable conduct or the student's impairment.

However, subsection (4) of 141 states—

For the purposes of subsection (1), the first health practitioner does not form the reasonable belief in the course of practising the profession if—

...

- (ca) the first health practitioner forms the reasonable belief in the course of providing health services to the second health practitioner or student ...

In essence, if the treating practitioner is providing services to the second practitioner they are no longer required to actually file a notice with the national authority.

The submissions filed with the committee and, indeed, referred to in the statement of reservations filed by the LNP members outline in some detail objections in relation to the current bill before the House and urge the House to consider the WA model. The shadow health minister has outlined in some detail the content of those submissions. I do believe it is important to simply recognise the bodies who did recommend the WA model, or WA lite model as it is called in certain submitters' documents: the QNMU, a body that is well trained in relation to nurse practitioners and midwives and acts on their behalf but also acts on behalf of patients whom those nurses and midwives do treat; the AMA, a longstanding body in relation to medical practitioners; and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, another body that has a strong standing in the medical community and also holds dear not just the treatment of patients but also the protection of patients in relation to their members.

In relation to the question of suicide, the AMA make this point in their submission—

The AMA took part in the resultant public consultation process and lodged the attached submission (**Attachment A**) outlining the case for change. This submission highlights the tragic levels of suicide within the medical profession and includes the ... statistics from the *Beyondblue* study which confirm 'Mandatory Reporting' laws are a clear and present barrier to seeking help. ... These statistics need to be front of mind in redrafting the National Law, as they contribute to understanding the extent to which practitioners' interpretations ... deters access to treatment.

When one considers the submissions, the submission by the shadow minister and also the statement of reservations, I believe there are three issues that come to mind. If there is any regime in which mandatory reporting is required, a practitioner who needs help may not seek that help because they do not feel free that they can do so without repercussions coming upon them. What we do not want to see in this state are practitioners who do not feel confident and therefore go out into the public and cause more distress and pain and suffering to the public. Treating practitioners will not take the risk

of not reporting practitioners in the event they get the call wrong. Thirdly, the AMA highlights the mental health issues associated with doctors who simply do not seek treatment, and the issue of suicide is a major concern for these practitioners going forward.


It is quite clear that the issue in relation to sexual misconduct, however, stands in a field of its own. The amendment being proposed mirrors the submissions of peak medical bodies, nurses, doctors and the like and says, 'We see benefit in the WA model.' There has been no evidence given to this parliament that indicates the WA model has not been effective. The WA model has worked in WA, and in fact WA is not changing their legislation. They are satisfied that the outcomes achieved in WA provide a benefit to the community and protection of the practitioner.

I urge the House to consider very strongly the amendment proposed by the shadow health minister, with the exception that in these circumstances sexual misconduct must be the subject of mandatory reporting. That is a matter that our society says is simply a step too far. I believe that the royal college and, if I recall correctly, the AMA, made the point very clearly that the whole matter of sexual misconduct must be subject to mandatory reporting. I support the bill, but I also support the amendment proposed by the shadow health minister.

Debate, on motion of Mr McArdle, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Nambour Police Station; Australian Police Medal

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House a community petition to highlight to the House and the Minister for Police the urgency of the upgrade to the Nambour Police Station. I table the petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition calling on the government to build a Nambour Police Station and to tighten bail laws [\[193\]](#).


The petition was supported by businesses in the Nambour area, with local business owners displaying the petition and collecting signatures from supporters: 522 people have signed that petition. The petition coincided with a speech to the House by me on this issue in October last year.

All workplaces matter, and the workplaces of those who serve to protect the community matter. As I outlined in November, the current Nambour Police Station was delivered on the back of a truck over 12 years ago, and the minister announced the upgrade project in July 2017. The upgrade announcement almost two years ago has seen \$240,000 spent so far with no-one able to even show a sketch design of the project. This project is urgent, and the minister needs to get on with it and not keep kicking it down the road.

On a more positive note, while I am talking about police I want to take this opportunity soon after Australia Day to congratulate the Queensland recipients of the Australian Police Medal. This medal is only given to one in 1,000 officers each year, and this year's list again contains the names of officers I have personally worked alongside, so I have seen the great work they do. I congratulate Inspector Monique Ralph and Senior Sergeant Annette Stevens, who I have not had the pleasure of meeting. Congratulations to Detective Inspector John Rouse. 'Rousey' has a long-term dedication to the protection of children through Task Force Argos and leads that world-class investigative team. Congratulations also to Superintendent Darryl Johnson, the current district officer of the Sunshine Coast, who oversees the stations in my electorate and was my immediate previous boss. Congratulations too to Chief Superintendent Matthew Vanderbyl, who I worked general duties with around the Inala area back in the early 1990s.

I want to make special mention of my friend and ex-colleague, Sergeant Gina Scott. I got to know the great work that Gina did with the kids of Mount Isa when I was with the PCYC. Gina ran the PCYC in Mount Isa for nine years and did a magnificent job helping vulnerable children be all they can be. Examples of her good work are too many to mention in a short speech, but it is recognition well deserved. Congratulations, 'Grins'. Thank you to all of our police, who continue to protect the people of Queensland.

Hilton, Mr P

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.03 pm): Late last year I had the great pleasure of representing the Premier in Stanthorpe to celebrate the Labor Party's long historical connection to the Granite Belt and to celebrate the Hon. Paul Hilton, the state member for Carnarvon, who represented Carnarvon from 1935 to 1963. Not many of you may know of Paul Hilton, but it is well worth reflecting on his

contribution to Queensland. As a Labor member of parliament Paul Hilton focused on the needs of people who lived in the regions, fighting for both farmers and workers alike. Paul Hilton's maiden speech in 1935 showed him to be a political visionary who looked towards the future needs of his electorate and the whole of Queensland. He highlighted the need for urgent investment in road infrastructure in Queensland's western regions and the outback, and he encouraged the state government to invest in medical research to help find a cure for influenza, which was a devastating illness at the time.


Paul Hilton also used his maiden speech to implore local government authorities to apply for state government loans and subsidies to help carry out local works which would help provide jobs to unemployed people in country areas hit hard by the Great Depression. He talked about advancing the spirit of cooperation between primary producers and wage earners in country areas and fully believed that Labor policy serves both the man on the land as well as the wage earner.

Later in his career as secretary for public works and housing Paul Hilton secured pre-fabricated housing from overseas to overcome the housing shortage that gripped Queensland after the war. He also secured pre-fabricated classrooms for Queensland schools. He truly was a visionary. These actions were enormously beneficial to a growing state coping with a baby boom after World War II. Paul Hilton also supported the Queensland Labor government's free public hospital system, making Queensland the first Australian state to provide free public hospital treatment to anyone.

In Stanthorpe I was delighted to listen to Paul Hilton's son, Paul Hilton Jr, who is in his nineties. He spoke very eruditely and warmly of his mother, Esther, who worked tirelessly to support her husband in his campaigns and servicing the electorate. An outback electorate in 1930s Queensland would have been a daunting place with dirt roads, limited transport and long distances making contact with constituents very difficult. But this did not deter Esther, who travelled the dirt roads by foot, getting to know every constituent and helping them out with electoral matters as well as ensuring the sick and infirm were issued postal votes at election time.

Paul Hilton rightfully deserves an esteemed place in Queensland's history, and he reminds us that it is in Labor's DNA to work for all Queenslanders whether they live in the inner city, the outer suburbs, in regional and rural areas or the outback. Once again, it was a great honour to participate in celebrating Paul Hilton's legacy in Stanthorpe. I wish to thank Helen Gibson from the Stanthorpe-Wallangarra ALP Branch for helping to organise the event and Paul Hilton's family, who also attended: his son Paul Jr; his daughter Margaret; and grandchildren Jane Webster, Mary Hilton, Nick Hilton, and Genevieve Gibson.


Rural Fire Brigades

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.06 pm): I rise tonight to talk about my wonderful rural fire brigades: Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade and Coomera Valley Fire Brigade. During this summer period they have had a very busy time on the northern Gold Coast. They were rushed off their feet with multiple blazes around the Maudsland area at Wongawallan. They even went out towards Main Beach. To give members a bit of an idea as to how busy they were, on 28 November they attended a fire at Elevation Drive which they quickly put out in very dangerous conditions. The winds that day were quite strong, and if it were not for their quick reaction that fire would have spread through the Wongawallan area and posed a serious threat to houses. On 14 January there was a large fire at Maudsland on the new crushed quarry land that borders housing estates; they attended Link Road on 17 January; they responded to a fire on 19 January; and on 20 January we had a large fire around the Maudsland area which put a lot of houses in jeopardy. I want to give a big shout-out to Keith Stewart and Cameron Neville, two firefighters who single-handedly protected a house on top of a very steep ridge. These guys did a fantastic job in protecting those individuals' property.

I say to the first officers of those brigades—Brendon from Guanaba and the newly appointed first officer Wayne from Coomera Valley—that you should be very, very proud of what your volunteers have achieved during the summer period. Just to show how much the local community appreciated them, during the Maudsland fire at about nine o'clock at night a lovely lady delivered a lot of pizzas to the rural fire brigade, which they were very grateful for. They made sure that both brigades got enough food—they did not scoff it for themselves—so I would like to say thank you to that lady. It was a truly beautiful thing to do.

I highlight the importance of being prepared for bushfires. Preparing a week beforehand is not good enough. People need to do proper firebreaks and ensure their gutters do not have leaves in them. I know that the rural fire brigade will be speaking at a community meeting in the very near future just to push this matter forward.

Prince Charles Hospital

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.09 pm): I rise to acknowledge a wonderful institution in the electorate of Stafford—one of Queensland's leading hospitals that has served our community expertly and diligently over many years. Prince Charles Hospital is an icon of our local area. The hospital sees thousands of patients every year. In fact, this year almost 10,000 surgical patients will be seen at Prince Charles Hospital. I also note for the benefit of my colleague the Minister for Health that there has been no surgical long wait at Prince Charles Hospital for more than four years.

Prince Charles has also taken over the responsibility to coordinate the flying surgical service—surgeons who traverse the state attending regional hospitals, providing a much needed surgical service. As members are also probably aware, I used to be involved in research at the Prince Charles Hospital, so I admit to a personal fondness for this fine institution.

I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful work the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation is doing to advance medical knowledge, not only for Queensland but indeed for the world. The hospital is home to leading researchers in fields such as artificial heart technology and organ rejection to name just two.


The Prince Charles Hospital is also a community hub, and I thank Minister Miles for the wonderful work he has done—and before him Mr Speaker and Minister Dick—in securing the hospital car park for public ownership. I know that it was a major issue locally. To have it resolved so successfully is a credit to all involved.

I also wish to acknowledge Dr Pat Aldons' 40 years diligent service at the Prince Charles Hospital. Pat is an institution there. He has been running the wound clinics there for many years. In fact, he is a specialist consultant at the hospital.

I would also like to personally thank Prince Charles Hospital for the wonderful treatment they provided for my wife, Pam, when she recently fractured her ankle. She received, just as I knew she would, great treatment and great care. She has had terrific results: Pam is back in the gym exercising furiously, even today.

The people of Stafford are indeed privileged to have such a wonderful institution. The Prince Charles Hospital is not just an outstanding institution for Brisbane, for the state or for the nation; indeed, it is a fantastic institution for the world.

Trauma


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.12 pm): Many tears are shed as an MP on multiple fronts in not being able to alleviate the deep grief and trauma impacting on our communities from both natural disasters and human perpetrators. I refer firstly to the catastrophic impacts of the recent Queensland fires and floods. There are no words to convey my heartfelt sorrow at what these communities and farmers have gone through and are going through. The drought, fire and floods I experienced when I lived in remote areas does not compare to the enormity of what has been experienced over these past weeks. The cost emotionally and financially is not just to those directly impacted; it is to all Queenslanders. We thank those who are there on the front line to assist them.

Secondly, I mention the horrific impacts of irresponsible and selfish humans. The outpouring of grief and anger in our communities when a loved one's life is taken away through the irresponsible or deliberate actions of another is unacceptably now too common. Repeat offenders who kill and maim through drink, drugs, dangerous driving and acts of violence are showing contempt for and disrespect to fellow Queenslanders and our society, through the destruction they deliver not only to their victims but also to all those who know, love and depend on them as well as to the collective Queensland state that continues to spend so much compassion, time and taxpayer dollars to prevent this minority harming others.

Every single MP sitting in this chamber feels this pain and frustration, and I acknowledge and appreciate the efforts previously and over the past two days through the introduction of bills I am restricted from referring to. Rage is building in our communities from what is seen as a system that is failing them. I stand here and ask every single MP to combine in a collective force and say very clearly, 'Enough is enough.' It is time to honour all of those who have lost or had their lives irrevocably changed and to deliver to community expectations through new frameworks and legislation and increased powers and assistance to our front-liners. I make this plea on behalf of all those impacted by tragedy and on behalf of the beautiful Sharon Cuthbert, her loving family and all other victims and families with

whom we grieve, left devastated from dangerous drivers and violent offenders. May the trauma, hardship and deaths at the hands of nature and these irresponsible and dangerous offenders be the catalyst for this change so desperately needed.

Public Transport


 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.15 pm): Public transport patronage is growing strongly in South-East Queensland, with 182 million train, bus, tram and ferry trips in 2017-18—a record for public transport in the region. Halfway through the current financial year, we are on target to break that record. Data from December 2018 marks the 15th consecutive month of year-on-year patronage growth for public transport in South-East Queensland. There were almost a million more South-East Queensland public transport trips in December 2018 compared to December 2017—an increase of 6.5 per cent. In the first quarter of the 2018-19 financial year there were 49.17 million trips—that is a seven per cent increase, or about 3.3 million trips—compared with the same quarter in the previous year. We are seeing increases in bus patronage of more than two million and increases in train patronage of more than half a million. Of course, light rail is doing incredibly well in what is currently a comparatively small system, with an increase of nearly three-quarters of a million.

Confidence is returning. I am happy to report to the chamber that Canstar Blue's passenger review of national rail services placed Queensland Rail ahead of Sydney and Melbourne. South-East Queensland's rail services rated highly for reliability, timetabling and cleanliness and was the only service in the survey to be awarded five stars for safety. That is because the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to better public transport and we invest in it. These figures do not include the extra figures due to the Commonwealth Games.

Let's compare that to the LNP. Patronage numbers dropped and plateaued under them. In fact, of the past 10 years, the three years with the lowest patronage were all years in which the LNP was in power. Its record was appalling. To this day the LNP still does not support Cross River Rail, the largest and most important public transport project in the country let alone this state.

We cut fares and we are now seeing the benefit. We are investing in Cross River Rail, new infrastructure which the LNP opposition opposed. We built light rail stage 2 in 18 months flat and we are getting the benefits. We are also investing in the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. We also duplicated Helensvale to Coomera. We are investing in public transport infrastructure. In comparison, the LNP had no new infrastructure in its three years in government. It opposed Cross River Rail. It manufactured trains overseas and not in Queensland. It presided over the three lowest years out of the last 10 years in terms of patronage. The LNP has an appalling record. Our record sees growth and confidence grow.

Coolangatta State School; Coolangatta Airport


 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.18 pm): Over the weekend of 9 and 10 February, Coolangatta State School celebrated 100 years of educating children. The fascinating history of this school is unique—one name and three locations. It first opened on 1 February 1920 following a Spanish influenza outbreak which caused 10,000 deaths. The New South Wales border gates were closed, leaving 70 students unable to attend Tweed primary school. Finding flat land proved difficult. The new school had a great view but a restricted playground. I have spoken with countless former students who said that the call of the surf was mightier than their lessons on some days, so it is no surprise that many vividly remember time spent in the headmaster's office.

Commonly known as the school on the hill, it closed due to overcrowding in the mid-seventies and the Stapylton Street site opened on 26 November 1977. The old school was operated as a special school until a new purpose-built facility was opened in Currumbin Waters in July 2006. After an intense community campaign commencing in 2004, which I was proud to be a part of, the site on the hill was dedicated for community use for perpetuity and the school on the hill, thanks to Gold Coast City Council, is now heritage listed and home to the Coolangatta community cultural centre.

I was really impressed with the way the whole school and the wider community supported the Saturday fun day with activities for everybody. Principal Sharyn Mahoney took a plunge in the dunking machine, the classrooms displayed historic items and photos, a time capsule was embedded in the school grounds and former students signed a school honour role. On Sunday His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Paul de Jersey QC AC, unveiled a centenary plaque at the restored school atop Kirra Hill which was of special significance as his grandfather Claude de Jersey was the headmaster who supervised the enrolment of the school's first 67 students.

On Monday, 4 February I attended the sod turning of the truly exciting and groundbreaking—pardon the pun—new \$50 million Rydges Hotel project at the Gold Coast Airport. I commend the federal government for approving this hotel development in September 2018 and look forward to seeing it grow from the ground before its opening in mid-2020. Expected to be seven storeys with 150 to 200 rooms and 60 to 70 car parks, it will be built on the southern side of the terminal connected by a plaza. It will have a restaurant, bar, resort pool, functions, conference and meeting rooms and a rooftop bar. The hotel will cater for business travellers, regional and international leisure travellers, university students and airline staff. Finally and most importantly, the airport terminal expansions will be three levels with provision for aerobridges, which will be warmly welcomed by those of us who have been lobbying for them for the past 20 years. I place on record my appreciation for the airport and all it does in our community.


Caboolture Hospital, Upgrades

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.21 pm): I have some great news for the people of the Caboolture region, and that is that the upgrades at the Caboolture Hospital continue. There is an exciting upgrade which is well underway, and listen to this: our ED expansion works are well underway at the Caboolture Hospital. These works, funded by a Labor government, will deliver for the Caboolture Hospital an extra 13 treatment spaces, including six fast-track beds, eight new short-stay beds, four short-stay chairs, a CT and X-ray room and a waiting area. It will be delivered by the middle of this year. It is \$19 million worth of upgrades and it will increase the emergency department's space from 800 square metres to more than 1,800 square metres.

There is also a second stage on the way too, and the second stage will commence very quickly in the midyear and be finished by the end of this year. That second stage includes refurbishing the existing waiting room, three assessment rooms, a dedicated mental health area and specialist paediatric area which includes its own waiting area with four beds, and that will be delivered by the end of this year. This is an investment in our hospital—a very important part of our community. It will also support many jobs during construction. We will see over 100 jobs supported during construction of these emergency department expansion works. Once those works are completed, there will also be an increase in the number of front-line medical, nursing and other health roles at our hospital to support the extra resource and capacity at our hospital.

That is just the next stage of the upgrade works at our hospital, because we will also have the major works starting next year. This is following our election commitment—a commitment of \$253 million in expansion works at our hospital. It will increase the hospital significantly with over 100 new beds, more facilities, more specialist areas and of course more car parks, which are in high demand at our hospital. This follows our investment just last term in 300 extra car-parking spaces—free car-parking spaces—for our staff at the hospital. This is a significant investment in the health services that are provided in our community, and it is a Labor government that does this. Who can forget that it was a Labor government that built the Caboolture Hospital, a Labor government that expanded the hospital a decade ago and it is a Labor government that is expanding the hospital once again to suit the needs and demands of those in our community?

Redland Hospital

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.24 pm): The truth about the crisis at Redland Hospital has finally come out. Dr Michael Cameron of the Redland Hospital emergency department bravely wrote an open letter about the problems at Redland Hospital. I table the open letter and will read some excerpts.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 7 February 2019, titled 'Redland Hospital: Doctor reveals bed shortages, safety concerns in open letter to community' [[194](#)].

The open letter states—

... if it is you who needs the Emergency Department ... choose carefully. Will you go to the Princess Alexandra Hospital, a top level Public Hospital with all specialties ... Or will you choose the Redland Hospital, where we will see you as soon as we can and will try our best to help you.

He lists a range of specialties that are not provided at the hospital and he goes on to say—

Like other Public Hospitals we are struggling for space to put all our patients. They often wait for days in my ED for a bed in our hospital or another hospital.

...

As your doctor, I have a duty to warn you that the choice you make may make a difference.

This is a damning indictment of this Labor government in not keeping pace with the health needs of Redlands coast residents. Dr Cameron exposes the dire bed shortages clogging the system, potential impacts on patient safety and the need for specialists. The government response has been woeful and was covered in a story titled 'Minister says Redland Hospital will be expanded, but no time frame'. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 8 February 2019, titled 'Minister says Redland Hospital will be expanded, but no time frame' [195].

The minister wrote to staff and said that he would do something about it, but he had no time frame. In fact, another version of it said that eventually something might happen—eventually. This is so typical of how Labor has responded to the health needs of the people of the Redlands coast. This is not acceptable, Premier and minister. Firstly, stop blaming the feds. Independent Hospital Pricing Authority figures—and I table these figures—show a \$39 million cut in funding from the state government to Redland Hospital and the Metro South HHS for the period 2017-18 compared to 2016-17.

Tabled paper: Table, undated, titled 'Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) Figures' [196].

It is little wonder we have the worst ramping in Queensland and the third worst ED in Queensland.


Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Capalaba, please return to your seat if you wish to make any statements in the House.

Dr ROBINSON: The second issue is that we need to fast-track the master planning. It has been four years now. That is unacceptable. We also need to stop calling a small investment in ED maintenance and maternity a hospital upgrade—like the real upgrades that Logan, Ipswich, Caboolture and Nambour are getting. Also, the car parking does not have to be fixed first, as the minister said. Firstly, there was a review that was meant to be completed by mid-2018—which came and went—and then he reannounced a delay and another car park review later in 2019, perhaps reporting very late. This is a review after a review. Build the car park and then we will invest seems to be a very strange strategy. With regard to demountables, the ALP's answer seems to be dongas. Has it come to that? Get on with the major upgrade with more beds, ICU, dialysis and palliative care, among other things. We are very grateful to Dr Cameron for the truth.

(Time expired)

Gaven Electorate

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.27 pm): Today is the fourth anniversary of the Palaszczuk government and it is also Valentine's Day, so I wanted to take this opportunity to show how much love this government has shown for the Gold Coast over the last four years. One of my first tasks shortly after being elected was announcing that light rail stage 2 would be opening on time and on budget, providing a great Christmas present for so many locals in 2017. We are delivering four M1 upgrades, with work happening right now between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes and the Gateway merge. We have duplicated the heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera station. We invested \$160 million to upgrade key local road infrastructure in preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

We are heavily investing in education, boosting the number of teachers and teacher aide hours as well as delivering new infrastructure like the nearly \$800,000 investment resource centre upgrade at Pacific Pines State High School and a \$670,000 upgrade of the special education Grevillea block at Pacific Pines State Primary School.

Quality health care is at the heart and soul of every Labor government. That is why we have been restoring front-line services, employing over 650 extra nurses and 180 extra doctors on the Gold Coast since 2015. I recently met Carmen when I was out doorknocking. Carmen was one of the many Gold Coast health staff members who lost her job under the Newman government. These cuts were not just numbers; they were real people in our communities. Carmen has recently had to rely on our world-class health facility and had only good things to say about the treatment that she received.

It was a Labor government that had the foresight to bid for the Commonwealth Games and it was this Labor government that delivered the hugely successful event. Not only did we showcase the Gold Coast to the world; we invested heavily in facilities and infrastructure which will leave a long lasting legacy for years to come. We invested in the Nerang Mountain Bike Trails and the Carrara Sports Precinct—two world-class sporting facilities in my electorate that are now being enjoyed by locals and

utilised for events that bring thousands of people to our growing city. We invested in the shared pathway connecting this sporting precinct to the Nerang train station, allowing locals and tourists to cycle, walk or skate to and from the precinct.

As assistant minister for tourism industry development I have been incredibly proud of the efforts to secure a T20 match as well as three BBL matches at Metricon Stadium thanks to our investment in lighting and the drop-in pitch. I could rattle off a number of other projects that the Palaszczuk government has invested in. However, we would be here for longer than three minutes. I am proud of the work that this government is doing in building a bigger and better M1 and delivering for our local schools and hospitals. I conclude by wishing my electorate a happy Valentine's Day. I love representing the community that I grew up in and will continue working day in and day out for the needs of my area.

The House adjourned at 6.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson