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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 28 March 2019

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	811
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by the Premier	811
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of correspondence regarding the allegation made by the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP, that the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, deliberately misled the House and the Premier's response.	811
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	811
Disorderly Conduct	811
School Group Tour.....	812
TABLED PAPERS	812
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	812
Hospitals, Demand.....	812
Flood Appeal; Cyclones, Recovery.....	813
Renewable Energy, Hydrogen.....	813
Hospitals, Demand.....	813
National Disability Insurance Scheme.....	814
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media article, undated, titled 'NDIS shortfall of billions to boost budget'.	815
Renewable Energy, Hydrogen.....	815
Great Barrier Reef Islands, Upgrade.....	815
NAPLAN.....	816
Youth Detention Centres	816
Electricity Industry, Apprentices.....	817
Floods, Small Business	817
Givit.....	818
NASA—A Human Adventure	818
Harmony Day; New Zealand, Shootings	819
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	820


Table of Contents – Thursday, 28 March 2019

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	820
Question on Notice	820
HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE	820
Report	820
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 19—Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 October and 12 November 2018.	820
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE	820
Report	820
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 14, 56th Parliament, March 2019—Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019.	820
STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ...	821
Report	821
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 25, 56th Parliament, March 2019—Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 9: 2018-19 Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits.	821
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	821
Hospitals, Demand	821
Public Hospitals, Waiting Times	822
Morrison Government	822
Hospitals, Demand	822
Gun Control	823
Health System	824
Federal Budget	824
Hospitals, Demand	825
Health Services, Funding	826
Hospitals, Demand	826
Planning Industry, Women	827
Hospitals, Demand	828
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order	828
North Queensland, Ecotourism	828
Deebing Creek	829
Gas Industry	829
Theodore, Maternity Services	830
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 7 March 2019, from the Executive Director, Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Ms Sandy Munro, regarding maternity services.	830
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 27 March 2019, from the Health Service Chief Executive, Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Mr Steve Williamson, to the Director-General, Queensland Health, Mr Michael Walsh, regarding birthing kits.	831
Kindergarten Programs, Federal Funding	831
Local Government, Voting	832
DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL	832
Introduction	832
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019.....	833
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes.	833
First Reading	835
Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee	835
DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	835
Photographer in Chamber	835
JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL	835
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	849
Health System; Braun, Dr W	849
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 22 July 2006, from the Clinical Superintendent, Royal Darwin Hospital, to the Chief Executive Officer, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, regarding Dr William Braun.....	849
Ipswich Electorate, Jobs	850
Bishop, Mr J	851
Pakleppa, Ms Z; Keppel Electorate, Yeppoon Road	851
Herbert River, Water Infrastructure	852
Skin Cancer	853
Drought	853
Nerang Alliance Network; State Schools, Federal Funding	854
School Zones, Flashing Signs	854
Housing	855
Public Transport, Fare Evasion and Safety	855
Townsville, Road Infrastructure	856
Floods, Recovery Assistance; Hughenden, Hydro-electric Scheme	856
Mackay Base Hospital, Cardiac Services	857
Buderim Police Beat	858
Marburg Community Forum; Marburg State School	858

Table of Contents – Thursday, 28 March 2019

Chiba Park, Flying Foxes.....	859
One Nation, Preferences.....	860
Glass House Electorate	860
Townsville, Tourism.....	861
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE	862
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	862
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	865
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	865
INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.....	867
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	867
JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL	872
Second Reading	872
Consideration in Detail	888
Clauses 1 to 35 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.	888
Third Reading.....	889
Long Title.....	889
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.....	889
Portfolio Committees, Transfer of Responsibilities, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports	889
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	889
Second Reading	889
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, erratum to explanatory notes.	889
ADJOURNMENT.....	894
Community Clubs	894
New Zealand, Shootings; Clubs Queensland Awards	895
Hospitals, Demand.....	895
Caboolture Hospital.....	896
Local Government, Voting System	896
Redlands Electorate, Women	897
Hinkler Federal Electorate, Regional Deal	898
Mount Ommaney Electorate, Harmony Day	898
St Stephen's Hospital	899
Mount Gravatt Community Centre, Social Isolation Project.....	899
ATTENDANCE	900

THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by the Premier

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 19 February 2019 the member for Bonney wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Minister for Trade deliberately misled the House during statements made on 13 February 2019 and 14 February 2019. The matter relates to statements by the Premier in regard to a list of proposed sites for a second casino on the Gold Coast. In his letter to me, the member for Bonney contended that the Premier's statements were deliberately misleading.

I sought further information from the Premier about the allegation made against her in accordance with standing order 269(5). The Premier advised me that the statements she made in parliament were based on information provided to her by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games and she provided supporting information to that effect. The Premier further advised me that she believed her statements in regard to this matter to be correct.


On the material before me, it is arguable that the relevant statements contained factually or apparently incorrect or misleading material. However, there is no evidence presented, other than assertion, in relation to the second element of the alleged contempt—that is, that at the time of making the statement the Premier must have known that it was incorrect. Indeed, there is significant evidence to demonstrate that the Premier was relying on information provided by the minister, which was eventually clarified by the minister.

Accordingly, on the information before me, I considered that the Premier has made an adequate explanation in relation to her statements under standing order 269(4). I have therefore decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence regarding the allegation made by the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP, that the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, deliberately misled the House and the Premier's response [\[429\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Disorderly Conduct

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I remind all members that it is grossly disorderly, and potentially a contempt, to disrespect the authority of the chair. Deputy Speakers, whilst in the chair, have the same authority as the Speaker and are to be accorded the same respect.

I regularly review the *Record of Proceedings* and I note that yesterday, at page 769, the member for Southern Downs was disrespectful to the authority of the Deputy Speaker. Member for Southern Downs, I now call on you to stand and withdraw your comments that were disrespectful to the Deputy Speaker yesterday.

Mr LISTER: Thank you Mr Speaker. I withdraw and beg the pardon of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from Sheldon College in the electorate of Redlands.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch)—

[421](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3003-18) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 13,576 petitioners, requesting the House to propose a 3-year trial of recreational hunting in Queensland's State Forests and establish a Restricted Game License scheme similar to New South Wales

[422](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3061-18) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,317 petitioners, requesting the House to reject all requests to open up state forests to recreational shooters and to maintain and toughen up our world-leading gun laws

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey)—

[423](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3066-18) sponsored by the member for Ipswich West, Mr Madden, from 1,736 petitioners, requesting the House to expedite the proposed upgrade of the Mount Crosby Road-Warrego Highway interchange.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hospitals, Demand



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): The emergency demand putting pressure on our hospitals has further eased overnight. I will update the House shortly as more information becomes available. We spend \$45.6 million on public health services a day. Last year, 1.9 million people were treated in our emergency departments. In the seven months to February, there were 22,000 more than in the same period last year. Since the beginning of January, there have been 5,800 flu cases throughout Queensland and 521 ended up in public hospitals and 46 people were in intensive care.

What do all these numbers mean? They mean more people than ever are coming into our hospitals for care. One reason for the increase is they cannot afford an alternative. There is also another reason. Everyone knows that, when you are sick, the best care in the world is provided at Queensland's public hospitals.

The amount of money we spend on health has grown from \$13.6 billion when the LNP left office to \$18.3 billion. The Queensland government's funding has increased by \$2.1 billion this year compared to the LNP's funding in its last year in office. This year, the federal government contributed less than a third of our Health budget, or \$4.7 billion.


We are delivering hospital upgrades to increase capacity by 500 beds in South-East Queensland, with the first new beds coming on line next year. This includes redevelopments of the Logan and Caboolture hospitals and the Herston quarter. We are also working on detailed business cases for the Ipswich Hospital and a new Toowoomba hospital. We famously and proudly hired thousands of nurses and doctors.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I am listening to the Premier's statement. I do not believe she is being provocative. I ask you to hear her statement.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the public who heeded our message to leave emergency departments for emergencies only. This is not something that we have not said before. Emergency departments ought to be for emergencies. We will continue to work with the federal government to provide places for the hundreds of people in our hospitals who should be getting top-quality aged care.

Flood Appeal; Cyclones, Recovery


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Tonight the parliament comes together to raise money for people who have been devastated by our recent floods. Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for accommodating us, together with the Leader of the Opposition, to make this another of those occasions where we can achieve more by working together, namely, raising much more needed money for those most in need. I am pleased to announce that our flood appeal has so far raised \$10 million. Tonight's event is a sellout, with 500 paying guests and sponsors who so generously donated just six months ago for the drought appeal lining up happily once again.

As it happens, today is also the second anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Tropical Cyclone Debbie was the most costly cyclone to impact Australia since Cyclone Tracy, leaving a trail of destruction from Bowen to the New South Wales border. Insurance losses from the event reached \$1.8 billion and the total relief and recovery cost stands at more than \$700 million.

Today, I announce a little bit more. One of the hardest hit communities was Proserpine. We have rebuilt its airport and today I commit another \$5.2 million to help rebuild the Proserpine Entertainment Centre. I know that this is an important issue for that community. I know that the mayor has been talking passionately about this issue. Recently, when I visited the school there a lot of people stopped me and said, 'We really need that entertainment centre rebuilt. It was the centre of our community and it has been devastated by Cyclone Debbie. It needs to be rebuilt.' Today, we commit that \$5.2 million.

Since Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015, Queensland has faced 35 natural disasters, including for the very first time bushfires of a catastrophic nature. After each and every one of these disasters Queensland has bounced back and, tonight, we will all pitch in and do our little bit for Queensland.


Renewable Energy, Hydrogen

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): Today, Queensland is celebrating its first ever delivery of green hydrogen to Japan by JXTG—Japan's largest petroleum conglomerate. The hydrogen was produced using JXTG's proprietary technology at QUT's solar cell facility at the Queensland government's Redlands Research Facility. This is a significant and exciting step forward for the hydrogen industry in Queensland. Why? Because renewable hydrogen being successfully exported overseas is just the start of producing and exporting hydrogen on a commercial scale in the future. A new industry in Queensland means new jobs. Hydrogen has the potential to be Queensland's next LNG. I remember when LNG was just a dream. Now, it is a \$60 billion industry.

Last year when I was in Tokyo I saw hydrogen technology firsthand and, on seeing the potential, I kickstarted the research into creating a new renewable energy industry in Queensland. In September last year, we released a hydrogen discussion paper on how to embrace this emerging industry. It has received strong interest from industry, universities and the community. We will be releasing a strategy this year. Last year when I went to South Korea I visited Hyundai headquarters where the car manufacturer is embracing hydrogen as an emissions-free fuel and is ready to start delivering hydrogen fuel cell vehicles for the Australian market later this year. Bill Shorten has committed to a \$1 billion National Hydrogen Plan, including setting up a National Hydrogen Innovation Hub in Gladstone, which I know the member for Gladstone is very passionate about, which is already well advanced in hydrogen research.

Because of today's announcement, Queensland's goal of exporting hydrogen to power the 2020 Tokyo Olympics water fleet is a step closer. I applaud the project partners on making this a reality. I am pleased to announce today \$250,000 in funding for the establishment of a renewable hydrogen pilot plant at the Redlands Research Facility. This will ensure that the knowledge within the hydrogen industry in Queensland continues to grow at pace with the international market. Our backing of renewable resources, combined with our existing gas pipeline infrastructure and export facilities, make us the ideal state to lead the future production and export of hydrogen. I am confident that we can develop a world-class hydrogen industry here in Queensland. The announcement today is an important step on this journey with our research partners and industry.

Hospitals, Demand

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.41 am): I can advise that the House the planning, logistics, coordination and sheer hard work of our emergency department teams is delivering results. As at nine o'clock this morning, HHSs in the south-east corner are assessing their status, but I can confirm that five are now below bed capacity and some pressure remains.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Dr MILES: All hospitals have indicated they do not expect to reschedule any elective surgery today. Most have reported lower than expected emergency department presentations overnight, with the exception of the Redcliffe and Prince Charles hospitals where I visited this morning. While emergency departments often see pressure in winter, the system has never seen this kind of sustained increase in demand for hospitals across the south-east outside of the winter period.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members will be warned immediately today, based on the behaviour in the House in the last two days.

Dr MILES: More than 25,000 South-East Queenslanders attended an emergency department in the first three weeks of March alone. The Palaszczuk government responded quickly when the issue escalated on Tuesday afternoon, allocating \$3 million for urgent capacity expansion. That was only one component of a structured, extensive, energetic response. For example, the Metro North team opened 46 beds across their facilities normally not used when treating emergency patients. A call went out for nurses off roster or on leave to provide extra shifts and they responded, with a number going from Prince Charles Hospital to Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals to keep beds staffed. The HHS has some remaining capacity at a community facility in Zillmere, but this cannot currently be used due to a recent gastro outbreak. In Metro South, procedure rooms, transit beds and other physical space not ordinarily used for beds were open, with hospitals facing a situation where they were 50 patients over capacity. Some patients at Logan Hospital indicated a concern about being transferred to other hospitals inside the HHS because it may place them further away from their support network of family and friends. In response, to help free hospital capacity, the HHS approved extra travel subsidies to assist patients and their families. The dedicated team is working with the Mater, which is providing 30 beds at Mater South Brisbane, five beds at Mater Springfield and five beds at Mater Redland.

The Gold Coast also took clear action to help manage the demand. The HHS opened 43 beds across their facilities that are normally not used for treating emergency patients. Extra nurses were called in and negotiations were undertaken with both private hospitals on the coast and our colleagues in NSW who send critical patients from the Tweed to the Gold Coast. The hospital has also made contingency plans to move low-acuity patients to a local nursing home and free up hospital beds.


These are complex and coordinated responses to a complex problem, but one thing remains simple: the inspiring commitment of our hard working staff. While much of the focus yesterday was on the level of demand, our \$3 million commitment and the sparring that occurs here—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked that these statements, where they are not being provocative, be heard.

Dr MILES: While much of the focus yesterday was on the level of demand and the sparring that occurs here, can I draw the attention of the House to one simple act of health heroics. Members may be aware of a serious incident at the Australian Christian College in Caboolture yesterday where a car struck six people, including four students who were injured. I am advised that, thankfully, the students were all stable yesterday with no life-threatening injuries. Patients were transferred quickly and safely to the Queensland Children's Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital and Caboolture Hospital where they received world-class, expert care. Before that, amidst the chaos, the injuries and the damaged vehicles, helpers rushed to provide assistance, with one of the very first people on the scene being an off-duty nurse. On duty or off duty, whether in an emergency department, on a ward, in our allied health facilities, in a private facility or in the public system, that nurse, and the thousands of other expert clinicians, are everyday heroes doing heroic work every day. I would ask every member in this place to remember that and to thank our amazing and hardworking staff.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.46 am): The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a once-in-a-generation social reform to give independence, dignity, choice and quality of life to people with a disability and their families. The Palaszczuk government is determined to make sure that Queenslanders with disability get their fair share of the supports and services that can be accessed

through the NDIS. That is why it is disturbing to read in today's *Australian Financial Review* that \$2.5 billion in unspent NDIS money that should be spent on service providers will be reallocated to prop up the Morrison government's budget next week. I table that report for the benefit of the House.


Tabled paper. Media article, undated, titled 'NDIS shortfall of billions to boost budget' [\[430\]](#).

It is reported that money that should have gone to disability service providers will be reallocated to the government's budget bottom line to reduce the federal government's budget deficit. For the federal government to short-change disability service providers at a time when there are an estimated 400 people with NDIS packages who are in Queensland hospitals that should be living in the community is completely unacceptable.

Queensland has been doing its share of the heavy lifting on the NDIS. We are working as hard as we can to make sure as many Queenslanders are in the scheme, with over 50,000 expected to be in by 30 June 2019. The NDIS Heads of Agreement signed in 2013 committed Queensland to fixed NDIS contributions from July 2019 as we transition to the full scheme, whilst the Commonwealth's costs are variable depending on uptake. This means that, under current arrangements, from 1 July, despite having collected funds from Queenslanders to pay for the NDIS through a levy, the Commonwealth will be contributing significantly less than Queensland when it comes to funding the NDIS.


Today I will be writing to the federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, calling on him to reverse the decision to reallocate funds to prop up the government's budget bottom line and ensure that people with a disability and service providers here in Queensland are fully funded by the Commonwealth. People with a disability and their families have waited too long for the freedom and dignity that the NDIS can bring to their lives. We will not allow the federal government to disrespect and short-change them in order to prop up the federal budget on the eve of a federal election.

Renewable Energy, Hydrogen

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): Today the Palaszczuk government will host an important briefing for all members of parliament on the benefits and opportunities of growing a hydrogen industry right here in Queensland. Two leaders in the field of hydrogen, Professor Ian Mackinnon and Dr Neil Thompson, both from the Queensland University of Technology, will brief members on international research and development opportunities and the latest hydrogen technologies while imparting their industry wisdom. Professor Mackinnon and Dr Thompson both hold substantial academic and industry credentials in the field of hydrogen research and its commercial applications. Professor Mackinnon will tell members about an exciting project he is leading on behalf of QUT, as the Premier has advised the House today, to establish a renewable hydrogen pilot plant at the Redlands Research Facility. The pilot plant will provide a platform to test various forms of technology to optimise the production of renewable hydrogen. Dr Thompson will explain what he sees as the emerging opportunities to develop the hydrogen economy in Queensland. Dr Thompson's experience in deploying integrated renewable hydrogen systems around the world gives him a special insight into how to maximise the opportunities that hydrogen presents.

Queensland has enormous potential when it comes to hydrogen production and export, and we are putting steps in place to make this happen. As part of the 2018-19 state budget we committed \$750,000 towards research and demonstration projects to identify ways to decrease the cost of producing renewable hydrogen. Last year, we also released our discussion paper *Advancing Queensland's hydrogen industry* for public consultation. Information collected from submissions, online responses and engagement with industry is being very useful in developing a hydrogen strategy for Queensland. That strategy will be released this year and will provide a framework for developing an economically sustainable and competitive hydrogen industry for Queensland. This is another example of our state's leadership in renewable energy technologies and biofuels, diversifying our economy and, most importantly, creating the jobs of the future.

Great Barrier Reef Islands, Upgrade

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.51 am): Today is a historic day for Queensland's tourism industry. Work is now underway on more than \$25 million worth of new infrastructure projects on our Great Barrier Reef islands. Clean-up work is underway at Green Island resort, 27 kilometres off the coast of Cairns. We are starting the removal of the decommissioned underwater observatory and, soon, more workers will be on site upgrading the day visitor amenities. In coming weeks we will install solar

power to the island and upgrade waste management systems to cut the volume of waste to landfill by 50 per cent. Mr Speaker, it is not just your beautiful part of Queensland that is benefiting; we are also seeing preliminary works begin on Wilson Island near Gladstone, Lady Elliott Island near Bundaberg and 'Orifice' Island off Townsville.


Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: My staff will be laughing—Orpheus Island.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In the right context that may be unparliamentary but not in this case!

Ms JONES: We are the first government in the state's history to partner with the private sector to deliver new tourism attractions throughout Queensland. The 10 projects we are delivering on Great Barrier Reef islands will create as many as 150 construction jobs over the next 18 months and will pump millions of dollars back into the economy. This is in stark contrast to what we saw under the Campbell Newman government, which cut funding. We will continue to invest in our tourism sector to create jobs for Queensland.

NAPLAN


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving Queensland kids a great start through a world-class education. An important aspect of delivering on this commitment is ensuring that the various educational resources and assessments being used remain current and responsive. With the Morrison government refusing to act, last year we acted on a Queensland evaluation of NAPLAN to identify the concerns being expressed by students, parents and educators from all schools—government and non-government—throughout Queensland. This is another example of Queensland providing leadership at the national level. We had a great response to the survey in phase 1, with feedback from more than 7,500 parents and carers and 3,000 students. Phase 2, undertaken by the Australian Catholic University, saw feedback from 5,800 teachers and principals—and 200 education stakeholders—a response rate of over 80 per cent of all schools, an incredible response. However, this response is not surprising as since I became education minister not a week has gone by without someone raising a concern with me about NAPLAN.

The Palaszczuk government's evaluation identified that NAPLAN had played a role in supporting improvements in Queensland's educational outcomes. However, many parents reported that testing caused their child to experience anxiety and stress; that there were a range of unintended consequences stemming from the now high-stakes nature of the testing; and that there were differing expectations about the purpose of NAPLAN. Educators expressed concern at the growing amount of time and pressure in preparing for testing; examples of teaching being tailored to NAPLAN, resulting in a narrowing of the curriculum; and that NAPLAN data was being misinterpreted as the sole indicator of a school's performance.

I want to make sure we strike the right balance, with the information gained from NAPLAN used for the right purpose while addressing any unintended consequences. To achieve this, we are incorporating these findings into a communications strategy for parents and schools about NAPLAN. We are developing an online resource for parents and will provide clear guidance to schools about NAPLAN's place in our education system. The reports and the government's response are available on my department's website. While the Morrison government will not support a national review of NAPLAN, federal Labor has committed to a comprehensive review if successful at the coming election, and I welcome this commitment.

The Palaszczuk government has been a leading voice in this conversation because we firmly believe that, after 10 years, it is time for a comprehensive national review of NAPLAN. Queensland's work in this area means we are ready and able to contribute our findings and response to a national review. I again call on the Morrison government to listen to all states and territories, listen to parents and students, listen to teachers and educators and, like Labor, commit to a national review.

Youth Detention Centres


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.57 am): Yesterday, the Queensland Ombudsman tabled a report into the treatment and management of young people at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. The Palaszczuk government takes the report very seriously and requires our

departments to take it seriously. We accept all 17 recommendations and will respond formally to the Ombudsman by 26 April 2019. The Ombudsman engaged with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women on an earlier draft of this report. My department immediately moved to implement many significant changes addressing the issues raised. We know more remains to be done.

Key areas for improvement identified by the Ombudsman include management of high-risk young people, staff training and communication, policies and procedures, intelligence gathering and responses, security technology, record keeping and complaints management. Six of the final recommendations in the Ombudsman's report have already been fully completed and others are underway. In response to these incidents we have: new leadership at both Brisbane and Cleveland youth detention centres; new leadership in youth justice services; revised and improved policies regarding behaviour management, incident management, complaints and restricted practices; more culturally appropriate responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; revised behaviour management framework in both Brisbane and Townsville detention centres; strengthened and expanded therapeutic services; improved integration with Child Safety Services; increased CCTV with more than 90 new cameras; and upgraded building infrastructure to restrict roof access.

The actions to date are making a difference in our detention centres. From 2016-17 to 2017-18 the number of incidents involving physical violence and alleged assaults is down 40 per cent and incidents that caused property damage are down 30 per cent. A new accommodation block at BYDC—16 beds—will help manage the safety of young people and staff while security upgrades are underway. An additional 12 new beds at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre have been completed and we expect them to become operational this week. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of ensuring our youth detention centres have the capacity to deal with the growing demand and provide a safer environment for both staff and young people in detention.

Electricity Industry, Apprentices


 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.59 am): Across Queensland this week 102 Ergon and Energex apprentices are on the tools in their home depots after completing their classroom inductions. They are starting careers in a world-class electricity distribution network at 46 different locations across Queensland—from Thursday Island, out to Hughenden and all the way down to Southport. These positions are highly sought after, and the competition is fierce. For this year's intake we had more than 3,500 applicants and they were whittled down to only 600 before the final recruits were selected.

Ergon Energy and Energex are at the forefront of the rapidly changing electricity industry, leading the way with the use of new technologies, such as alternative energy solutions and smart grids. They offer excellent training and development programs to nurture the talent that will be needed to maintain our network into the future.

These new apprentices have completed their first block of classroom based induction and, for these new apprentices, their learning will never stop. They will, of course, be learning the skills needed for their important day-to-day work on the electricity network throughout Queensland. With the electricity industry undergoing unprecedented change, these new apprentices will also be learning how to work with the latest technologies. They will continue to adapt, change and improve their capabilities throughout the course of their careers as these new technologies continue to emerge, and as the needs of customers continue to evolve.

For a large part of their training they will be learning the skills needed to work with the latest advances in renewable energy systems. That means solar power and battery storage systems, home energy management systems and virtual power plants, all of which are increasingly sophisticated. The 2019 apprentices will play an increasingly important role in the energy front line. As Queenslanders continue to embrace renewable energy, the skilled staff of our publicly owned energy companies will continue to make the transition with them, providing the technical support we need to progress to a renewable future.

Floods, Small Business

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.01 am): The widespread damage from the unprecedented flooding in North Queensland has affected so many communities. They are now working out how to get back on their feet and recover. We want them to come back stronger and better prepared.

I am proud to report that so far we have assisted more than 127 small businesses with grants of almost \$1 million. This month our small business recovery outreach teams visited towns across North-West Queensland to provide that all important face-to-face contact with businesses that could not visit the centre in Townsville, stopping at around 20 towns across the region to share advice on loans, grants and other support available.


It is fantastic to see that QRIDA has increased its staff by 30 per cent so that small businesses can access financial assistance faster and get back up and running quicker. Businesses like Rod Pether Motors overnight had a metre of floodwater through the business, swamping cars and devastating the business. After receiving a recovery grant Rod said that he finally started sleeping at night and the assistance he received was the difference between giving up and going on.

I am proud to say that, in partnership with Townsville City Council, our Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees have also been working in the community to help the community recover from the devastating floods. Conservation and land management and horticulture trainees have been clearing vegetation and debris from drains, creeks and beach access points.

Another Skilling Queenslanders for Work project, appropriately named Building Pride Building Community, takes on a special significance now. Participants are joining other council teams to assist with removal of damaged household goods after the disaster. Continuing to support skills development and employment opportunities throughout the region will be vital to community recovery.

Since we reinstated this successful initiative in 2015, more than 26,500 Queenslanders have a job or have gone on to further training as a direct result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This is an initiative that the LNP again plan to cut in its election costings. This is a program that is helping the Townsville community recover, assisting local businesses and providing more jobs for Queenslanders.

Givit


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.04 am): North Queenslanders will have greater support in the wake of recent flooding thanks to the ongoing partnership between GIVIT and the Palaszczuk government. Today I am pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government is providing \$156,600 to GIVIT to employ four new full-time staff to help speed up the coordination of donated goods to people in need.

Givit does a fantastic job, managing tens of thousands of donated goods and services across the state, particularly in the aftermath of natural disasters when Queenslanders are doing it tough. We know that Givit has seen a significant increase in the need for donations across North Queensland since the recent floods hit. This has impacted their ability to lend a helping hand as quickly as they would like.

I am pleased our government is able to support Givit to increase their temporary staffing capacity to help respond to this level of demand in North and North-West Queensland. This funding will allow Givit to employ a new purchasing team made up of a purchasing manager and three full-time purchasing officers to meet local needs. Givit, a not-for-profit organisation, is funded by the Palaszczuk government to manage all offers of donated goods and services across the state following natural disasters and donate them to affected Queenslanders. This latest funding is in addition to the \$400,000 per annum over three years the Palaszczuk government has already provided to support Givit's disaster recovery activities.

Our funding commitment is an increase from the approximately \$260,000 Givit was receiving previously. Our commitment to Givit is helping Queenslanders get back on their feet following disasters, such as what we have seen in North and North-West Queensland due to the flooding. Already we have provided more than \$30.1 million in personal hardship assistance scheme grants to people and families across North, Far North and North-West Queensland who were affected by the recent floods. These funds have benefited more than 116,000 people. The Palaszczuk government's support for Givit is another example of our commitment to help create thriving communities where people are resilient, able to participate and engage in their community and enjoy economic and social wellbeing.

NASA—A Human Adventure

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.06 am): Queensland Museum's exhibition *NASA—A Human Adventure* has blasted off! This is the most comprehensive and extensive space flight exhibition in the world, and its Brisbane run coincides with the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. The exhibition shoots for the stars and tells the story of space travel, from the early pioneers to the engineering marvels that have changed the world.


Visitors to the exhibition can view more than 250 objects from the United States and former Soviet Union. Thirty-eight objects have flown in space and four have landed on the moon. Experiences like *NASA—A Human Adventure* inspire awe, unlock our imagination and challenge our understanding of the limits of human accomplishment.

This is the largest exhibition ever hosted by the Queensland Museum, and it has been made possible with support from Tourism and Events Queensland. I am over the moon that it is already breaking records. On Saturday, during World Science Festival there were more than 3,300 visitors to the exhibition. This well and truly beat the previous record by more than 1,000 visitors.

NASA—A Human Adventure is also the first exhibition to be presented in Queensland Museum's newly refurbished 1,000 square metre exhibition area, following a significant investment from the Palaszczuk government. We invested \$3.2 million to ensure the museum has more space for exhibitions and to redevelop the Museum's Discovery Centre, which opened to the public on 9 March.

We make no 'Apollo-gies' for investing in the arts and science. The Palaszczuk government's investment in major events such as the NASA exhibit and improved gallery and exhibition spaces demonstrates our commitment to helping Queenslanders learn more about the world around us. The exhibit will be open at Queensland Museum until October, and if members wish to go, I encourage them to 'plan-et'.

Harmony Day; New Zealand, Shootings

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.09 am): On Tuesday evening I attended the Premier's Harmony Day reception here at Parliament House, along with several hundred members of Queensland's multicultural community, as well as yourself, Mr Speaker, and many of our fellow members of the House. The Premier's reception is more relevant than ever in light of the recent Christchurch terror attacks that cost 50 innocent people their lives.

While that tragic event was mourned, Harmony Day overwhelmingly reflected a positive message—that Queenslanders from all backgrounds stand together for inclusion, for decency, for embracing everyone and for love, not hate. As Queenslanders, we must continually recommit ourselves to a society built on peace and harmony, a society built on celebrating, not just tolerating diversity and inclusion; hence, the growing significance of Harmony Day when thousands of Queenslanders wear orange and spend time with colleagues, neighbours, friends and the broader community.

Hundreds of Harmony Day events were held across Queensland last week with the resounding message that everyone belongs. Queensland's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, making it a wonderful place to live, as we all know—a society where people of every background can proudly celebrate their culture and heritage and can gather together to practise their religion of choice or not practise one at all, a society where everyone is welcome and where everyone belongs. Like our brothers and sisters in New Zealand, Queenslanders of all backgrounds have united to reject hatred, to reject division, to reject racism.


The response we have seen in the face of the Christchurch tragedy has been uplifting. In Queensland people from different faiths have sat together side by side in vigils, united in their determination to rise above fear and reject bigotry and in sympathy with our Muslim brothers and sisters. Through this, the Palaszczuk government remains committed to an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland. That commitment is demonstrated by our \$3.5 million funding support for asylum seekers and temporary protection visa holders living in our community. That funding was announced in the budget last year and is being delivered through a program supported by Communitify, a great organisation that works with asylum seekers and temporary protection visa holders in our community.

I want to reiterate how important it is that we as a community stand together to celebrate harmony, to celebrate the fact that we are a united and inclusive Queensland and to celebrate the outstanding response that came as a result of the terrible terrorist action that occurred in Christchurch. It was an event that occurred too close to home and, as a consequence, struck home.

When I was at the prayer vigil hosted at the Islamic College of Brisbane last Sunday week, I was really struck by the occasion when I stood with friends—amongst them a Muslim, a Jew, a Christian and myself as a nonbeliever. We stood there together and reflected upon how places of worship have unfortunately become the targets of terror and the targets of the evils of intolerance and hate. I reflected upon that in the context of having attended the prayer vigil at the Brisbane Synagogue in October last year after we saw the terrible attack on the synagogue in Pittsburgh. Too soon we were brought together

as a community to reflect upon the attacks on the mosques in Christchurch. I know everyone in the House has come together to support that community and to support the whole of the Queensland community, particularly our Muslim brothers and sisters.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 2 April 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Question on Notice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday the member for Pumicestone asked a question on notice to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Due to an administrative error, the question on notice was incorrectly directed to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads both in the *Notice Paper* and on the questions on notice database. The Table Office has advised the relevant departmental officers and has corrected the database. Apologies for any inconvenience.

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

Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 19 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 October 2018 and 12 November 2018*.


Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 19—Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 October and 12 November 2018 [\[424\]](#).

The report examines three important pieces of subordinate legislation that will help to improve health services for people living in remote areas of Queensland: the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2018, the proclamation made under the Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017 and the Child Protection (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2018.

The clear objective of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2018 is to provide authority for Indigenous health practitioners to use medicines to fill a service delivery and workforce gap created in isolated practice areas of Queensland. The committee found no issues with these regulations. I commend our report to the House.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 14 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee titled *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019*.


Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 14, 56th Parliament, March 2019—Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019 [\[425\]](#).

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 secretariat and the Department of Education for their assistance. I commend the report to the House.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 25 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 9: 2018-19—Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits*.


Tabled paper: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 25, 56th Parliament, March 2019—Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 9: 2018-19 Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits [426].

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Auditor-General and senior officers of the Queensland Audit Office for assisting the committee in its consideration of the Auditor-General's report No. 9. I would also like to thank members of the committee for their commitment and approach to the inquiry. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Hospitals, Demand

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. Doctors are saying that Queensland Health is in crisis. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union Secretary, Beth Mohle, is saying that Queensland Health is in crisis. When will the Premier take responsibility for Queensland hospitals and admit the system is in crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. What we have seen is an emergency situation that has occurred in our hospital system across the south-east. You can call it an emergency. You can call it a crisis. I accept my responsibility and I expect the federal government to accept its responsibility because that is what good, decent governments do.

I want to thank the community for their understanding. I want to thank all of the health and hospital services for working collectively together. I want to thank the Minister for Health for the way in which he convened that meeting yesterday. I have an update for the House. I can advise the House that I have just received an urgent update from the health minister. He advises me that in relation to—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to the 10 hospitals, I can advise that the Gold Coast overnight has stood down from code yellow, Metro North has now stood down from code yellow and Metro South, based on the information provided, is expected to stand down from code yellow at 10.30 this morning. That is what happens—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Oodgeroo, you are warned under the standing orders. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I advised the media yesterday afternoon when the minister, the Chief Health Officer and I spoke at that press conference, no more than 15 elective surgeries had to be rescheduled. That is an outstanding result, once again showing that our hospitals are performing the way they should be. The best place to get the best care in Queensland is in our public hospital system. In stark contrast, under those opposite no planning was done for the expansion of our hospitals. No planning, no funds expended—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The House will come to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In fact, they closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre.

A government member: Never apologised.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They never apologised. We know the devastating consequences that happened there. I will never to this day forget the young people whom I met who are no longer with us. I will tell the House one thing we will not do: we will not sack doctors and nurses. Unlike those opposite, we will always stand by our hardworking men and women who work in the health service.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, time had not expired when you rose to your feet to seek the call. I know that you are excited about the question, but I ask you to show respect to the standing orders.

Public Hospitals, Waiting Times

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. Nambour GP and AMA Councillor Dr Wayne Herdy issued a public plea for one of his patients saying that she should be seen within 30 days, but she is on a six-month waitlist that she will not survive. Will the Premier take responsibility for Labor's health crisis, which is putting Queenslanders' lives at risk?

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, who was the member who interjected? The member for Nicklin is warned under the standing orders. I have made myself very clear about silence during questions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. It was a Labor government that planned the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and is looking at expanding Nambour. I do not have the details of that individual case. I am more than happy to have a look at that, as is the Minister for Health.

Morrison Government

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. During the recent flood emergency, the federal government was willing to show cooperation with the state government. Are there any other areas where this cooperation would assist the people of Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We know the impact that the floods and the weather system had on Townsville. I know that the member for Townsville, the member for Thuringowa and the minister are working very hard together to make sure that people get the care they need in the recovery efforts. I also want to commend retired Major General Stuart Smith, who was our recovery coordinator. I get a report from him every week. He extensively visits farmers in the north-west and speaks with them about the impact on the cattle industry. We will continue to work with them.

What we have seen from the Morrison government when it comes to the flood recovery is a concerted effort of working together with my government in the best interests of the people of this state. It is something that we do not see all that often, but in this case I want to—and I have put it on the public record before—commend the Morrison government for the way in which they have worked with us.

I am concerned in relation to the setting up of an equivalent of a reconstruction centre. I am concerned that that centre was not based in the north. I was advised that the centre was based in the ACT in Woden. We need people with expertise on the ground in the communities that are impacted so I have asked someone from the minister for agriculture's department to be based in Julia Creek, from memory, to be the single point of contact for that recovery. I do not think you can do it from Canberra.

I think we can also have cooperation in the health sphere. As I said yesterday, there are currently 250 people who have had their aged-care assessments—

Mrs Frecklington: You said more than that. Yesterday you said 600.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are 400 disability and 250 aged care, if the member was listening, and I said it several times yesterday. I have written to the Prime Minister and asked if they could provide the funding they used to provide for people who are currently in hospitals who should be in aged care. That would also give us added relief. Aged care is a federal responsibility and it is currently costing the state approximately \$500,000 a day to look after aged-care residents who are in hospitals who should be in aged-care places in the community. It is very simple: aged care is a federal responsibility. That would free up 250 beds across the south-east.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Demand

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. How many sick Queenslanders are being treated on trolleys, chairs and in corridors in Queensland hospitals under Labor's health crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the leader—sorry, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is all becoming a little too common. I think Channel 10 might know something that we do not. As we know, our emergency departments are there for emergencies. I want to commend all of our emergency services staff. When I have visited hospitals in the past—and I know the health minister was out there today—I have seen that they do an extraordinary job. As I said, the code yellow has come off the Gold Coast and Metro North, and we will hear about Metro South in around five minutes time.

In relation to elective surgeries—and it is important to put this on the public record—there were 15 rescheduled in Metro North and 390 elective surgeries performed between Monday and Wednesday. In Metro South, 322 were performed and none were rescheduled. On the Gold Coast 305 were performed.

Ms Bates: They are all on Palaszczuk's patio!

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not going to comment on that. You are so rude. You are disappointingly rude. We are talking about a serious issue—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under 118(b), relevance. The Premier was asked directly about how many patients are being treated in corridors, kitchenettes and chairs—nothing about elective surgery. The Premier has not yet answered the question.

Mr SPEAKER: I am listening to the Premier's answer. What I will say is that the question relates, I am assuming, to statistics that may not actually be kept. I would like to hear the answer to the question. Premier, under standing order 247 can I ask that you direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What I will say to those opposite is that elective surgeries are being performed and our emergency departments are performing. As I said, the code yellow has come off for the majority of our hospitals in the south-east. I know that the questions were written before question time. I know that they cannot adapt on their feet. This is a serious issue.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier. That also means Hansard is having difficulty hearing the Premier. I ask you to bring your interjections down to a level that I will be able to adjudicate on and also hear the speaker on their feet.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is why we are planning for the future and building the hospitals and the expansions that we need. Those opposite did not. I can advise that all code yellows are now off our South-East Queensland hospitals, so there we are. Our health system will continue to provide for the people across Queensland because there is nothing more important than families getting the care that they need.

Gun Control

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's actions to tackle illegal firearms and gun violence in Queensland, and are there any alternative views on firearms?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mansfield for the question because I know that she shares the same views as every person sitting on this side of the House when it comes to our strong gun laws in Australia that were brought in by John Howard and that have continued to serve Australia very well. At the time, they were introduced with bipartisan support. In light of what has happened recently in New Zealand, their Prime Minister has brought in similar reforms and I applaud her for that.

However, what is concerning and what continues to be concerning is this documentary that is being screened—and we will see another instalment later tonight—in relation to members of One Nation going over to the NRA in the US and lobbying for money to take control of the parliaments of Australia. What is also concerning is the fact that we have not heard from the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or those opposite their views on weakening gun laws in this state and in this nation.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will come to the member for Everton in a minute. We know the member for Gympie crossed the floor. What does the member for Gympie think about gun laws in this state?

A government member: He voted for One Nation.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection: he voted for One Nation. I am glad the member for Everton piped up because we know that he was interviewed about whether or not he saw any opportunity to change some of the laws. He was talking with the Shooters Union and there is a documentary on it. I urge everybody to have a look at it. What did he say? 'I am all about as less regulation as possible.' The best thing is that we have that video forever, member for Everton—

Mr Mander: Well, play it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will play it. My challenge to those opposite is: will they rule out deals with One Nation in the future? Will they put them last in the future? Will those opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, that was ill timed. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Will the state LNP put One Nation last? Will the members opposite stand up for our strong gun laws? What does the member for Gympie say? What does the member for Everton say? They are not a happy bunch. They are divided.

(Time expired)

Health System

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. More than two weeks ago, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine president, Dr Judkins, provided a dire warning that Queensland Health patients were being exposed to inhumane environments. Why did the Premier not act on Dr Judkins's dire warning over two weeks ago, before the health crisis reached breaking point?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look into the issue that the member for Mudgeeraba has raised. As I have said in this House today, and I will say it again, all of the hospitals in the south-east are now off code yellow.

Federal Budget

Ms LUI: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on some of Queensland's funding priorities ahead of the federal budget, and are there alternative policies?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Cook for her very important question. We know that the federal budget is due to be delivered next Tuesday. Queensland has put in a very strong claim for assistance and a fair go from the federal government through this federal budget. We do not have a lot to be positive about because, unfortunately, what we have seen from various LNP prime ministers—Tony Abbott, Scott Morrison and Malcolm Turnbull—is a dud deal for Queensland.

In the member for Cook's own electorate, we have seen the Commonwealth walk away from a 50-year funding tradition of funding new construction of housing in remote Indigenous communities. As I have said in this place before, you cannot hope to close the gap in life expectancy between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Queenslanders if they do not have a roof over their head.

We have talked often about a fair go for funding for our hospital system, a fair go for funding for infrastructure in our state. Today I am calling on the federal government to make sure that they commit and give us a fair go in terms of NDIS funding to give our service providers the guarantee and the certainty that they need. Unfortunately though, I fear that our calls are falling on deaf ears, because the LNP at a federal level and the LNP at a state level are mired in chaos. They are so focused on themselves and where they are getting preferences from—their grubby little preference deals—that they are unprepared to stand up to Canberra and stand up for Queenslanders.

I am completely outraged by Scott Morrison's announcement today that he will not be putting One Nation last. He will put One Nation under the Labor Party, but he has ruled out putting One Nation last. Furthermore, what else has he said? He said that the National Party preferences are up to them. In Queensland there is one LNP, and I am calling on the member for Nanango to stand up and come clean about where she thinks preferences to One Nation should go at the next federal election and soon after at the next state election.

Like all of those on this side of the House, I am absolutely horrified by the statements that have come from Pauline Hanson and other One Nation identities—weakening our gun laws, claiming that Port Arthur was a conspiracy. This is crazy speak, and those opposite need to come clean. Where are they going to put One Nation?

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Demand

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. When a person with private health insurance presents at a Queensland public hospital, they are given the option of being treated as a public or private patient within that public hospital. Can the minister tell the House how many public hospital beds are currently occupied by patients who have private health insurance and should be in private hospitals?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Moggill for his question. I was going to say that the member for Moggill would make a better shadow health minister than the member for Mudgeeraba, but after that question I do not think so. The fact of the matter is—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders for consistent interjections. I remind members for Kawana, Oodgeroo, Everton, Nicklin, Mudgeeraba and Glass House that you are on warnings. That means no interjections.

Dr MILES: Let me advise the House of a couple of things. First of all, the surge in demand for hospital services across the south-east was experienced in both the public and the private system. In answer to the member for Moggill's question, both public and private hospitals—particularly private hospitals with emergency departments—experienced that surge in demand. Members opposite do not have to take my word for it—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is currently being responsive to the question being asked. I urge you to cease your interjections to hear the answer.

Dr MILES: The chief executive of Greenslopes hospital attended my press conference yesterday to confirm that very fact. One of the problems facing our health system is that not as many people are renewing their private health insurance. Why is that? Because premiums have skyrocketed. Another reason is that private hospitals are pulling out of all different parts of Queensland.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, you are warned under the standing orders. The minister is being responsive to the question asked.

Dr MILES: There is not a private hospital in Queensland west of Toowoomba. There is not one north of Cairns. There is one about to close in Gladstone. There are many, many Queenslanders who, if they cannot use their private health insurance at the hospital in their town, will—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is under standing order 118, in terms of relevance. The question was quite clear. It asked about the number of private patients currently in the public system taking up public beds. If the minister would like to answer the question rather than moving to other areas it would help the House in determining the root of the problem.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my right. Thank you for your point of order, member for Mermaid Beach. I am listening to the response and I believe the minister is being responsive. He has dealt with elements of that question absolutely and he still has one minute on the clock to round out his answer.

Dr MILES: If Queenslanders live in towns that do not have a private hospital, their only choice is to use their insurance in a public one. If they were unable to do so, they would leave their private health insurance, resulting in us seeing a further decline in the number of Queenslanders who are privately insured. If Queenslanders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Dr MILES: I can confirm for the House that if what appears to be the member for Moggill's policy was in place, that private patients could not access their insurance in public hospitals, the result would be a \$400 million—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. If members wish to rise to a point of order, they can do so, otherwise cease interjections regarding matters of relevance.

Dr MILES: Private patients in public hospitals deliver \$400 million to the public hospital budget. If the LNP's policy is that they should not be able to do so, that would be a \$400 million cut to our hospitals—more cuts, more cuts, more cuts.

(Time expired)

Health Services, Funding

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's record funding for health services in Queensland?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. There is one nurse in this House who knows their stuff—who knows the health system, who knows that it is this side of the House that builds hospitals, it is this side of the House that employs nurses, it is this side of the House that employs doctors, it is those opposite who sacked nurses, it is those opposite who do not listen to doctors and it is those opposite who closed health facilities when they were in government. Since 2015 we have reversed their cuts. We have rebuilt front-line health services. We have delivered record Health budgets every single year, including more than \$18 billion this financial year. That means more doctors and nurses in every single HHS. Those opposite have stood by while their bosses in Canberra, whether that is Abbott or Turnbull or Morrison—whoever it is now—have cut funds to Queensland Health.

We are spending more than half a billion dollars—\$546 million—to deliver more than 500 new hospital beds in the south-east alone. The first of those will be delivered next year—184 in Herston—and we are delivering 192 additional beds in Logan at a cost of more than \$280 million. That is on top of the additional maternity beds already underway. There are 130 more beds to be delivered at Caboolture.

Yesterday those opposite stood up and said we should have done it sooner; we should have done it quicker. This is after three years in government when they did not build or plan for a single thing, the 2015 election when they went to the election not promising to build or expand a single hospital, the last election when not only did they not promise a single extra hospital bed but the member for Surfers Paradise on their behalf opposed our expansions to Logan and Caboolture—the very expansions they said yesterday we should have sped up. If they had won the election, if the member for Clayfield were Premier now, those expansions would not be happening. They are being delivered by Labor now; the first new beds are being delivered next year. It would not have happened if those opposite had had their way.

Hospitals, Demand

Dr ROBINSON: My question without notice is to the Premier. The summer flu surge was publicly reported in January and the heatwave we have been experiencing had been forecast for months. Why did the Palaszczuk government fail to plan ahead and waited until Queensland hospitals were in crisis, putting lives at risk?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I said yesterday—and I am happy to say it again—the number of flu cases presenting at this time of year is unprecedented.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, it is a fact. I had a look at the data going back five years—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Cooper.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do honourable members know—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I ask you to listen to the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The numbers of people who are presenting at the moment and who have been presenting in January, February and March are the sorts of numbers we would see in the lead-up to the winter months. That is why the health minister has brought forward the Winter Beds Strategy to now.

Opposition members: Ha, ha!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Members opposite can laugh about it, but the statistics do not lie. The statistics tell the story.

Ms Trad: What planning did you put into the Barrett centre? Exactly.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. There was no planning from those opposite when they were in government. There was only the sacking of nurses, the sacking of doctors and no planning for the future. In fact, from memory, the member for Moggill was sacked as president of the AMA because of the way in which he defended the LNP government's doctor contracts, which then saw assistant minister Chris Davis leave. Do members opposite remember him? He was a doctor in their party who they then discriminated against, which cost \$1 million.

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: They got rid of a doctor in their own government because he backed the doctors.

Ms Trad: Then they discriminated against his employment.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They did not want him back practising as a doctor or a specialist. That is the record of the LNP. That is how they treated one of their own: they pushed him aside. Did the member who asked the question have dinner or something with the One Nation leader? Weren't you courting One Nation—

Ms Trad: Steve Dickson.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and Steve Dickson? I think you were courting One Nation at one stage.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Soon we might hear from One Nation about their gun laws and we might hear from those opposite about what they think, because we know that the Nationals and the Liberals are completely disunited.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are a lot of interjections on gun laws. The best thing the LNP could do—

(Time expired)

Planning Industry, Women

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on how the progress of women is being encouraged in the planning industry and is he aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. I had the pleasure of recently attending a Women in Planning Breakfast, which was hosted by the Planning Institute of Australia and sponsored by my department. I had the pleasure of announcing the winner of the Planning Institute of Australia's inaugural Queensland Outstanding Women in Planning Award, which went to Nikki Huddy from Planz Town Planning in Cairns in recognition of her work assisting Indigenous councils with their statutory planning. I know that the member for Keppel, who is a planner herself, would recognise the great work that female planners like Nikki and others do around the state. I want to again pass on my congratulations to her.

Planners are social architects. The work they do impacts how we work, how we spend our leisure time, how we move around and how we live our lives. Planners build communities. Unfortunately, there are some in public life who are not interested in building cohesive, united communities. Everyone in this House recognises that politics is an adversarial business, but despite the contest of ideas and the things we believe in we are almost always united around our values as Australians, Queenslanders and

citizens. Again we saw last week that Fraser Anning is an exception, and again we have seen this week that the party which spawned him, One Nation, is also an exception. One Nation is led in this state by a former LNP state minister, Steve Dickson.

When a party distributes its preferences it makes a declaration about its values, what it believes in and who it aligns with. It says, 'These are the people who are close to us,' which is perhaps why One Nation received LNP preferences in 50 of the 59 seats in which they ran. The reason that One Nation has a foothold in this parliament is the LNP. We know they are gun lovers. We know that the member for Gympie is a gun lover, which is why he crossed the floor. We know that the member for Everton is a gun lover. He pandered to the Shooters Union before the last election, cravenly promising to change gun laws in this state. He said he was an open canvas, and who holds the brush? Pauline Hanson! The Prime Minister says that the Liberal Party will go above One Nation but not the LNP in Queensland. Today is the day for the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy leader to say they will put One Nation last and that they will put Labor above One Nation to show—

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Demand

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Premier. Premier, a young mum from Biddaddaba near Beaudesert who suffers from endometriosis is a victim of Labor's health crisis. She said, 'I was kicked out of my bed and discharged, still in excruciating pain.' Premier, how many other sick Queenslanders have been turfed out of Queensland's hospitals because of Labor's health crisis?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: I rule that question out of order. It was asked directly at the Premier, not of the Premier through the chair.

North Queensland, Ecotourism

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's commitment to create new ecotourism opportunities in Tropical North Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I had the great privilege of being in Tropical North Queensland last week and meeting with many of the tourism operators up there. They are also very pleased to hear that the state government is putting its money where its mouth is when it comes to tourism.

I can advise the House today that we have committed more than \$5 million to complete the first phase of the Wangetti Trail. This is going to be an absolute game-changer for ecotourism in Tropical North Queensland. This project is tipped to create 150 jobs and pump up to \$300 million into the local economy. I can also confirm for the House and the honourable member that surveying and geotechnical testing is now underway as part of the first phase of work on the Wangetti Trail. We have seen federal Labor match this commitment with \$5 million. When I was up there I had the privilege of meeting with the Labor candidate for Leichhardt, Elida Faith. Unfortunately, we have seen no such commitment from the Morrison government.

We know that when the Prime Minister of this country makes announcements you have to check the fine print, because today he said, 'We are going to put One Nation below Labor, but not last. We are not going to put them last.' Worse still, as has been reported today the Queensland Nationals will still be able to preference Pauline Hanson's candidates above Labor. This is a special deal for Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition, and her mates in Queensland. The LNP in Queensland, you all put your heads down—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, under standing order 247 you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms JONES: I will note, though, that we have seen a lot—

Mrs Frecklington: You are being a bit nasty today.

Ms JONES: Yes, because it matters. It matters that the Leader of the Opposition in Queensland is willing to preference a person like Pauline Hanson, who believes that the Port Arthur massacre was a conspiracy. Is that whom the Leader of the Opposition wants to preference? Today we call the Leader of the Opposition out for her failure to lead. She has failed to articulate her position when it comes to preferencing Port Arthur massacre conspiracy theorists.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: You betcha it's personal. It is personal—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Minister for State Development, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders; however, your interjections related to the subject of the question. I would ask the minister to ensure she comes back to the core of the question.

Ms JONES: We know that nothing scares tourists away more than extreme views, so I call on the Leader of the Opposition to stand up and say that she will put One Nation last. I know that the honourable Speaker is well aware of what happened to tourism numbers when Pauline Hanson first came on the scene. It is still a live memory for many operators in the tourism industry. Today I again call on the Leader of the Opposition, who likes to have an opinion on everything, but nothing when it matters. Today it matters. She needs to call out—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Ms JONES: You need to stand up.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are warned under the standing orders. Your time had expired and then you decided to personally attack another member.

Deebing Creek

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. At Deebing Creek near Ipswich the Yuggera Ugarapul people are leading a group of locals and allies to save the site from development. Will the government support the traditional owners and 7,000 people who have signed a parliamentary petition by acquiring and properly protecting Deebing Creek?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Maiwar for the question. I think it is important that a number of facts be presented to the House for its consideration. This site had been privately owned and it was privately purchased by a developer. The transaction in question was a private transaction. I do absolutely acknowledge that this was the site of a former mission. As such, one could say that a number of human rights abuses occurred at that site. There is a cemetery there which is very important to the local first nation community at Deebing Creek near Ipswich.

I want to acknowledge very clearly that we are incredibly conscious of the history of this site. That is why my agency, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, has responsibility in terms of working with the traditional owners and local Indigenous representatives who are party to the cultural heritage management plan. We will work with them to ensure that the places of significance under question—the site of the mission, the cemetery itself—are protected from any disturbance and any development. That is a very important commitment and that has been made very clear. That is my understanding. If that is not the case, I am happy to underscore that and repeat it for those in the local community who would like further information.

My agency has a very clear responsibility when it comes to preserving cultural heritage. I take that very seriously on behalf of Torres Strait Islander peoples and Aboriginal peoples in Queensland. It is something I am absolutely committed to. What I will not do is participate in a grandstanding campaign by the Greens political party on this issue. Let me be clear: there are a number of incredibly senior elders who are part of this community who are trying to seek a resolution. We have seen members from the Greens political party using their situation as an opportunity to grandstand. I think that is absolutely outrageous.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the member for Algeester, the first elected Aboriginal woman in this chamber. To profit from and grandstand on the misery of people is absolutely despicable. I think the Greens political party should hang their heads in shame.

Gas Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on Queensland's efforts to increase domestic gas supply and whether there has been any support from the Commonwealth?

Dr LYNHAM: We all know that it is the Palaszczuk government that is doing the heavy lifting on energy and gas for this nation. We have released almost 25,000 square kilometres for gas exploration since 2017—almost one-third of it for domestic use only. Just last week Senex started work at its Project Atlas. All of that gas is for the domestic market only.

Our aim is to get more gas into the market. Only additional gas can address shortages of supply and high prices. The only group of people that does not get this simple proposition is the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government. They are just like One Nation: they spend all their time dealing with internal strife, whether it is Fraser Anning or Barnaby Joyce running off reservation or a swag of women walking out of their cabinet. That is all they are preoccupied with. The other thing they have in common is their preference deals. The Leader of the Opposition in this House has been given every opportunity to stand up and say where she sits with One Nation in regard to preferences. This morning we saw Scott Morrison stand up and say that he will put Labor above One Nation. We have also heard McCormack say that he is not supporting it. Where does the Leader of the Opposition stand? The Nationals are at one end and the Liberals are at the other. Where does she stand? She stands purely with One Nation.

All we have had from the Leader of the Opposition is stony silence on this very important issue affecting all of Queensland. We have had stony silence on economic development opportunities and on infrastructure from the federal government. I have written to Canberra many times asking for infrastructure in relation to my portfolio. I have heard nothing. On the other hand, the Palaszczuk Labor government is getting jobs for this state, more land for gas exploration and development, more gas for manufacturers, reliable electricity supply, lower energy prices and a 50 per cent renewable energy target. The Morrison government does nothing for Queensland. It is a government that will lose Queensland because it is in lock step with One Nation on policy, politics and preferences.

Theodore, Maternity Services

Mr BOYCE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I table a letter from the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 7 March 2019, from the Executive Director, Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Ms Sandy Munro, regarding maternity services [\[431\]](#).

The letter states—

Could I please request you to establish and implement the imminent birthing protocols, together with relevant equipment and/or packs for Theodore?

Can the minister confirm whether do-it-yourself birthing kits will be issued to expectant mothers at Theodore?

Dr MILES: I have to feel a bit sorry for the member for Callide for doubling down on this one, but let's get into it. He has his letter, two days later, but he is still confused. The letter he quotes does not refer to the kind of kits the member for Callide refers to. I am happy to table for the benefit of the House an explanation from the chief executive of the Central Queensland health service that at all level 1 birthing services in the CQHHS—that includes Theodore, Moura, Blackwater, Springsure, Woorabinda, Capricorn Coast and Mount Morgan—birthing kits to be used by nurses in the hospital are to be stocked. These birthing kits are so that the nurses have available to them anything they need in the case of an imminent birth. They have three clamps, scissors, swabs and a kidney dish. These packs—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. The minister is being responsive to the question.

Dr MILES: I take that interjection. The member for Callide accused us of issuing DIY birthing kits to mothers. These are do-it-by-nurse birthing packs for use in hospitals.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, I will not tolerate the waving around of documents, either by the member on their feet or by another member. You are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: The birthing packs are essential at all facilities, regardless of service capability. The packs save time in the case of imminent births and are designed to be used by trained and qualified medical and nursing staff. They are not designed to be given to women.

The clear facts are contrary to the claims made by the members for Callide, Mudgeeraba, Nanango and Gregory. This is about ensuring that those services have the tools they need in the case of an imminent birth. They are nothing more than that. I am also advised that a plastic cord clamp is provided separately but is not a standard inclusion in the CQ pack, although other HHSs may include them. The plastic clamp is not considered a vital time-saving piece of equipment, as the other pieces are. I am very pleased to be able to table that correspondence and to clarify the ridiculous claims being made by the member for Callide.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 March 2019, from the Health Service Chief Executive, Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Mr Steve Williamson, to the Director-General, Queensland Health, Mr Michael Walsh, regarding birthing kits [\[432\]](#).

Kindergarten Programs, Federal Funding

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industrial Relations. In the lead-up to the federal budget next week, will the minister update the House on the importance of universal access to high-quality kindergarten programs and how the federal government could provide funding certainty for this sector?

Ms GRACE: I thank the honourable member for the question. We have many conversations around early childhood education because we want to give every kid a great start in this state, so I thank him for the question. It is about time that the federal government makes up its mind where it stands on this. It is its last chance coming up to the budget next week to make a declaration about long-term funding for kindergarten programs in this state. Already we have heard that Labor—it has been very loud—is committing \$1.75 billion to fund this very important area. We welcome that and we hope that that commitment comes to fruition. The government still has not made up its mind. Funding runs out in 2019 and since 2013, when those opposite were in government, we have had five short-term extensions for funding in kindergarten programs in this state and the industry is screaming out for certainty in this area. It is a disgrace that the Morrison-Turnbull-Abbott government cannot make up its mind in relation to what it wants to do in this sector and we are still waiting.

Those opposite cannot make up their minds about anything in this state. Now we have heard the Nationals say that it is not going to agree with Morrison and put Labor above One Nation. Those opposite cannot make up their minds. When it comes to supporting this program, this is the question for the Leader of the Opposition: is she a Liberal or a National? Which one is she going to follow—Morrison or McCormack? When it comes to the question for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, is he a Liberal or a National? Which one is he going to follow—Morrison or McCormack? Divided they stand and divided they will fall. After all we have seen with One Nation over the past few days—

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Ms GRACE:—what will it take for the LNP to put One Nation last? What is it going to take? It cannot make up its mind about kindergarten funding. It cannot commit money that kids need in this state for a great education. It cannot decide which one it is going to follow. Which one is it—McCormack or Morrison? It is all over the place! Where does it stand on this issue, and it is important?

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Those opposite laugh and smirk and look at us as if to say, 'You guys are crazy asking this question.'

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Ms GRACE: Let me tell you: the funding of kindergarten programs in this state is very important, member for Pumicestone. I take your interjections. If you want kindergartens funded in your area, decide where you stand—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, your comments will come through the chair.

Ms GRACE: It is through the chair, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: The member for Pumicestone—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, it is not through the chair. You are directing your comments directly to the member for Pumicestone.

Ms GRACE: I apologise, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms GRACE: I thought that I was directing them through the chair. I will now direct them squarely through the chair. If the member for Pumicestone wants funding for kindergartens, those opposite better decide where they stand. We want one thing: put kids first and put One Nation last.

(Time expired)

Local Government, Voting

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Minister for Local Government. I refer to the survey undertaken by the LGAQ that found that seven in 10 Queenslanders are happy with the current local government voting system. Will the minister suspend any changes beyond the recommendations of Belcarra such as compulsory preferential voting and proportional representation until a plebiscite is conducted, or is Labor intent on taking 'local' out of 'local government'?

Mr SPEAKER: Before answering the question, Minister, there was too much general conversation while that question was being asked. No one member was the culprit, but I ask that questions be heard in silence.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Warrego for her question. As we know, local government delivers very important services right across our state and the vast majority of local government officials do so with the utmost integrity. As the House and the member would be clearly aware, the Palaszczuk government is continuing its local government rolling reform agenda, implementing extensive reforms to bring greater transparency, integrity and accountability to our councils as required and set out by the Belcarra recommendations from the CCC. The proposed stage 2 reforms that we are consulting on—and I highlight those words, 'consulting on'; not campaigning on, consulting on—include voting systems consistent with other levels of government, compulsory candidate training, tighter regulations of discretionary funds, campaign spending caps and public funding for elections, and clarification of conflict of interest and material personal interest provisions.

I can assure the House and can assure local government officials—the mayors and councillors and administrators that I have been talking to over the past more than 12 months and in more recent times—that that consultation will continue and it is genuine. However, we need to understand that there is one group of people who have not been particularly genuine in this process, and that is the LNP and the LNP councillors in the Brisbane City Council who have been the main motivators of a campaign against compulsory preferential voting for single councillor positions. It has been extraordinary that they are running this campaign and it has been extraordinary that we have seen the LNP on the other side in this chamber run that campaign as well. I particularly noted when the member for Burnett spoke—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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


Mr HINCHLIFFE: It was particularly interesting when the member for Burnett made comments around being against compulsory preferential voting for local government levels when he was one of the main beneficiaries of compulsory preferential voting being implemented at the state level. After we saw a collapse in the LNP vote of 4.1 per cent at the last election, we saw him retain the seat with a 4.1 per cent swing to the party thanks to that support from One Nation. The fact is that compulsory preferential voting puts the power into the hands of voters, so we appreciate that and we respect that. However, it is important for parties to have principles and have a stand. As we saw at the last election, One Nation was last on Labor how-to-vote cards. We want to see that at the federal election coming up and all future elections.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.16 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coroners Act 2003, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Public Guardian Act

2014 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019 [\[427\]](#).

Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes [\[428\]](#).

As the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors I have great pleasure and privilege in introducing a bill to support Queensland's next step in transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Since 2016 Queensland has been a host jurisdiction under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013, which supports the gradual transition of Queenslanders into the NDIS. On 26 March 2019 I provided Queensland's formal agreement to become a participating jurisdiction under the Commonwealth National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013. This means that from 1 July the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will commence operation in Queensland.

To give effect to Queensland becoming a participating jurisdiction from 1 July 2019, it is important to ensure that Queensland has the necessary legislative framework in place to support the operation of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. My department has been progressing a whole-of-government review of Queensland's legislation. This bill progresses urgent and critical amendments to reflect the new roles and responsibilities under the NDIS quality and safeguarding framework from 1 July 2019. I am proud to say that Queensland has one of the strongest quality and safeguard systems for people with disability in Australia. This includes a rigorous framework for the use of restrictive practices as well as a robust worker screening system for people working or volunteering with people with disability.

During transition, Queensland's quality and safeguards continue to apply to NDIS registered providers. From 1 July 2019, the jurisdiction of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will commence. This means that the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will have responsibility for the oversight of registered NDIS providers. The NDIS commission will register providers in Queensland and apply its monitoring, enforcement and complaints powers to those providers. Queensland will remain responsible for implementing some components of the NDIS quality and safeguards framework, including administering a worker screening system, authorising the use of restrictive practices and operating a community visitor function.

The bill amends the Disability Services Act 2006 to reflect the Queensland government's reduced role in the funding of disability services in light of the rollout of the NDIS in Queensland and removes the current arrangements that extend the application of Queensland's quality and safeguards to NDIS registered providers during transition to ensure there is no duplication of the functions of the NDIS commission. The bill also amends the Disability Services Act 2006 to maintain Queensland's quality and safeguards framework for disability services which continue to be funded or provided by Queensland at full scheme and fall outside the remit of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

One of the core functions to be maintained by Queensland from 1 July is the authorisation of restrictive practices. In Queensland, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and the Public Guardian Act 2014 all regulate the authorisation and use of restrictive practices by disability service providers in Queensland with a focus on reducing and eliminating their use. These safeguards were introduced following the 2006 inquiry by the Hon. WJ Carter QC, who was appointed to investigate options for a legislative and service response to adults with an intellectual or cognitive disability who present with challenging behaviour. Justice Carter's report recommended a legislative framework to ensure that the use of any restrictive practice in the case of a person with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour is independently approved and properly regulated and which will provide adequate legislative support as required.

As noted in the explanatory notes to the Disability Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008, the legislative scheme was designed to safeguard the rights of adults with an intellectual or cognitive disability who have challenging behaviour and where restrictive practices may be required to protect the adult or others from harm. The Disability Services Act 2006 sets out a number of requirements that relevant disability service providers must follow to legally use a restrictive practice. This includes that the use of the restrictive practice complies with the approval or consent of the relevant decision-maker and a positive behaviour support plan is developed for the adult. Who can authorise a restrictive practice depends on the type of restrictive practice and the type of disability service the adult is receiving.

The Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 outlines the circumstances in which a guardian for a restrictive practice matter can authorise the use of a restrictive practice. Similarly, the Public Guardian Act 2014 outlines when the Public Guardian can authorise the use of a restrictive practice. At

full scheme, NDIS Queensland will retain legislative responsibility for authorising the use of restrictive practices. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will be responsible for other functions, including hosting Commonwealth rules, which will outline requirements for the assessment of adults and the development of behaviour support plans. The bill amends the Disability Services Act 2006 to reflect these new roles and responsibilities while also ensuring that existing safeguards under the Disability Services Act remain in place. This approach means that Queensland will retain its robust and comprehensive framework in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices in Queensland.

It is a current legislative requirement that, in order for use of the containment and seclusion to be authorised, the chief executive of my department must prepare a positive behaviour support plan. This is a service that will be provided by non-government organisations under the NDIS. To reflect the important safeguard that this legislative provision provides, the bill retains the current legislative requirement but acknowledges that a review of these provisions will be required within 12 months from commencement to ensure that Queensland is able to effectively transition this service to a capable market based response consistent with the principles of choice and control under the NDIS. This approach will enable my department to work closely with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to ensure the market's readiness and capacity to provide this service before changes are made to the role of the chief executive.

Another key function that will continue to be undertaken by the Queensland government is the operation of a worker screening system. For the first time under the NDIS there will be a nationally consistent approach to worker screening. Queensland has already, along with the majority of other jurisdictions, agreed to implement the intergovernmental agreement for nationally consistent worker screening for the NDIS. While Queensland will remain responsible for operating a worker screening unit under state based legislation, it will need to align with the new nationally consistent approach under the IGA.

Queensland will commence operation of the NDIS worker screening check following the finalisation of national negotiations of detailed policy documents referred to under the IGA and the passage of legislative amendments to support the implementation of the IGA. In the meantime, Queensland will retain its robust screening process under the yellow card system as prescribed by the Disability Services Act 2006. The bill progresses changes to expand the range of offences that will automatically disqualify a person from being able to hold a yellow card.

Consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the bill includes the offences of bestiality, kidnapping of a child, kidnapping for ransom of a child, child stealing and abduction of a child under 16. The offences of abduction, child stealing and kidnapping will only be treated as disqualifying if the context in which the offence was committed was not familial. In addition, the bill further expands the disqualifying offences to include the murder and rape of an adult.

Like worker screening and authorising the use of restrictive practices, Queensland will remain responsible for the operation of a community visitor scheme. The community visitor scheme is a critical component of the quality and safeguards framework in Queensland. Community visitors protect the rights and interests of vulnerable adults and children at visitable sites by making inquiries and lodging complaints for or on behalf of the residents of these visitable sites. Similarly, the Coroners Act 2003 provides a framework for reporting and investigating particular deaths of vulnerable people, including people with disability. An inquest must be held when the death is reported and circumstances of the death raise issues about the deceased person's care.

For transition, the Disability Services and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 expanded the definitions of both 'visitable site' under the Public Guardian Act 2014 and 'deaths in care' under the Coroners Act 2003 to include all NDIS participants. It is a requirement under the Disability Services Act that we review the effectiveness of the operations of the changes made in 2016. The changes made in 2016 have been considered in consultation with the Public Guardian and the Queensland State Coroner. The bill amends the term 'visitable site' in the Public Guardian Act 2014 and 'deaths in care' in the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that both the community visitor program and coronial inquests of deaths in care target the most vulnerable NDIS participants in receipt of supports and services from registered NDIS providers providing specified categories of high-intensity supports.

The bill also amends the Disability Services Act 2016, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that information, including confidential information, may be shared with or requested from the NDIA, or the NDIS commissioner. This will enable the commissioner, the Public Guardian and the State Coroner to perform their relevant functions.

The Queensland government is committed to ensuring a smooth transition to full scheme operation of the NDIS. We are also committed to ensuring that Queenslanders with disability continue to receive disability services that are subject to a robust quality and safeguards framework. This bill is the next stage of reform to support Queensland's full scheme implementation of the NDIS in Queensland.

A second stage of legislative changes will progress further amendments to support full scheme operation of the NDIS in Queensland, including legislative changes to ensure that the Queensland government continues to champion access and inclusion for people with disability and support the implementation of nationally consistent NDIS worker screening in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.30 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

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

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Photographer in Chamber

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Honourable members, as has been communicated via email by the Speaker to all members, Dr Julie Fragar is currently visiting the precinct to observe proceedings and parliamentary life as part of a project to produce an exhibition of paintings about the Queensland parliament. I bring to the attention of members that, as a part of this project, Dr Fragar has a photographer just outside the chamber to take photographs of proceedings from now until lunchtime.

JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 27 March (see p. 804), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.


 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.30 am), continuing: I rise to conclude my contribution to the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. In my concluding remarks in relation to this bill I want to comment on the concerns of the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland in relation to the appropriate balance of these laws between the civil liberties of the individual and the collective right to community security.

I was recalling my experience in London in 2005 living through the terrorist attacks that occurred. Legislative change arose from those terrorist attacks. Amendments were enacted abroad and across Australia, such as warrantless searches and preventative detention. Rights that had built up over the centuries were taken away in some respects from individuals simply because it was necessary to protect the community at large. I take extremely seriously the right to privacy, freedom from arbitrary detention and freedom of speech. These are important rights and must be balanced appropriately. There is no doubt that the London terrorist attacks, which resulted in the deaths of 352 people and injuries to 700 people, had to be addressed. Lives needed to be protected. Anything that the legislature could do there or at home in Australia to address those attacks needed to be done.

Terrorists set out to create terror, and that is exactly what was achieved in London on that morning. Innocent Londoners, up to 400,000 who commute into and out of London, going about their day were attacked in a callous and indiscriminate way. There was terror on the streets that day. Phones

were jammed. That evening, with the tube lines and buses down, hundreds of thousands of people walked home. I walked 2½ miles home from Fleet Street back to Notting Hill Gate where we lived. There was the sound of sirens echoing through the city streets amid the silence as hundreds of thousands of people walked home. Terrorists set out to bring terror to that city and that is exactly what was achieved. Two weeks ago in Christchurch, with that indiscriminate shooting, that most violent and vile offender sought to create terror and division. These are the attacks that the legislature has to address. While there must always be a balance between the two competing civil liberties, whether it be right to privacy, freedom from arbitrary detention or right to free speech, it must always be balanced against the community safety aspects.

In concluding, any changes to the law of this nature, and they are serious changes, which the Attorney-General has already spoken about, must be necessary and must be proportional. In my opinion, from my experience living through a terrorist attack, laws of this nature are necessary. In my opinion, the proposals contained in this bill are proportional to the risk. Reversing the onus of proof and presumptions are serious matters but they are proportional. They line Queensland up with other jurisdictions and ensure that Queensland has some of the toughest anti-terrorism laws in the world. That is why the opposition will be supporting them.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (11.35 am): The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee reported to the House on 7 March 2019 on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill. In my contribution to the debate on the bill I will initially set out the objectives of the bill which are as follows: this piece of legislation arises out of the Council of Australian Government's agreement made on 9 June 2017 that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for or have links to terrorist activity. I will refer to this as the COAG commitment.

Investigative agencies at both state and Commonwealth levels advise us that the terrorist level remains elevated. The cross-border nature of the threat of terrorism requires a national response to keep all Australians safe. The bill is about having national consistency to support the interoperability and cooperation in national efforts to prevent terrorist attacks. As set out in the report on 15 October 2017, COAG further agreed that the implementation of the COAG commitment will be underpinned by agreed principles recognising the ongoing importance of national consistency in counterterrorism legislation and responses more broadly. The COAG commitment recognises the unique risks posed by a person with demonstrated links to terrorism. The amendments in the bill are significant departures from existing provisions and must be viewed as extraordinary measures to combat this unique risk to the community.

I take this opportunity before going any further in the debate on this bill to advise that the bulk of the information I am putting before the House comes from report No. 30 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of the 56th Parliament and, in turn, is derived from the explanatory notes to the bill, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General briefing paper and submissions made by the numerous stakeholders.

I will now deal briefly with how we arrived at this position. The Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee subsequently developed the abovementioned nationally consistent principles in consultation with each Australian jurisdiction. These principles are that the presumption against bail and parole should apply to categories of persons who have demonstrated support for, or links to, terrorist activity; high-level thresholds should be required to overcome the presumption against bail and parole; the implementation of the presumption against bail and parole should draw on and support the effectiveness of the joint counterterrorism team model; and, lastly, implementing the presumption against bail and parole should appropriately protect sensitive information.

Under the first principle there was an agreement that, at a minimum, the presumption against bail and parole should apply to those people who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are subject of a control order. In addition, it was agreed that a further minimum standard should apply to those seeking parole with the presumption against parole applying to people who had made statements or carried out activities supporting or advocating support for terrorist acts.

I will now deal briefly with the government's consultation on the bill. The explanatory notes canvassed that consultation had been undertaken. A letter broadly outlining the proposed contents of the bill and inviting comment was provided to the key stakeholders including heads of jurisdiction, the Parole Board Queensland, the Bar Association of Queensland, Queensland Law Society, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, Legal Aid Queensland,

the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Children's Court Committee, including judicial officers and government agencies as well as non-government agencies, the Youth Advocacy Centre, community legal centres and Sisters Inside.

Stakeholders were invited to comment on the contents of the bill, and the feedback advised from the department was that the stakeholders responded generally, recognising the responsibility of government to minimise the risk to the community posed by terrorism but considered such laws must be balanced against the preservation of fundamental principles of law and infringe on the rights and liberties only to the extent that is necessary. It was also noted that stakeholders considered the bill's significant departure from legal principles and infringement on individual rights and liberties unjustified. The department further provided responses to the consultation largely focused on matters of policy; however, the bill takes account of specific feedback provided that is consistent with this policy.

I will now briefly speak on the background to the bill. Counterterrorism is a national issue and is governed by a combination of Commonwealth, state and territory laws and two intergovernmental agreements. All states have referred the power to make laws relating to terrorism acts to the Commonwealth. These laws are contained in part 5.3 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code and include terrorism offences, largely focused on preparatory action consistent with the priority of protecting public safety by disrupting terrorist activities before a terrorist act can occur; preventative detention orders allowing detention without charge for up to 48 hours to prevent an imminent terrorist act or to preserve evidence; continuing detention orders allowing post-sentence detention for high-risk terrorist offenders; and control orders, civil court orders imposing obligations or restrictions on a person in certain circumstances that are necessary to protect the public from a terrorist act or to prevent support or facilitation of a terrorist act or hostile activity in a foreign country.


Amendments to the Youth Justice Act require conditions to be imposed on supervised release of a child who has been found guilty of a terrorism offence, or who is the subject of a control order, or who has promoted terrorism. The conditions must be reasonably necessary to reduce the risks of the child carrying out a terrorist act or promoting terrorism. The Bar Association of Queensland expressed a concern about the effective erosion of the presumption of innocence, commenting—

A grant of bail is a component of a civilised society's criminal justice system which arises out of an understanding of the importance of presumption of innocence and common law principles governing personal liberty. The Association is concerned that the proposed amendments do not strike the appropriate balance between protecting victims and upholding the presumption of innocence for individuals who have previously been charged with potentially unrelated prior offences. The presumption that bail will be granted in the absence of an unacceptable risk is based upon an understanding of the importance of the presumption of innocence, its denial represents a fundamental undermining of that presumption.

In response to these concerns, the department advised—

The concerns raised are noted. The amendments are considered justified to ensure the safety of Queensland's community and address the risks recognised by First Ministers at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The provisions are only justified in these extraordinary circumstances and are not intended to create a new norm.

There is also a concern expressed about the presumption against bail. In response to that, the department again indicated that the amendments are underpinned by agreed nationally consistent principles for the implementation of the COAG agreement. In closing, I wish to thank the secretariat, the other members of my committee and all submitters who attended the hearing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.46 am): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. As we heard, the main objective of this bill is to support the national framework to ensure that there is a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist threats. I think it is really important that we in this place note that it is a consistent national approach. A terrorist threat is an attack on all of our civil liberties. It is an attack on everything that we stand for in a place such as this and in other parliaments around Australia. It is an attack on our way of life, our customs and our beliefs. It is designed to bring fear and intimidation to our populace, whom we are supposed to defend and protect. We are supposed to make sure we have legislation so that the various arms of government have that capacity. I think it is very important that we recognise that. It will implement the Council of Australian Governments agreement that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity. Again, these are some of our most fundamental freedoms.

We have heard that there are stakeholders who are concerned about any reduction in those freedoms for us here in the nation, particularly today for us here in Queensland. I agree with those concerns. These are fundamental cornerstones that make our democracy and our society function. These are things that have been built up over centuries and generations to ensure that we are a free

society, to ensure that we have a right to privacy, to ensure that we have free speech, to ensure that we cannot be arbitrarily detained. There are many places in the world where governments will wield that power for their own ends. It is very serious when we come into this place and discuss legislation that will increase the government's ability to interfere with someone's civil liberties and personal freedoms, but make no mistake: a terrorist's intention is to take those freedoms from us, to have us cower in fear and be afraid to live the lives that all Australians and all Queenslanders should be able to lead.

Whilst I recognise that we are looking at those fundamental freedoms, I think the only way we can counterbalance the threat of terrorism in this nation is to, under strict guidelines and with the democratic parliament and its arms of government such as the police, the Federal Police and other elements, create a legislative framework that is robust and can be used to prevent that attack on our freedoms, because that is what terrorists are doing when they act: attacking our way of life.

Unfortunately, we have seen around the world at different times that when people use terror, free nations have to respond. As many people would be aware, I grew up in the UK. I saw changes to their way of life. I saw the influence on the culture of the UK when the IRA created terror. I was a young lad working in London. Quite often the public transport node we needed to travel through was shut down because of a terrorist act. The British parliament had to change legislation so that it could protect people's freedoms against those terrorists act.

There is a perpetual balance between our civil liberties and our community's safety. It should weigh heavy on everybody in this place when we reduce a civil liberty. I will say it again: it should weigh heavy on everybody when we reduce a civil liberty in our state. It should also weigh heavy on people to ensure we have community safety legislation at the forefront of our minds and to ensure that, in our case, the police and anti-terrorism organisations can act to protect us so that the majority of the citizens of Queensland can go about their normal way of life almost oblivious that this threat exists. If I had my way, people would be completely oblivious to this.

As we walk down the Queen Street Mall we see concrete bollards to stop trucks driving down the mall. They were not there in 1988 when I first came to Queensland. Maybe I was young, but when I went to Expo I did not see any of the restrictive barriers or protections that we now see as commonplace in our society to protect us against a terrorist threat.

In the same way that we have to have those physical barriers, we have to have people trained and we have to have people with more sophisticated weaponry. We have to also make sure we have a legislative framework that allows the government to be pre-emptive and protect our civil liberties by reducing everybody's civil liberties just a fraction to address the serious threat of terrorism in our society. I do not want to see Queensland arrive at the place I saw in the UK when I was younger, whereby bins were removed and we were constantly worried and checking to see if there were any bags left around for fear of an IRA bomb. I do not want to see people afraid to walk the streets because a truck might come thundering down and kill them. The best way to prevent that is to make sure our intelligence and law enforcement communities have the legislation they require to protect us against those things.


I support the presumption against parole and I make no apologies that terrorists should remain behind bars. I also support the presumption against bail for the same reasons. Make no mistake, these are serious decisions we are making here today because they reduce the freedoms of everybody in Queensland so that we can ensure community safety.

I think it is important to recognise that we need to act in a timely fashion when it comes to this. Terrorists are very smart online. We have seen that. Social media and the internet have allowed them to gain prominence, members and capacity very quickly.

It is disappointing that it has taken a couple of years for this legislation to come before us. I say to the minister that, going forward, if there are other pieces of legislation that are as serious as this, we should take those on board in a much more timely fashion because this is way above politics. When we start talking about our freedoms, it is way above one side of the parliament or the other. It is about the future of Queensland and what sort of Queensland our children will inherit, what freedoms and liberties there will be restrictions on because of community safety, and where the balance of those things is.

I thank the committee for the work they did on the bill so that we could better understand it. I thank the submitters on the bill who raised very serious considerations for us to weigh up and balance. I believe that this bill does not go too far. I believe that it reaches a balance.

Certainly for my part and that of the LNP I can say that we will always support stronger measures that will make sure our community is safe. We should take a strong stance against any form of terrorism in our community. We have seen the atrocities that happened recently in Christchurch. We need to make sure that we can prevent such an act from happening here. The law is the law. This is a good addition that will empower our community to make sure we are kept safe from threats of terrorism.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.55 am): I rise to contribute to the debate today on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill. I would like to thank my fellow members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee under the able stewardship of the member for Toohey, the members for Lockyer, Mansfield, Mirani and Southern Downs. I would also like to thank our fantastic and ever-patient committee secretariat.

There are 35 clauses and one schedule in this amendment bill which seeks to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992, which the Attorney-General has outlined and many in this House will speak to. I would like to address the genesis of this bill and why, here in Queensland, we are introducing a bill which many would consider a federal matter.

For those who have read the committee's report on the amendment bill—and that would clearly be all in the House—the term ‘the COAG commitment’ is peppered throughout it. I thought I would take a bit of time to explain the COAG commitment and what it requires of us here in Queensland.

Security agencies across Australia concur that the terrorist threat level in Australia is elevated. I do not intend to postulate in this debate why that is, but I acknowledge that this is the security reality that we and many other countries across the globe face. This requires all Australians to be vigilant—alert, not alarmed, if I may borrow a phrase—and places a greater importance on cooperation between security agencies.

While our security framework is nowhere near the patchwork that is the American experience, it can be easily understood how gaps and, more importantly, differences in state approaches to what is often a national and international network of offenders is considered a pressing vulnerability. In order to provide Australia with the security framework it needs, our national and state institutions, such as this House, responsible for the security of our population, must have a cohesive and consistent approach to decisions surrounding the custody of terrorism suspects and persons convicted of a terrorism offences, among other issues. On 9 June 2007, the Council of Australian Governments, COAG, agreed that ‘there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or who have links to, terrorist activity’. This is the COAG commitment.


This amendment bill is the realisation of that commitment here in Queensland, following four principles agreed to at a subsequent COAG meeting in October 2017. The principles enacted in this bill include: firstly, the presumption against bail and parole should apply to categories of persons who have demonstrated support for, or links to, terrorist activity; secondly, high legal thresholds should be required to overcome the presumption against bail and parole; thirdly, the implementation of the presumption against bail and parole should draw on and support the effectiveness of the joint counterterrorism team model; and, fourthly, implementing a presumption against bail and parole should appropriately protect sensitive information.

In acts amended by this bill, the definition of a ‘terrorism offence’ is drawn from, among other acts, the Commonwealth Crimes Act 1914, which includes offences relating to explosive and lethal devices as well as terrorist acts as defined in chapter 9 of our Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. The definition of ‘terrorism’ also incorporates definitions used in other state jurisdictions to ensure that those who have committed offences in other jurisdictions do not avoid scrutiny. In passing this amendment bill we will join South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania in enacting legislation to implement the COAG commitment. Other states are set to follow.

I understand that the five submissions the committee received did raise concerns about various aspects of the amendment bill, particularly around the presumption of innocence, the presumption against bail and the effect of a presumption against parole. I understand and appreciate the issues raised in those submissions. They are right to raise them, particularly in their various roles in advocating for fundamental legislative principles. I would like to assure those bodies, I would like to assure members in this House, and I would like to assure the Queensland public, that these amendments do not represent a general shift or trend away from fundamental legal principles or our core presumption of innocence.

Luckily for us here in Australia the occurrences of terrorism are few and far between, and that is in no small part attributed to the cohesive approach by our security organisations. The fact is that the risk and the current threat assessment remain, and in those instances where security, law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies are required to make decisions the balance must be tipped in favour of the safety of our community where the risk is demonstrated—where the risk is demonstrated.

These decisions are not to be considered a daily abrogation of fundamental legislative principles. In response to submitters the department stated that the provisions are only justified in extraordinary circumstances and are not intended to create the new norm. We could all hope that these laws would never be used, but that is not the reality we live in. In the interests of community safety, having laws such as these will bring us into line with other states. It will increase community confidence and community safety. Ensuring the safety of Queenslanders is one of our most fundamental responsibilities here in this House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.02 pm): I, too, rise to speak in favour of the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I am also a member of the committee and would like to extend my thanks to my colleagues, the members for Toohey, Macalister, Mirani, Mansfield and Lockyer, and to the committee staff who always do a terrific job for us.

The objectives of this bill are to support a national framework to ensure that there is a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist threats and to implement the Council of Australian Governments, or COAG, agreement that ‘there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity’.

These objectives will be achieved by the following four things: reversing the statutory presumption in favour of bail for any adult or child offender who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is, or has been, subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code; creating a presumption against parole for prisoners who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are the subject of a control order as well as those who have promoted terrorism in the past; giving a court the discretion to fix a parole eligibility date rather than a parole release date for offenders with previous terrorism convictions and those who are the subject of a control order who have promoted terrorism in the past; and, lastly, removing the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date for a child that is any earlier than after serving 70 per cent of a period of detention and to require conditions to be imposed on the supervised release of a child.

We are fortunate in our committee that we always have an eager group of stakeholders who contribute to our work. In this case there were five stakeholder submissions. They were from the Bar Association of Queensland, the Parole Board of Queensland, the Youth Advocacy Centre, Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh and Associate Professor Adrian Cherney from the QUT Law School, and the Queensland Law Society. The majority of stakeholders supported the bill and recognised the government’s responsibility to minimise the risk to the community posed by terrorism.

Some of the issues raised concern the presumption against bail. The Queensland Law Society were of the view that proposed laws must be balanced against the preservation of the fundamental principles of law and infringe on the rights and liberties of individuals only to the extent that is necessary. The stakeholders considered that the infringement on individual rights and liberties is unjustified in this particular bill. The Bar Association of Queensland was concerned about an effective erosion of the presumption of innocence, commenting that to undermine this presumption on the basis of the nature of one offence in a person’s criminal history, regardless of its relevance to the charges on which a person is seeking bail, is unjustifiable.

There were also concerns raised about the presumption against parole. The Bar Association, the Queensland Law Society, and Professor Ananian-Welsh and Associate Professor Cherney raised concerns regarding the disincentivising effect of the presumption against parole created by the amendments to the Corrective Services Act. It was said that a presumption against parole for terrorist offenders or radicalised prisoners can have a range of unintended consequences, one being that an inmate may see no incentive in disengaging from extremism because there is no clear path offered to be released into the community.


With regard to youth justice reform, many submitters raised four main concerns about the bill’s application to children: children being treated the same as adults; the conflict between the bill and the charter of youth justice principles; reversal of the presumption in favour of bail; and limiting a sentencing judge’s discretion to order children’s early release from detention. While submitters held these concerns about these factors in relation to adults, these concerns seem to be exacerbated simply because the reforms involve children, and I suppose that is understandable. I would like to acknowledge the

understandable concerns raised by groups such as the Law Society and the Bar Association. I would like to give credit to the member for Macalister for her speech. She always has a very good grasp of these sorts of things from her background as a policewoman.

I say, along with other speakers beforehand, that our legal system and the protections for individuals are based on balance. They always have been. For instance, at the moment, someone who is seen to be committing what is, in the opinion of a police officer, an offence can be arrested and taken to the police station and thus has their liberty curtailed, but there are protections. They have to be charged. They have to go before a court and so forth. In that sense we have achieved a balance which society accepts. The resting point of that balance needs to accommodate our changing circumstances.

We do live in a world with the spectre of terrorism. We have seen appalling terrorism attacks, most recently in Christchurch. We have seen attacks in Australia, Indonesia, continental Europe, the UK and of course America. They are all obviously to be condemned. It is necessary, therefore, on the balance of public interest, to look at individual liberties and freedoms and determine, with the voice of society, what is appropriate. I think it is fair to say that, on the balance of public interest, it is necessary to embark on these curtailments of the individual liberties of those who are accused in order to protect the public good.

I accept that at the COAG meeting, which was no doubt advised by excellent people who know the business of terrorism and the business of justice and law enforcement, they were convinced that these reforms are necessary. I say to groups such as the Law Society and the Bar Association that I absolutely acknowledge your vital part in advocating for the justice system and law in our state. We do take very seriously the implications with regard to individual liberties that are formed in this bill, but I do agree with the speakers before me that these reforms are, on balance, necessary because of the situation we find ourselves in with the spectre of terrorism. They are necessary to protect the people. I am quite certain that these reforms are, on balance, favoured by the people because they know that they are for their ultimate protection. Having said that, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.09 pm): I rise today to make a contribution to the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill, which is currently before the House. I make specific reference to the amendments to the Bail Act 1980 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 that reverse the statutory presumption in favour of bail for any adult or child offender who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or subject to a Commonwealth control order.

The legal effect of these amendments imposes a higher threshold test where only courts have the power to grant bail and require the offender to prove that exceptional circumstances existed in order to be granted bail. This approach contrasts with the Bail Act's current expectation of bail prior to conviction where the courts will assess what satisfies exceptional circumstances based on a case-by-case basis considering all relevant facts in the circumstances.


These amendments aim to respond to the elevated terrorist threat that exists within Australia and the rest of the world. It is no secret that the large-scale damage caused by terrorist attacks is irreparable to a community and the people affected. In particular, these reforms reflect the agreement of the Council of Australian Governments in June 2017, which outlines that there will be a presumption that bail will not be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for terrorist activity. Both the COAG agreement and this bill before the House aim to ensure that the penal consequences for these offenders are proportionate to the risks that such terrorist links pose to our community.

These strict consequences are evident in the insertion of the new section 47 to the Bail Act which provides for retrospective jurisdiction. Therefore, it is irrelevant if the date of the offence or proceeding for the offence occurred before the commencement of the bill's provisions. The amendments will still apply. Furthermore, the bill provides a wide definition of 'terrorism offence' to capture a broad range of terrorism related offences under Commonwealth and other state laws.

Despite these seemingly harsh amendments, the provisions in this bill are carefully constructed only to apply to terrorist related activities. In addition to this, all existing procedural safeguards as well as review mechanisms will be retained after the implementation of this bill. That is to say, an alleged offender's right to appeal a decision to refuse bail will be retained.

This bill represents the Palaszczuk government's continuing commitment to public safety. We take a comprehensive approach: outreach and early intervention where appropriate, strong laws to give police the power to take necessary action and a continuing commitment to minimise gun violence. Strong and effective gun laws go hand in hand with our comprehensive approach to tackling terrorism, because we have seen too many examples of the devastation that can be caused with easy access to

higher powered weapons. The immediate and necessary response to terrorist activities requires a unified approach from all Australian states and territories. The introduction of this legislation will align Queensland with the majority of other Australian jurisdictions. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.13 pm): In recent times few topics have stirred as much thought, debate and action as terrorism. Patrick J Kennedy, a politician and mental health advocate, put it best when he said, 'Terrorism is a psychological warfare.' Terrorists try to manipulate us and change our behaviour by creating fear, uncertainty and division in society. Whether it be responding to acts of terrorism, providing people with the safeguards and protections they require, or creating laws to stop and prosecute those undesirable members of society who thrive on hate and the fear of others, governments at all levels play a vital role in rising to, and combatting, this menace to society. This is particularly important and relevant in light of the recent events in New Zealand. Our world is changed forever.

I stand today to do my part in this struggle by speaking on, and throwing my support behind, the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Before going into further detail, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the committee secretariat for their efforts on the bill and consideration of the submissions received.

The objectives laid out by this bill are quite simple. It seeks to support a national framework of government approaches to terrorism in order to have a consistent national effort to prevent and properly respond to terrorism threats. This is a great example of legislation that crosses state borders and gives certainty to our law enforcement agencies.

This bill will also ratify an agreement of the Council of Australian Governments that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted for those people who have demonstrated support for, or who have links to, terrorist activity. These objectives are clearly defined, sensible, practical and well worth support. This is why the LNP took a policy to the last state election which included a presumption against bail and a presumption against parole for terrorism offences, and it is welcome to see this government adopt that position.

The main methods through which this bill intends to achieve its objectives are threefold. The bill will reverse statutory presumptions in favour of bail for adult and child offenders previously convicted of a terrorism offence; create a statutory presumption against parole for prisoners convicted of similar offences; and give courts the discretion to fix parole eligibility dates as opposed to release dates for offenders with prior terrorism convictions.

Each of the stakeholders who made submissions to this bill was, for the most part, supportive of its objectives and the methods of achieving them. The Bar Association of Queensland, Parole Board Queensland, Youth Advocacy Centre, two academics from the Queensland University of Technology's School of Law and the Queensland Law Society each recognised the responsibility to minimise the threat posed to the public by terrorism and offered some support for the bill. Some of these submitters, however, considered that the infringement on individual rights and liberties was unjustified. Some were also concerned about the definition of terrorism, in particular that the verbal threat to carry out terrorism went too far. Again, I am pleased to see this broad definition supported as potential offenders, whether juvenile or adult, are a real threat. These persons, if expressing these ideals of terrorism, must be identified and dealt with according to law and receive appropriate correction.


The Bar Association of Queensland was concerned about an effective erosion of the presumption of innocence, commenting that to undermine this presumption on the basis of the nature of one offence in a person's criminal history, regardless of its relevance to the charges on which a person is seeking bail, is unjustified. I understand these concerns. However, if we take a risk management approach to terrorism and consider the likelihood and consequences of the risk, terrorism would always fall into the highest threat category. With this in mind, and when balancing stakeholders' concerns and the threat to the community, it is clear that the proposed COAG recommendations must be supported.

I am pleased to have been a part of a committee that has recommended that position. It is important to note that the presumption against bail applies to persons who have a previous terrorism conviction. It is also important to note that a person with a previous terrorism conviction who at a later date is charged with another—not a serious—criminal offence, for example, unlawful entry, will have the presumption of bail reversed. This appears to be an unintended consequence of the bill, but it could be argued that it has a practical application. For example, where a person charged with a terrorism offence later commits another offence or where other evidence comes to light of further offences committed at the time of the terrorism offence, then the reverse presumption of bail will apply, and that is a good thing. The LNP supports the presumption against bail and parole and makes no apologies for terrorist offenders who remain behind bars.

Great efforts and improvements are being made in intelligence techniques and methodologies of detecting terrorist and other underground networks. These laws enhance these efforts and help guard against the risk of a terrorist incident in Queensland. I must say though that the Council of Australian Governments agreed to the presumption against bail and the presumption against parole back in 2017, but it has taken this Labor Party almost two years to act. This is another example of a government with its priorities wrong. I am sure these laws were delayed because it was the LNP's policy at the time, but good governments accept good ideas from the opposition. These laws should have been in place in 2017. I am pleased to be supporting this bill, but the government needs to justify why it has taken so long to strengthen legislation to protect Queenslanders against dangerous terrorists.

Other submitters were concerned with the strong measures that will impact on children, but I make no apologies for holding children to account. It is very likely that these children are vulnerable children and need help, but the safety of the community takes priority over any child who has engaged in terrorist related activity. The parliament must take a tough stance on terrorism, and reversing the presumption against bail and parole is one way to achieve this. Terrorism remains a major security challenge for Australia. That is why the LNP supports this bill, which toughens Queensland's stance on terrorism.

In closing, it is important at this time, given the events in New Zealand on 15 March this year, that we as a community remember that terrorism is based on hate, but we cannot let ourselves fall into the trap of hate. We all want to see justice, but as community leaders we must support those affected by these terrible acts, we must do everything we can to help them heal, we must go on living without fear and we cannot let hate rule the world.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.22 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I acknowledge the work of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I also acknowledge the work of all the departmental staff from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, in particular Queensland Corrective Services and the Parole Board Queensland, for their contribution in the development of this bill. I note that the committee has made one recommendation; namely, that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for their support of the bill.

Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to emphasise how beneficial these laws will be to the safety of the Queensland community. We are responsible for ensuring that Queensland legislation responds to the evolving terrorist threat in Australia. Following the terrorist attack in Brighton, Victoria, the Council of Australian Governments committed to a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or who have links to, terrorist activity. The recent tragedy in New Zealand further reminds us that we must remain vigilant and ensure that our laws provide the highest protection to our community.

The bill before parliament today implements the COAG commitment in Queensland and amends a range of acts in line with this commitment, including sections of legislation I am responsible for—the Corrective Services Act 2006. Amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 create a presumption against parole for prisoners who fall into one of two categories. The first category—category 1—is a prisoner who has been convicted of a terrorism offence, is the subject of a control order or has promoted terrorism. A category 2 prisoner is a prisoner who has previously been charged but not convicted of a terrorism offence, has been the subject of a control order, or is or has been associated with a terrorist organisation or with a person who has promoted terrorism, and the Commissioner of Police has provided a report stating there is a reasonable likelihood that the prisoner may carry out a terrorist act. These prisoners will have parole refused unless the Parole Board Queensland is satisfied exceptional circumstances exist to justify granting parole.

Category 1 meets the minimum parole presumption requirements as agreed through the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee. Category 2 includes a two-tier test, which I have just outlined, for the presumption to apply. The first tier includes criteria that have been legislated by other states in relation to their presumption model.

I am aware that during the committee process stakeholders raised concerns that these amendments are inconsistent with the presumptions in favour of parole under existing legal principles and protections. Concerns were also raised about the inclusion of prisoners who have promoted terrorism and prisoners who have previously been charged but not convicted of a terrorism offence. I will respond to those concerns now.

The 2017 Brighton siege attacker, despite having previously been charged with terrorist offences, was released on parole and proceeded to reoffend. An innocent person died as a result, several police officers were injured and the act shook the entire nation. The Brighton siege highlighted the importance

of a presumption against parole to include prisoners who have been charged but not convicted, or those who have demonstrated support for, or links to, terrorist activity. These amendments are extraordinary but they are justified. They are critical for the safety of the community and necessary to address the risks recognised by the Council of Australian Governments.

The amendments to provide a presumption against parole are carefully crafted to ensure they protect the community but do not unfairly target prisoners with tenuous or weak links to terrorist activity. That is why there is the additional requirement that, for prisoners identified under category 2, the Commissioner of Police must identify there is a reasonable likelihood the prisoner may carry out a terrorist act if released. The inclusion of this requirement is significant in ensuring prisoners with weak or tenuous links to terrorism are not inadvertently captured by the presumption against parole.


I am also aware that concerns were raised by stakeholders that prisoners who fall within these provisions may see no hope for parole or incentive to cooperate with police or engage meaningfully in rehabilitation. Irrespective of these legislative changes, Queensland Corrective Services will continue to provide opportunities for prisoners to engage in programs and services to support their rehabilitation and reintegration. In fact, as part of the Queensland Parole System Review, the Queensland Corrective Services clinical services unit was established to assist in the assessment and management of high harm offenders, including persons charged and convicted of terrorism and violent extremist offences. Further, in 2018-19, Queensland Corrective Services received funding from the Countering Violent Extremism Sub-Committee to develop a professional practice model and resources to assist in the assessment, management and intervention of terrorist and radicalised offenders. It will always remain in a prisoner's best interest to meaningfully engage in rehabilitation programs and supports.

It must also be reiterated that there is no 'right to liberty' for prisoners whose deprivation of liberty has already been determined by the court and that a parole eligibility date is not a guarantee of parole on that particular date. Importantly, the provisions provide for the Parole Board Queensland to determine if exceptional circumstances exist to justify granting parole for a prisoner who falls within the presumption against parole legislation.


Additional powers are also provided to ensure the Parole Board Queensland is able to effectively implement the COAG commitment including: that an application for parole by a prisoner who has links to terrorist activity be considered by the board sitting as five members, that the board may have an extension of time of no more than 50 days to consider these applications and that the board has the power to suspend or cancel parole if the board becomes aware that the prisoner poses a terrorist risk.

The parole amendments also ensure sensitive police or intelligence information is protected while providing that the Parole Board is able to access the information they require to determine if a prisoner is subject to the presumption against parole. These provisions provide an important balance between community safety and individual rights, with the Parole Board Queensland as the ultimate decision-maker in whether the presumption against parole applies to a prisoner and, subsequently, whether the prisoner is released on parole. The highest priority for the Parole Board Queensland should always be the safety of the community, and these provisions enable them to do just that.

I commend the work that has gone into this bill in bringing it to our parliament today. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.30 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Firstly, I must thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat for putting together the construct of this amendment bill in a relatively short period of time.

As everyone in this chamber was recently reminded, acts of terror show little regard to borders whilst the nature and scope of these events are constantly evolving. That being the case, I believe it is in the public's best interests that we as legislators provide the police and justice system with better tools to stop these threats. Clearly, the relevant agencies need to thoroughly investigate instances of terror while preventing the alleged offender absconding or being able to participate in further terrorist activity. An important aspect is being able to detain suspects, whether they are juveniles or adults. In due course, should a conviction be substantiated there follows the ability of the justice and prison systems to keep convicted persons confined for as long as the offender presents a continuing risk. On these grounds, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (12.31 pm): I rise today to give a short contribution to the justice bill that we are debating today. I listened intently to the member for Toowoomba South and his recounting of his experiences. Terrorism is not something new; it has been about for quite some time. I will rattle off a couple of terrorist incidents, and I do not intend to speak at length about them. We

remember the Pan AM Flight 103, known as the Lockerbie bombing, in 1988; and the bombing of the World Trade Centre in 1993, and we saw what happened later in history after that. Australians are also caught up in this; we were caught up in the Bali bombings in 2002 when 202 people were killed. We have seen events also on our shores—right here in Queensland in fact. On 29 November 1980, which happened to be the day of the state election, the Iwasaki resort in Keppel—is it in Keppel?

Mrs Lauga interjected.


Mr STEWART: Yes, thank you, member for Keppel. The Iwasaki resort was bombed, leaving a seven-metre-wide crater in a block of holiday units that were under construction at the time. That happened back in 1980 right here in Queensland. Australia has suffered various terrorist attacks since then. Records I have looked at include the 1915 Battle of Broken Hill.

When we talk about terror attacks in Australia and doing everything we can to prevent terror, we find there are many, many cases where terror plots are foiled by the outstanding work that our police do each and every day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our police, who do an outstanding job, and also all those former police officers in this House for the contribution they have made each and every day in keeping our communities safe. This is just the next step in keeping our community safe. I recognise the young people from our schools present in the gallery today. The legislation that we will vote on in this House today will keep these young people sitting in our gallery safe. We need to make sure that everything we do keeps our future safe.

I will talk very briefly around the work that I do as chair of the Queensland Social Cohesion Implementation Committee. Our work is the early intervention work. We are looking at what we need to do to make sure that young people do not go down the road of radicalisation. It is that early intervention model, setting up a sense of belonging in our community, a real connection back into our community, a sense of identity for these young people, particularly those who are new to our communities or Australian shores. I think the key thing we see when we hear the briefings from the police at these particular meetings is the sharing of intelligence—making sure that police right across our country are sharing the intelligence with each other. This bill brings together that intelligence along with legislation. Now what we are seeing through COAG is that we have consistency in our legislation so that intelligence can be shared consistently across our country.

When I was the chair of the education and Commonwealth Games committee in the previous parliament we also looked at some legislation that gave police more powers to keep people safe that was specifically designed for the Commonwealth Games. There were some concerns around abuse of power, but we saw emphatically that the police did the right thing each and every day. I have to tell honourable members that those Commonwealth Games were absolutely outstanding. We had people coming to our state from overseas as well as from all over our country knowing they would be safe. That was because we had some of the best laws in place that would ensure their safety was paramount and they could go out and enjoy a great time down on the Gold Coast or in Cairns or Townsville, which were also host cities.

This legislation will not dissuade terrorists from their cause, but it will give police and our justice system more ability to reduce the instances of terrorism. There will be greater consequences across our country. This legislation will give our justice system and our police greater opportunities and greater power to keep these young people sitting in our gallery today safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Those of us privileged to stand in this place are honoured to do so but with that honour comes responsibilities. Perhaps the greatest of those responsibilities is to ensure the safety of each and every Queenslanders and those who visit our state.

What is safety? It could be said that safety is ensuring that no harm comes to people, but there is more to safety than ensuring there is no harm. Safety is about opportunities and prevention—the opportunity to go about our lives as law-abiding citizens without fear that our beliefs, our looks, our occupation or any other individual trait will cause us to suffer harm.

As members of the parliament, we have the opportunity to make our voices heard, and some may say that it would be better if some of us did not. However, that is not democracy and that is not freedom. That opportunity we have to be heard and to make a difference must also be vested upon all Queenslanders. As we are the representatives of our constituents, their safety must be held at the utmost in our minds. Too many have given too much for that safety to be threatened. Perhaps it is due to the expansion of social media or perhaps it is because terrorism has played such a huge role in shaping our lives. Either way, in recent times we have seen hate displayed on far too many occasions.

The recent events in Christchurch have again highlighted the need for us to play our part in eliminating or at least controlling that hate. I am not referring to shutting down speech or opinion; I am clearly stating that we as a parliament must act. That is why I support the spirit of this legislation that we are debating here today.

I note specifically that this legislation is a result of a COAG agreement. I believe that all levels of government must work together to tackle the scourge of terrorism. Further, if such cooperation took place on a daily basis we would undoubtedly have a stronger Queensland and a stronger Australia. A stronger Queensland and a stronger Australia is our best weapon against those who mean harm to us and endeavour to change our way of life.

Although I do not oppose the bill, I have some concerns that the presumption against bail only applies to people who have a previous conviction for terrorism. I would prefer to see this extended to crimes involving violence. I do note, however, that being subject to a federal control order is sufficient to invoke the presumption in favour of bail. I believe that when it comes to terrorism we need to err on the side of public safety and not rely on the fact that someone has been previously convicted or is under the watch of federal agencies.

A further concern is the fact that exceptional circumstances can be used to circumvent this bill without an explanation of what these exceptional circumstances are. This is a concern echoed by the Bar Association of Queensland. I fully understand the need to empower our judicial officers; however, perhaps the Attorney-General could shed some light on what those exceptional circumstances might be.

I also have concerns with regard to reports requested from the Commissioner of Police. Few crimes strike at the heart of Queenslanders—or anyone else, for that matter—more than terrorism offences. It is concerning that members of the Parole Board may not be provided with all of the information they require to make an informed decision. Remember, Mr Deputy Speaker, that these are decisions which directly affect the safety of Queenslanders. One must question why this information cannot be provided. As a former police officer, I understand and fully support the need to ensure proceedings in court are not prejudiced, and of course we must ensure that lives are not placed at risk. After all, that is what this bill is designed to do. However, if information cannot be provided to members of the Parole Board, then I would suggest that we have an issue with the Parole Board system. If we cannot trust the people who decide when convicted criminals are granted parole—in some cases we are talking about people who have been convicted of violent crimes—then who can we trust? I am a former member of the Parole Board, and I can tell you that when Parole Board members make decisions regarding prisoners' eligibility for parole, they want all of the information made available to them so they can make an informed decision.

Stakeholders who have raised the issue of ensuring a balance between protecting Queenslanders and the preservation of liberties are right to note this is a concern. These are the same concerns that I—and I am sure all members in this place—have; however, I make no apology for my commitment to putting the safety of Queenslanders first. As a former police officer, I have seen the effects of crime on a wide range of people. Until you have seen it with your own eyes, you simply cannot fully comprehend it. I shudder to think what the effects of a terrorist attack would be on innocent victims in our state.

I also note the submission that reversing the presumption of bail due to one offence could be seen as an erosion of liberties. What we must note is that, to be enacted, the reversal requires a conviction. The reversal is not enacted by an allegation. The people subject to this reversal have been convicted of a terrorism offence or are under strict control orders because of terrorist training or engaging in hostile activities or have committed an offence that would be a terrorism offence here in Australia. We are not talking about a person who has allegedly committed a crime; we are referring to people who are convicted of terrorism, and we must treat them as such. I note comments from submitters that the reversal of the presumption of parole may be seen as a disincentive from engaging in terrorism. Remember that these are people who have already been convicted of terrorism. These heinous crimes are not something they have thought about; they are crimes they have committed.


Youth justice is a topic that many Queenslanders have an opinion on and, frankly, many of them have lost faith with the current system. In this debate we need to ensure that we focus on that central issue and the offence of terrorism. I do not profess to be an expert on radicalisation, but the fact is that some of these vile terrorists can, and would, use children to help them achieve their goals. Once again we need to differentiate between alleged offenders and convicted terrorists. Yes, this legislation does

conflict with youth justice principles, but we need to remember that when terrorists commit acts of hate they do not discriminate between young and old, they do not discriminate based on skin colour, and they have no regard for the religion or gender of their victims.

Terrorism is terrorism; convicted terrorists are convicted terrorists. Those of us in this place have a moral obligation to protect Queenslanders from these people. Many times in this place we hear members refer to their top priority or their primary goal. Surely our top priority is the safety of Queenslanders. I am led to wonder why this government has taken so long to introduce this legislation, and I welcome an answer to that query from the Attorney-General. This is something that should have been done a long time ago. That is why the LNP proposed legislation just like this prior to the last election.

This bill is not about political point-scoring for me. Yes, I have concerns around certain parts of the bill. Yes, I would like the Attorney-General to provide further advice on some of the issues I have raised here today. I cannot speak for those opposite, but I do believe that all of us in this place need to ensure that the message to any potential terrorist is consistent and that we make no apologies for our stance on this crime. Queensland and Queenslanders are stronger than you. If you commit terrorism in Queensland you will feel the full weight of the law, and if you commit terrorism in Queensland you will not be paroled or bailed easily.


This state and this nation are made up of compassionate, caring people and we welcome people regardless of their culture, their religion, the colour of their skin, their gender or any other trait that may separate other people in other places. As Queenslanders we value our safety and we value our freedom, and we will not stand by while they are threatened. As I said earlier, one of the greatest defences against terrorism is unity and strength. I call on all members of this place to show unity, put the safety of the people of this great state first and support this bill.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.45 pm): I rise to support the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Firstly, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the loved ones of everyone who lost their life in Christchurch recently at the hands of a terrorist.

The threat of terrorist attacks in Australia remains elevated, and Australians are viewed as targets by people who want to do us harm. This is why we must ensure that tough measures are in place to deal with people who have been convicted of terrorism offences. Sometimes this means taking extraordinary measures that may impact adversely on the rights and liberties that underpin our free and democratic society. Ultimately, what is important is ensuring that a balance is struck between the rights of all citizens to go about their daily activities free from acts of violent terror and the rights of individuals who come before our criminal justice system to be dealt with fairly. The threat posed by terrorism to the safety of our community remains ever-present. Nowhere is immune. All Australian governments have a duty in the interests of community safety to work together and take appropriate action to respond to this threat.

This bill implements the 9 June 2017 COAG agreement, wherein first ministers agreed that they 'will ensure there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity'. The bill will amend the Bail Act and the Youth Justice Act to reverse the presumption in favour of bail for an adult or child who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who has previously been the subject of a Commonwealth control order. These presumptions apply regardless of the offence the person is alleged to have committed.

This bill reflects important lessons learned from previous terrorist incidents in Australia. It proceeds on the basis that the ultimate goal in our fight against terrorism is to prevent terrorist acts from occurring. The Queensland government is committed to continuing to work with the Commonwealth, other states and territories and industry to manage the shared national security risks arising from foreign involvement in Australia's critical infrastructure. The Queensland government is committed to doing whatever it can to keep Queenslanders safe from the enduring threat posed by anyone who wishes to do us harm and attack our very way of life. These new bail and parole laws form a very important part of the work this government is undertaking to confront the threat of terrorism in Queensland and Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.48 pm): Like many honourable members in this chamber, I too rise to make a brief contribution on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill. In doing so I also pay tribute to victims and their families in Christchurch. What happened there recently is too terrible for words. In fact, I guess it proves conclusively that there are indeed three great

monotheistic religions in the world: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. I do not care about colour, creed, who your God is or what you believe in, but one thing I do believe in is the sanctity of life. I do not care which country you come from or what your views are, but at the end of the day life is precious.

I note from the outset that the LNP will not oppose this bill. When speaking about the issue of terrorist activity, my mind immediately goes back to a couple of things that have been instilled in me. I can distinctly recall my parents knowing exactly where they were in 1963 when John F Kennedy was assassinated. I recall very clearly where I was during 9-11.

I think I said in a contribution many years ago that I can distinctly recall watching Jim Whaley on *Nightline*. While I was watching *The West Wing*, one of my favourite TV shows of all time, there was a news break which reported that a light plane had inadvertently clipped one of the Twin Towers. We now know that, sadly, that was not the case. The events of that time in history are too horrific for words. The shadow Attorney-General also spoke about being in London in 2005. It is incredibly important for the chamber to come together in a bipartisan manner, as much as we can, to support this bill. I have been emboldened by the contributions from members on both sides of the chamber.

The policy objectives of the bill are straightforward and very clear. They include supporting a national framework to ensure a consistent national effort—'consistent' is the key word—across all state jurisdictions to prevent and respond to terrorist threats of any type. This stems from the Council of Australian Governments agreement that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to persons who have demonstrated support for or have links to terrorist activity. That is a very strong COAG commitment.


Terrorism remains a major security challenge for Australia. Everyone inside and outside this chamber knows that. It seems to me that the times we are living in right now are extraordinary. The member for Toowoomba North spoke about growing up in the United Kingdom in the 1970s and early 1980s and the ever-threatening presence of the IRA. I can fill in a blank for him in relation to Expo 88. Being at that time 23 and single and with a six-month pass, I was there pretty much at breakfast, lunch and tea. It was a completely different era compared to, say, the 2018 Commonwealth Games. As I have said in the past, apart from perhaps the opening, the way the Commonwealth Games were run logistically, from a security perspective, was absolutely first class. Of course, freedoms had to be potentially touched upon for the greater good. I guess that will be a theme for most speakers to this debate. I am very strong in relation to upholding one's civil liberties, but as lawmakers in this august chamber we have to be sensible and pragmatic. At times there will be trade-offs between competing rights—in this case the right of people to be presumed innocent before the courts. As other speakers have articulated very well, here we are talking about people who have been convicted of terrorist activity. Apart from paedophilia, I can think of nothing worse than terrorist activity.

We note that the presumption against bail applies to people who have a previous terrorism conviction. We also note that a person with a previous terrorism conviction who at a later date is charged with a minor criminal offence, for example break and enter, will have that presumption for bail reversed. That is eminently sensible. We on this side of the chamber support the presumption against parole. As other speakers have said, we make no apologies for terrorism offenders remaining behind bars. Why would we?

We will always support tough measures to guard against the risk of a terrorism incident in Queensland. I pay tribute to those hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service who 24/7 do a remarkable job to ensure the protection of everyday Queenslanders. We took a policy to the last election that included a presumption against bail and a presumption against parole, which it has taken Labor a good while to enact. A speaker before me said that we could get into the reeds and be a little churlish by making some cheap political points. We are not doing that. We highlight that it has taken a while, but the things that unite us are more important than the things that divide us. It is an often used line, but it is pertinent to the debate of this bill. I know that, at the end of the day, all of us in this chamber would walk over cut glass to protect each other's families. This bill, which we will not oppose, will go a long way towards ensuring Queenslanders can go to bed safe at night.

We also want to make sure that the safety of the community takes priority over the rights of any minor child who is engaged in terrorist activity. I know that for some people this represents a bit of a slippery slope in relation to law and lawmaking but, sadly, we have seen examples of the radicalisation or brainwashing of some youth, particularly through the use of social media as an outlet and as a streaming service. As sad as it is, given the right tools and equipment a child can cause terror that should not be contemplated in too much detail. This provision needs to be enacted. The parliament needs to be seen to be taking a tough stance on terrorism, and reversing the presumption for bail and parole achieves this.

In this chamber we often engage in robust debate. Most people get their take on parliament from clips of question time on the nightly news. What they do not often see are the times that both sides of the chamber come together to pass legislation for the betterment of all Queenslanders. Whilst a couple of stakeholders have raised concerns—they have been articulated by previous speakers so I will not go through them in detail—those concerns and competing rights represent something that every parliamentarian occasionally has to weigh up. On balance, it comes back to the principle of the greater good—Pareto theory 101 in action. While it is sad in many ways that we even have to bring this bill into this chamber, it will go a long way to protecting all Queenslanders, regardless of where they live—from Cooktown to Coolangatta and everywhere in between. I support this bill.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.57 pm): I rise to strongly support this bill. As other speakers before me have done, I put on the record my sympathies, prayers and condolences for the people of New Zealand, which is such a strong community and a wonderful country. Christchurch has had its fair share of horrific events over the past few years. The earthquake had a devastating impact on Christchurch. After the terrorist attack of only a week or so ago, my heart goes out to what is a wonderful country. We enjoy our Bledisloe Cup matches. We are fierce in that, but—

Mr Nicholls: I don't enjoy them!

Mr MILLAR: Of course. They have not gone our way for a long time, but—

Mr Harper: And they won't be, either!

Mr MILLAR: Probably not.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection as well. I want to put on the record how devastated we all were when the news came through on that day. It certainly shocked everybody in this nation. We pay our respects and offer to help the citizens of that country to get back on their feet. They have a long way to go. I am sure they will get through this, but we are here for them. I say to anybody from New Zealand who lives in this country: we are with you and will continue to be with you.

I strongly support this bill. We should always take a strong stance against the threat of terrorism and make sure we do everything in our power—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Member for Gregory, would you please adjourn the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Millar, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Health System; Braun, Dr W

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders have been horrified by Labor's health crisis this week, and rightly so. Surgeries have been cancelled, nurses and doctors are under severe stress, the system is at breaking point. Instead of wasting taxpayers' money renaming hospitals, playing silly political blame games and making all the excuses under the sun, the Premier and her embattled health minister should have focused on providing better local health services as they promised Queenslanders at the last state election.

Another health scandal that has impacted patient care relates to the allegations raised against a senior Queensland surgeon, Dr William Braun. I have spoken about this issue on two occasions, but there is still more damning evidence that the system has failed. There have been many allegations of the most serious nature from doctors to patients and concerned relatives worried if their loved ones were going to survive. This whole saga should never have happened. A massive spotlight has been shone on to health authorities for effectively dismissing these complaints which have been raised over a number of years. On top of the documents and allegations that I have previously tabled, today it has been revealed that concerns about Dr Braun were raised with the Australasian College of Surgeons as far back as 2006. I table a letter from the then clinical superintendent at the Royal Darwin Hospital with the most serious of allegations, including that from his time training in Rockhampton and other Queensland hospitals.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 22 July 2006, from the Clinical Superintendent, Royal Darwin Hospital, to the Chief Executive Officer, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, regarding Dr William Braun [\[433\]](#).

The letter states—

There were numerous complaints, particularly from the ED staff, and also from other areas including ICU and ward staff of Dr Braun's behaviour and professionalism.

...

All Dr Braun's supervisors agree he seemed to have significant flaws in his knowledge base ... This led some to wonder if he had actually gone through formal medical training.

There were also a number of sentinel cases that aroused concern. For those who are not aware, sentinel events are a subset of adverse patient safety events that are wholly preventable and result in serious harm to or death of a patient. Eleven cases were then identified in the correspondence which I have tabled. The conclusion of the letter states—

It was recommended by the Supervisor of Surgical Training after an end of term training assessment that Dr Braun should not proceed to advanced surgical training.

...

All permanent consultant surgeons and seniors in the Department of Anaesthetics and E.D. are sufficiently concerned about his behaviour as documented above to formally notify the Medical Board that he was possibly a danger to the public.

...

In particular it is his inability to show any insight into his own behaviour which makes him a potentially dangerous medical practitioner.

This letter should have been the smoking gun that exposed Dr Braun. He should never have been operating in Queensland hospitals. There are a number of serious questions which need to be answered. Why are these complaints ignored? Why were Queensland patients put at risk? After all, he was trained in various Queensland hospitals including on the Gold Coast, Rockhampton and PA Hospital. It is not good enough.

Ipswich Electorate, Jobs



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (2.03 pm): I want to talk about the great work being done by the Palaszczuk government to boost employment prospects for people in Ipswich. Our government is one that looks after workers and looks after those who need a helping hand getting into the job market. I know that many people in my electorate want more jobs or need more hours of work to get by, and we are delivering on that front. Under the Campbell Newman government, unemployment in Ipswich peaked at 10.7 per cent. Under the Palaszczuk government, unemployment in Ipswich has dropped to 8.7 per cent. In 2014 Ipswich's youth unemployment was a scandalous 19.3 per cent. Our government has reduced that to 12 per cent.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms HOWARD: Yes, both are still too high, but it is significant progress. It is a significant amount of progress in the jobs market and I for one am very proud to see unemployment go down. We still have a way to go, but it is clearly progressing.


Today more kids in Ipswich are finding jobs because of fantastic employment initiatives put in place by our government such as the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. In my own electorate I have seen how young people are benefiting enormously from that program through projects such as the Get Set for Work project which the Ipswich Community Youth Service and TAFE deliver. This is a program that the LNP twice wanted to scrap. I want to take a moment to thank Amanda Margerison and her team from the ICYS for doing a wonderful job supporting and guiding hundreds of young people in Ipswich and giving them a second chance. In the recent round of funding, ICYS, Ipswich Community Youth Service, has been able to expand its Get Set for Work program to 41 places. Since reintroducing Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015, the program has supported more than 1,600 Ipswich people and I truly believe that the program has directly resulted in the large drop in youth unemployment in Ipswich.

Our government is also delivering jobs for workers in Ipswich by attracting big name projects in defence, manufacturing, construction, logistics, health and education. Ipswich is projected to be one of the top job growth regions in Queensland, with 18,200 jobs set to be created in Ipswich by 2023. That is a growth rate of 11.3 per cent.

Rheinmetall will generate more than 450 local jobs to build the 200 Boxer CRVs at Redbank and the Palaszczuk government is again supporting Rheinmetall's new bid for a \$15 billion contract to deliver phase 3 of the Land 400 program in Ipswich. If successful, this project will support thousands of jobs in Ipswich until at least 2032.

Some 200 jobs will be based at the new TAE Aerospace facility currently being built in Bundamba. Australia Post will bring in 500 jobs when it opens its new distribution and sorting centre at Redbank. This level of investment in Ipswich is unprecedented and a credit to this government. I want to thank the Premier and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development as well as the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick.

Bishop, Mr J


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.06 pm): One of Lockyer's most passionate and respected horticulturalists is being laid to rest as I make this address. Mr John Bentley Bishop passed away peacefully on 20 March. John began his lifelong commitment to horticulture on a farm in Upper Tenthill where he seeded his first crops. Over the years John was to cut a towering figure on the horticultural landscape, both literally and figuratively. Affectionately known as Big John Bish, some might say he was a big unit. John was a big man, both in stature and in character, and you always knew when John was in the room.

Serving as an active member of Growcom for 45 years, including six years as its chairman, John was instrumental in campaigning for change and supporting Queensland's growers. John was held in high esteem by all who had the honour of meeting him and last year he was awarded life membership of Growcom to recognise his years of dedication and service. At the awards ceremony John's commitment was recognised by many of his colleagues, other dignitaries and even the director-general of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Dr Beth Woods made the trip to speak at the event, such was the respect that John deserved. When asked to reflect on his life and service to the industry, John acknowledged the importance of organisations like Growcom and emphasised how important it is for growers to join and work together with these peak bodies to secure change.

My final encounter with John is one that I soon will not forget. I had not seen John for a number of months until I ran into him when leaving my office about five weeks ago. I noticed that his usual towering stature was not quite the same and I asked him how he was. I certainly was not prepared for the answer. John said, 'Not good, mate. The doctor's told me I'm on my last legs. I've come home to die.' After the initial shock we shared some quiet personal reflections, and again John's strength shone. I know from my interactions with John in the past and from that conversation that John loved and was loved in return.

He certainly would not want us to be mourning his death but celebrating his life. John is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth, and children Barney, Kate and Charles. I offer my sympathies to his family and want them to know just how much of an honour it was to know John and to work with him over the years. John will be sadly missed by our community and the community of Queensland and Australia. He helped so many in so many ways. John Bentley Bishop: 1944-2019. Rest in peace.

Pakleppa, Ms Z; Keppel Electorate, Yeppoon Road

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.09 pm): It is with great sadness that I report to the House of a tragic accident in my electorate that has claimed the life of a nine-year-old girl. Zara Pakleppa was travelling in a car with her mother and siblings when it collided with another car on Yeppoon-Rockhampton Road on Sunday. Her six-year-old brother was flown to and treated in the Queensland Children's Hospital. I want to pass on my sincere condolences to both families involved in this horrible accident, which has cut the life of a nine-year-old girl far too short.

Zara would have been getting ready for week 9 of school on Sunday, yet she is no longer with us. I cannot fathom—I cannot imagine—the heartbreak that her parents, family and friends must be suffering. According to police, the two vehicles collided at the intersection of Artillery and Yeppoon roads on Sunday morning. The crash involved two families in separate hatchbacks—a mother and her three children and another mother with her two children. One of the children had to be cut free from one of the cars.

Since the accident, I have spoken with both the district officer of the Queensland Police Service and the regional manager of the Department of Transport and Main Roads because I want to see this intersection upgraded so that no more lives are lost. Whether the intersection needs better signage, better line marking, reduced speed or any other safety measures, I want to see the engineers on the ground ASAP so that we can make this intersection safer. Yeppoon Road to Rockhampton is a busy road with more than 12,000 vehicles using it every single day, with almost 1,200 of those being heavy


vehicles. More heavy vehicles are using that road. As well, a growing number of tourists to the region are driving on it. That extra traffic has slowed travel times and increased the potential for head-on crashes as more people try to overtake.

As the state member, I support improved safety for Central Queensland, including on Yeppoon Road. I travel that road on a daily basis and I know that it can be dangerous, which is why I am calling for a safety audit to be carried out on the road as soon as possible. I fought for funding for the planning to duplicate Yeppoon Road and I was pleased when Bill Shorten and federal Labor committed \$47.5 million to the first stage of the duplication. Today, I am calling on the federal government to commit to match this funding from federal Labor.

Although the federal government's commitment of \$190 million for the Mount Isa to Yeppoon corridor is welcomed, we need certainty about where the dollars will be spent along this 1,400-kilometre corridor of road. We will have to wait and find out the detail with respect to the distance that this \$190 million will be spent across. In the meantime, I call on the federal LNP to match federal Labor's commitment so that the people of Yeppoon, Rockhampton and the surrounding communities have some certainty around future upgrades.

I agree with the community that improvements are needed. There has been lots of discussion on social media and across the community in the last couple of days after the accident with respect to safety upgrades that are needed at this intersection. I think we really need to work together to get this safety audit undertaken as soon as possible. I will continue to work with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service to make the safety audit happen as soon as possible.

Herbert River, Water Infrastructure

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.12 pm): I have a vision to dam the Herbert River to provide long-term water security for the Hinchinbrook electorate. The area of the Herbert River is one of the most fertile areas in Australia. The sugar industry has taken advantage of the fact that our forefathers understood that and capitalised on the rainfall that pours into the Herbert River every year.

Unfortunately, we cannot control the rainfall in my region. There is either too much or too little, but we could control how much water is retained in the Herbert River. The construction of a dam would provide a year-round water supply for farmers wanting to irrigate crops in the Herbert River district and as far north as the southern Tablelands. Protecting our reef is on everybody's agenda. A dam in the upper catchment of the Herbert River would minimise sediment run-off into the Great Barrier Reef. Many farmers believe that a lot of this sediment run-off comes from state owned land, which includes national parks. Queensland's biggest landholder is the state government. With large parcels of state owned land bordering the Herbert River, I call on the state government to play its part to protect the reef. A dam on the Herbert River could reduce the sediment run-off that goes into our river system and flows down into the ocean.


Previous water infrastructure proposals have been the Tully-Millstream hydro-electric scheme and a revised version of the Bradfield Scheme and they suggest that possible dam sites upstream of the Herbert River would be where Cameron Creek meets the Herbert River and Keough's Weir, which is upstream from Craig Creek. The current Tablelands irrigation project calls for the construction of a 35,000-megalitre dam on the Herbert River in the Woodleigh area near Ravenshoe.

I think it is important to start a conversation with the state government on this issue. I believe that part of working towards sustainability in my region would be to revisit the sustainability of such projects. The big winner could be agriculture and the reef. A reliable water supply would allow crop diversification and even a source of stored hydro-electricity that would add to the existing sources of dispatchable base load power in North Queensland.

Every year when the Herbert River floods we spend millions on repairing roads, farms and homes. If there were a way to control the flow of water coming down the Herbert River we would mitigate the flood risk in this area. Funding for this dam could be sought from either the state or the federal government from the \$1.3 billion National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. If building the north is truly on the state and federal government's agenda, we need to start working together to deliver water security schemes such as this.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Rockhampton, joining us in the gallery today are students from the Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School from Hervey Bay. We welcome them to Parliament House.

Skin Cancer

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.15 pm): In recent weeks both the member for Cairns and I have gone under the knife to have skin cancers removed. For the member for Cairns, it was an SCC that was removed from his upper chest—and his tears have been washing across my desk all week. For me, my SCC was a small raised sore on my elbow that would not heal. It was only a couple of millimetres across and I did not do anything about it for over 12 months. As a result, I have ended up with a cut that is about six centimetres long and quite deep.


I thought it was timely to remind members of some of the information provided by the Cancer Council website. Since introducing Australians to the 'Slip! Slop! Slap!' campaign 35 years ago, the Cancer Council has implemented many highly successful skin cancer prevention campaigns. Over that time, we have seen positive changes in sun related behaviour and attitudes. Australia's improved skin cancer survival rates are generally higher than they are in other countries because we are now more aware of the science of skin cancer and are detecting skin cancers earlier.

Recent skin cancer awareness campaigns include 'No tan is worth dying for' and 'Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek & Slide'. For best protection, the Cancer Council recommends a combination of sun protection measures: slip on some sun protective clothing, slop on some broad high-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, slap on a hat, seek shade and slide on some good quality sunglasses. The sooner a skin cancer is identified and treated, the better a person's chances of avoiding surgery or, in the case of serious melanoma or skin cancers, potential disfigurement or even death.

It is a good idea for people to talk to their doctor about their levels of risk and for advice on early detection. People should develop a regular habit of checking their skin for new spots or changes in existing freckles and moles. For the male population in particular, we need to move away from the, 'She'll be right, mate' attitude and seek early advice from medical practitioners. I encourage people to make the time to look after their skin and consult their doctor early.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would also like to acknowledge that joining us in the chamber are teachers and students from the Hemmant Flexible Learning Centre in the electorate of Lytton.

Drought

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.18 pm): Although everyone welcomes the rain that we are currently receiving, we are still a long way from seeing the drought over. That is why Queenslanders deserve to see the independent review of the state's drought programs. Daily, rural and regional Queenslanders are living the reality of drought. Supporting drought afflicted communities and landholders means doing the right thing. That includes being open and transparent about what is and is not working. For almost three months the minister for agriculture has sat on a report about the drought programs. Surely, it cannot be difficult to release a report. The only conclusion is that the minister is either incompetent or is clearly out of his depth. The government is so arrogant that it thinks that lip-service is all rural and regional Queenslanders deserve.


This is not the first time that we have seen the Trad-Palaszczuk government's culture of secrecy and cover-up. They used the same playbook in the disastrous management and forced closure of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. For more than six months the minister sat on a report into the colleges, only to announce their closures under the cover of Christmas. Is the minister hiding something or is it that he simply does not like what the report says?

In September last year, the Western Downs Local Drought Committee, or LDC, recommended the entire region be drought declared. The minister not only rejected the request, he sacked the committee by press release. More than seven months later the Western Downs still does not have an LDC. Why is the Western Downs region denied local representation in the drought declaration process? This is simply not good enough. Is it because of incompetence or is it something more sinister? Is the minister punishing the community because it publicly defied and embarrassed him? Is the minister punishing them because they claim to understand their own backyard better than the self-proclaimed friend of the farmer from Ferny Grove?

The Western Downs community should not suffer because the minister cannot do the job. As a grazier I know firsthand the effect of drought as my region has been in and out of drought declaration in recent years. The last thing people in drought need is stonewalling from Brisbane. Drought afflicted Queenslanders deserve better support than what they get from an out-of-touch, Brisbane-centric government. It is time to release the independent report into the effectiveness of Queensland's drought programs, reappoint the Western Downs LDC and listen to local communities who are doing it tough.

It is time to be up-front and transparent with Queenslanders. Only a Deb Frecklington Liberal National Party government will bridge the divide between the regions and the south-east by delivering real support and assistance to drought-affected landholders and communities.

Nerang Alliance Network; State Schools, Federal Funding


 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.21 pm): Last week I had the great privilege of attending one of the meetings of the Nerang Alliance Network which brings together primary schools and early learning services to assist children in their transition into prep. The work has included the establishment of practical strategies to ensure that all children are provided with the very best start in life. In partnership with the Gold Coast University Hospital Allied Health Services and Griffith University, the Nerang Alliance Network is focused on a three-stage process of identification, planning and building referral pathways for students not at a typical development level. The initiative has been formalised through an MOU with the Queensland Department of Education and has kicked off with two proposed research projects focused on transition to school and early language development with a number of occupational therapy, speech pathology and physio students engaged with the program.

This is an amazing initiative that is changing the lives of young people in our community so I want to encourage as many families as possible to be a part of this program and ensure their children access the suggested community health checks. I also want to acknowledge all members of this alliance, but in particular Landon Dare, the principal at Worongary State School, who leads this program, along with early years coach Lyndel Chambers.

What would help our educators and our kids is fairer funding from the federal government. The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government has still not provided any certainty around kindergarten funding for children in the year before school and no Commonwealth commitment past the end of this year, leaving families and early learning services in limbo. State schools are also getting left behind under the Morrison government's model. Fairer funding could mean smaller class sizes, more one-on-one support, additional teachers and support staff and more support for children with a disability and behavioural needs, something that I am particularly passionate about given my own brother's experience.

The P&Cs in my electorate work incredibly hard to fundraise for their schools because they know that extra money does make a difference. It is an absolute joke for the LNP to claim that it cannot afford to help public schools while under its watch big business and millionaires are getting more and more. In stark contrast, federal Labor has committed that in the first three years of a Shorten government schools in my community would receive almost \$5.5 million of extra funding. I will be watching with interest when the federal government hands down its budget on Tuesday to see if Stuart Robert, Steven Ciobo, Karen Andrews and Bert Van Manen stand up for our schools or if they once again turn their back on our community and choose big business and the banks over our future.

School Zones, Flashing Signs

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (2.23 pm): At the last election the LNP committed that if elected we would ensure all Bundaberg schools would have flashing lights installed in order to protect the safety of students, staff, pedestrians and motorists. I rise in the House today to once again call on Labor's transport minister to make the same commitment. There are currently 10 schools within my electorate without flashing lights in their school zone. This needs to change. I frequently hear from parents, teachers, grandparents and other Bundaberg road users that they are concerned about the safety of our school zones.

According to the government's website, a recent Queensland evaluation of the effectiveness of flashing school zone signs found that the signs are a useful tool to assist motorists to determine when school zones are in operation. Additionally, the evaluation found that the signs were associated with statistically significant reductions in travel speeds during school zone times. It is what they are made for. The benefits of the flashing school zone signs are also specified online and I quote—


Apart from reducing the risk of a crash and the severity of a crash should it occur, there are additional benefits of flashing school zone signs.

Last year I asked the minister when flashing lights would become a reality for all Bundy schools. In his response he advised me that as at 30 June there were still 2,200 school zones in Queensland without flashing lights. He also advised that Labor is installing flashing lights at a rate of 100 schools per year. At that rate it will be over 20 years before every school in our state has flashing lights. There

is no excuse for a time frame like that. Installing the lights at every remaining school zone in the state would cost approximately \$77 million. When Labor is spending \$45 million on an inner-city cycleway in just over two years in the transport minister's own backyard, one very quickly realises that \$77 million is small change in his \$3.4 billion annual budget.

Last year numerous Bundaberg residents contacted my office about the complete lack of a school zone on Mount Perry Road outside Bundaberg North State School. The primary school is positioned on a very busy state controlled road. I know the road well. Many years ago I was a student at Bundaberg North State School and the road is getting busier each and every year. After bringing our concerns to the attention of the local TMR branch, I was pleased that the minister approved a school zone, but I am disappointed that static non-flashing signs have been used. Will this not cost the government more money when they eventually replace it with a flashing sign in the future? Once again I call on this government to adopt the LNP's previous commitment and install flashing lights at all schools in the Bundaberg electorate within a reasonable time frame.

Housing

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.26 pm): The right to housing is recognised in a number of international human rights instruments. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right to housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. When it comes to speaking up for housing needs for people in my communities I will make sure that their voice is heard and I will not stop fighting for my communities. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the sitting member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, who seems to be all ears and no action.


Last year the federal LNP government ended a 50-year funding partnership to support housing for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. This program expired on 30 June 2018 and the federal LNP government made no further provision for remote housing in Queensland. What is most disappointing is the obvious lack of federal representation when it comes to advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities in the Cook electorate. The federal Turnbull-Morrison LNP government, Senator Nigel Scullion, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, and the member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, are all turning their backs and walking away from their responsibility. The silence is deafening and the message is clear: they are simply not interested.

The Remote Housing Review identified that Queensland will require an additional 1,100 dwellings over 10 years to address overcrowding. On 29 March 2018, almost 12 months ago, the Premier wrote to the coalition government offering up to \$1.08 billion over 10 years and seeking ongoing proportionate funding. On 10 October 2018 Queensland committed a further \$40 million to a modest interim housing program in 2019 to maintain some housing construction and protect local jobs.

Like on so many other local issues, Warren Entsch is missing in action. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs is silent and again communities in my electorate are left without a voice. The World Health Organization highlights the need to take a comprehensive intersectoral perspective on the issue of housing and wellbeing and placed huge emphasis on collaborative practices between levels of government to influence meaningful outcomes in the construction, maintenance and demolition of housing in ways that would influence human health, safety and wellbeing.

Who is speaking up for the family of seven children living in an overcrowded, three-bedroom house in the northern peninsula area, the mum with a child with disability on Mabuiag Island or the many other families I have spoken to through my travels? The federal LNP government has refused to advocate for continued funding in remote communities and clearly has no plan for improving affordability and closing the gap in Indigenous communities. Having a safe and secure roof over your head is not a privilege, it is a basic human right. The right to live in a safe and secure home is about equity, fairness and social justice.

Public Transport, Fare Evasion and Safety


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.29 pm): Violence is unacceptable in our society and we all have a right to be safe and feel safe on our streets and when travelling on public transport. Several recent violent attacks at the Maroochydore bus station have caused great community concern, particularly after the state government's \$44 million cut to the police budget last year. I will keep advocating for the resources and actions to address these problems. The solution requires resources for police and transport officers to help stop such serious offences as well as resources for youth justice and other community agencies to divert vulnerable young people early from crime and break the cycle. I am working together with police and community agencies who are developing a local strategy to help

keep our streets and public transport safe for all, including for young people who are often the most vulnerable as victims of crime. However, more resources and support are needed from the state government.

The figures in respect of senior network officers or the transport officers tasked to deal with fare evasion and other offences on public transport are really quite disturbing, partly because there is a lack of them—well, that is a significant part of it—but also because they do not add up. According to the minister's answer to a question on notice I put to him, they were deployed 572 times on the Sunshine Coast in 2018 with only 12 penalty infringement notices and 215 warnings issued. In the year before, 2017, according to letters from the minister, 30 of these senior network officers were deployed and they had more than double the number of penalty infringement notices at 27 and the number of warnings was also greater, at 228. The year before that, 2016, according to the minister's correspondence, 31 were deployed and the number of penalty infringement notices was 19—still more than last year—and the number of warnings was 161. It does not add up.

We know that is the problem with fare evasion, but there is a problem with a culture of abuse that is affecting safety and also really ticks off all those law-abiding citizens and those other young people who parents want to see able to travel safely. I call on this government to get serious and to come clean with the figures but to work with us and the community so we have a multifaceted response which has no tolerance for violence but which also seeks to divert early those particularly young people who are not involved in serious crime into more worthwhile activities.

Townsville, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.32 pm): As a fellow member in Townsville, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, you know that we are effective voices down here in delivering for Townsville. We have the water pipeline and the stadium, and we are doing hospital upgrades. We have to come down here and be even noisier, because Canberra is not listening. As the local member for Thuringowa, I have a good track record of delivering on road infrastructure—Herveys Range Road upgrade in 2015-16, \$7.6 million; and, of course, Riverway Drive, \$36 million, that has become a catalyst for development applications before the Townsville City Council worth over \$100 million. One of them has been approved and work is now underway on Riverway Plaza in Kelso, \$36 million. We also have the Coles DA and another one off Beck Road.

When it comes to roads, last year in the state budget I got a further \$36 million for Townsville Ring Road Stage 5. That was nine months ago. The LNP representative in Townsville, that silent old fellow—what is his name? Macdonald? I have never seen him. He has to be one of the most useless politicians I have ever met, because he is absolutely not effective in our city. We have missed out on \$180 million for the Townsville Ring Road Stage 5. Some punter in Canberra announced yesterday the Roads of Strategic Importance program funding of \$730 million for inland roads. No doubt the member for Traeger is happy with that because it is funding from last year.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER: I am not taking your interjections. When I read that, I said, 'Where does Townsville fit into Roads of Strategic Importance?' You know, Mr Deputy Speaker, we are the major regional city outside of Brisbane and we got nothing on the eve of the budget post a flood disaster. When we need jobs, we have silence from the federal Morrison government. They are letting Townsville down, they have let themselves down and they have let our city down. They do not care about North Queensland. We got nothing for Townsville Ring Road Stage 5. Our money was on the table a year ago.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER: I am not taking your interjections. I will proudly keep representing our patch. I will fight for it. I am demanding that the Morrison government listens to the people of Townsville and backs us in. Right now, more than ever, we need jobs and we need the funding for the ring-road.

Floods, Recovery Assistance; Hughenden, Hydro-Electric Scheme

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.36 pm): I would like to talk about the floods recovery assistance. It has been eight weeks now, and people out there are repairing fences and water infrastructure. There are people missing out, though, unfortunately. Local, state and federal government assistance has been commendable to this point. There are gaps, though.

Places in Charters Towers that fall just outside those shire boundaries are therefore unable to get access to category C assistance, despite having been washed out just like their neighbours who fall inside the area. They receive nothing or they cannot claim anything. That rigid criteria for category C

needs to be looked at, particularly in the Etheridge shire and Charters Towers shire. I think we have about seven people on our books now who have called the office who at this stage will get none of that assistance. A lot of that assistance has gone out from both the federal and state governments and has been very effective so far.


At the moment businesses in town cannot claim. They are just as important as the graziers but, unless water has run through their place and touched their business, they cannot claim a cent of any of that meaningful assistance. That makes it very difficult, particularly if their business relies 100 per cent on the cattle industry, which has had an estimated 600,000 head of livestock wiped out. There is a big gap there, and there are equity issues there as well.

The taxpayer expects assistance money to be spent fairly, and we are talking about a fairly small quantum of businesses. We have truckies, contractors and town businesses. There is a good opportunity to look at the overall strategy, because there is about \$4 million or \$5 million in charity coming in now. Whilst the government money seems to be easier to facilitate towards the cattle grazing industry, it always seems very hard to punch that into the local businesses.

My view is that the bulk of that charity money should be focused into those towns and the businesses where it would marry up with the quantum of assistance required. They are often not quite as big a business so they do not need as much money. There are not many businesses out there, but a lot of them cannot touch any of that money, and they hurt just as much, proportionately, as people in the cattle industry. That is something that really needs tightening up.

The last thing I mention is the HIPCO irrigation scheme for water storage in Hughenden. It was very pleasing to bolt on a hydro component to that. We had a good meeting with the department of state development yesterday, and I appreciate that—the minister is sitting there—but there is \$180 million from the feds to provide a hydro-electric scheme that will punch into that \$150 million energy loop that the government has committed to to get a transmission line to Hughenden. That will be lost if it is not backed by the government. All we need is assistance. We do not need any money from the government; we just need assistance to facilitate that and make that work and we can do some irrigation activities on the side.

Mackay Base Hospital, Cardiac Services

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.39 pm): Seven years ago director of cardiology Dr Michael Zhang was lured to Mackay to design a brand-new cardiac catheter laboratory to be incorporated into the rebuild of the Mackay Base Hospital. Two years later, the very first angiogram was performed in Mackay by Dr Zhang and his team. It was truly a life-changing service for my community. Now we do stents and pacemakers in Mackay, along with other services.

Previously patients were sent to either Townsville or Brisbane for procedures. Who would have thought, but just recently during the Townsville floods we were able to offer support to patients from Townsville. This service has progressively grown to five days a week 24 hours a day. It is our community's aim to get it to 24/7.

The catheter service is saving lives in my community. Previously patients had to take the trip to either Townsville or Brisbane and for some patients this was a trip too far, with a devastating outcome for the patient and their family. Patients who receive care in their own communities have the support of their family and friends. There is less stress on the patient and their family and they have better health outcomes. Our population is ageing, and chronic heart disease is on the rise. Clinical interventions provided by the catheter lab are improving health outcomes in my area.


During Cyclone Debbie David Zarb suffered a heart attack while driving with his son Luke. His son managed to stop the car, put his father in the back seat and perform CPR until he could be transported to Mackay Base Hospital. He was assessed, operated on and his life was saved. All this took place during an unfolding natural disaster. Previously he would have had a very different outcome.

Health care is very important to the Palaszczuk government. Unfortunately, the federal member for Dawson, George Christensen, a member of the Morrison government—he has been referred to in the media lately as the member for Manila—stated on his Facebook page and in the media that he had to travel overseas because waiting lists in Australia were too long for him. This is an outrage. The federal government owes the Mackay HHS \$12.5 million for services that have already been performed. If we had this money from 'Jet Set George' and his government think of all the services that could have been performed in Mackay—all the knee replacements, hip replacements or even tonsil removals. We deserve that money.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Buderim, member for Mackay whether a person is a member of this House or the federal parliament, can I ask you to refer to all members by their correct titles.

Mrs GILBERT: Certainly.

Buderim Police Beat

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.42 pm): Crime is a scourge that erodes the very fabric of our society. Bit by bit, crime erodes the trust and the confidence of our communities. In its many forms, crime erodes the feeling of safety that our children and the elderly have a right to feel in their homes.

Today I will outline the important role that the Buderim Police Beat has in making sure our locals feel safe and I will voice the concerns of my community who are worried that we may lose our single local police officer. While my community does not have a crime epidemic like Townsville or parts of the Gold Coast, like everywhere Buderim also has instances where people disregard the law.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: A bit like this clown from Thuringowa.

Mr HARPER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence at that and ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Buderim, the member has taken personal offence and that language was unparliamentary. On both accounts I ask you to withdraw.


Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Just this week a Range Rover stolen from a house in my electorate was involved in a high speed police pursuit travelling at 130 kilometres an hour in local suburban streets. Youth crime is on the rise and is of great concern to locals and visitors alike. In 2017 alone more than 170 drug offences were committed in Buderim. That is the fourth highest number of any suburb on the Sunshine Coast. In January we saw a disturbing home invasion where a gun was shoved in a Buderim man's face and was injured as the offenders forced their way into his home.

It is only because of the work of our local police that these kinds of threats are not more common. Our local police beat is a vital service which has served our community for many years. In recent times our local officer has been Senior Constable Aaron Caldwell. Aaron is a well-known and respected member of the Buderim community. He is often seen patrolling the CBD or working to make school drop-offs and pick-ups safer. He has embedded a culture of trust by working with the community and he works proactively to identify and assist in solving local problems. Aaron has been integral in promoting personal safety and reducing the fear of crime, particularly among the youngest and oldest members of our community.

That is why I am so concerned with reports that we may lose Senior Constable Caldwell and the Buderim Police Beat. The benefits of a community based police presence for my community cannot be overstated. Buderim residents feel safer with the personal interaction and proactive engagement Senior Constable Caldwell and our local police beat bring.

On behalf of the Buderim community, I would like to thank Senior Constable Caldwell and his colleagues for their tireless work. I call on the government to reassure the people of Buderim that they will continue to have the Buderim Police Beat make our community safer for many years to come.

Marburg Community Forum; Marburg State School

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.45 pm): On 7 March I jointly hosted a state government community forum in Marburg with Sergeant Anthony Bradbury, the officer in charge at the Marburg Police Station, as co-host. We had four guest speakers and I was the master of ceremonies.

Sergeant Bradbury was the first speaker and he outlined his priorities as the officer in charge at Marburg. Prior to taking up his present position, Sergeant Bradbury served at Mackay, Emerald, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich but, most recently, Cunnamulla.

Our second speaker was Detective Sergeant Troy Whittle, officer in charge of the Major and Organised Crime Squad, formerly the Stock Squad, which is based at Forest Hill.

The third speaker was Helen Kenworthy, Regional Director, Metro Region, Department of Education, who discussed the new method of assessment for year 12 students, the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank and her role as regional director. Prior to taking up an administrative role with the Department of Education, Helen was a state school teacher at various schools including Boonah, Raceview and Mount Marrow.

The final speaker was Greg Chemello, the administrator for the Ipswich City Council, who outlined his role as administrator which he took up on 22 August 2018 after the dissolution of the Ipswich City Council by the Queensland parliament.


As Marburg is a small town we were hoping for 50 attendees. We had 100 turn up. I would like to thank Sergeant Bradbury; my electorate office staff, Alison Young and Darren Baldwin; my volunteers, Nigel and Charlotte Young, Rose Hamlin and Sarah Grist; Barry and Wendye Gratton and Mark Robinson of the Marburg and District Residents Association; Matthew Bowden of the Marburg Hotel; and Jacquie Davies from the Marburg Post Office. I would also like to thank Minister Mark Ryan, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, and particularly Kate Griffiths, his senior policy advisor, for their assistance.

Another recent event at Marburg was the 140-year celebrations for the Marburg State School held on 23 March. Past and present students, families, staff and community members gathered at the school to celebrate. Four generations of my family attended this school, including my mother, Gabrielle Madden, nee McGuire; her siblings, Keith, Kevin, Brian, Marie, Maurice, Carmel and Wendye; my mother's mother and her grandmother.

I was honoured to officiate at the opening of the new library housed in the former principal's residence. I was delighted to find some pictures of my mum and her siblings as school children in the wonderful displays by the school and the Rosewood Scrub Historical Society. Congratulations to Principal Erika Mollee, the Marburg State School Parents & Citizens Association, the volunteers, the stall holders and the sponsors on an absolutely wonderful day.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): A wonderful town.

Chiba Park, Flying Foxes

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.48 pm): I rise to make an impassioned plea for some of my residents who are going through a living hell at the moment. I refer to the residents and students of nearby Coombabah primary who are living near Chiba Park. The flying fox colony that has infested that park is causing their life to be compromised in a way like never before. It was only a few years ago that the bats were not there, but they have moved in and they have moved in in plague proportions. I ask for action. This does not need legislative change; it needs cultural change. It needs an attitude from the department of environment to put families before flying foxes and babies before bats. This is something that is happening across-the-board.

Tim Robson from the Gold Coast City Council has been excellent, and I put on the record his willingness to work with us. Just like I saw in Warwick when I was with the member for Southern Downs the other day, this is a problem that goes beyond council. It needs cultural change from the state to put people before bats. I have seen it successfully done. In front of me is my good friend the member for Glass House. When he was the environment minister we were able to have some success in the Scenic Rim by moving them, working with council in a beautiful little town called Boonah. I am not advocating lethal means. I am advocating action that puts people before bats—whether that be lights, noise, smoke or sensible tree pruning. If you do that, it gets the message and moves on.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, do not take my word for it. Listen to the words of my residents. I urge those opposite yelling to listen to this heartfelt plea from Peter and Sheree—

I moved my family out of our home for two days over the weekend just to get a break from the continual noise. Our property values have decreased. The continual finger pointing and blame game between the state and local government levels is a cop-out. There is a place for flying fox roosts, but it is not 20 metres from the back of a fence.

Another Peter said—

My car and house are again inundated and the pool is costing me a hell of a lot of money. Surely this is not a healthy way to live.

Marcel and Marilyn said—


My wife and I both work from home and the excruciating screeching is affecting our lives. The screeching starts around 4 am and we both are having difficulties getting back to sleep, resulting in feeling exhausted the rest of the day. Also, the stench of the bats when it's raining is horrific.

We need action. It needs a clear direction from the minister to the department to put people before bats and to do it sensibly. We are not advocating the wild west; we are advocating nonlethal means and a clear direction that puts people before bats. Let us return lives to the residents in these communities.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Logan, member for Southern Downs, member for Thuringowa and member for Buderim, less talking across the chamber. If you want to have a yarn, go outside. There are plenty of places you can have a chat. Do not do it in here.

One Nation, Preferences

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.51 pm): The recent tragic events in Christchurch remind us that we live in a dangerous world and that of all the weapons in the human arsenal there is none more threatening than the malignant idea. The appalling event that took place almost two weeks ago was not a random act of violence, it was not the spontaneous eruption of a disturbed mind and it was not a response to some provocation. It was the calculated expression of a toxic ideology which bleats its mantra through the megaphone of the civil liberties it so trenchantly seeks to deny others—the same toxic ideology that robes vilification in the cloak of free speech.

Hate speech is not free speech. It is not an expression of free speech. It is its nemesis. Freedom of speech cannot be decoupled from the freedom of people. Liberty is not only 'freedom to' but 'freedom from', including the right to be free from harassment, from racial abuse, and from the aggression and violence in speech and action that has become the way that some in our community engage with diversity.

I join the voices—political, religious, civil and individual—who have spoken out against the appalling comments made following the tragedy by Queensland Senator Fraser Anning. To openly blame the victims, to suggest that the murder of 50 innocent people is the inevitable consequence of a tolerant, non-discriminatory immigration policy is worse than ignorant. It is the vile rhetoric of racial extremism, morally repugnant and intellectually bankrupt.

It is easy enough to disown Senator Anning and his corrosive language, to say he does not speak for the overwhelming majority of Queenslanders or reflect our values, that his brand of xenophobic bile does not define what we stand for or what we believe in. It is simple enough to point out that he stumbled into the Senate entirely by accident and that he could only find 19 Queenslanders to cast their vote in his favour, including himself.

Today I want to make this point: Fraser Anning has not emerged from a vacuum. He was elected on the One Nation ticket—a party whose leader, Pauline Hanson, declared Islam a disease against which we need to inoculate, who shamed, denigrated and diminished our parliamentary system by wearing a burqa into the Senate chamber, a party leader who almost succeeded in having the Senate pass a motion proposed in her name declaring that it is 'okay to be white'.

It should never be forgotten that the One Nation party was preferenced by the Liberal National Party in 50 seats it ran for in the last state election. While the LNP positions itself as a party of the mainstream, it is happy to tacitly support malignant forces that inhabit the shadows of Australian politics.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK: Never forget that it was Senator George Brandis, an LNP senator, who championed the right for people to be bigots.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK: I call on the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, to stand up once and for all—


Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK:—and to put One Nation last.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, those interjections were out of line.

Glass House Electorate

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.55 pm): This time last week on Thursday, 21 March 2019 I was humbled to acknowledge my 10th anniversary as the member for Glass House. It was 10 years ago that the constituents of Glass House first put their faith in a much younger, less hirsute, perhaps a tad leaner—truthfully, a lot leaner—version of me. I was humbled to be elected a member of parliament but more so to represent the communities of the Glass House electorate was, is and always will be an honour beyond compare.

To the residents of the electorate of Glass House, I take very seriously my role as your member of parliament. I try to listen, to deliver and to speak up on your behalf. We may not have always agreed, but hopefully when we have not I have been respectful in conveying why. At the forefront I have worked hard to succeed, and in many cases have succeeded, in delivering for our communities.

When I first sought election I vowed to make the D'Aguilar Highway safer. Well, 10 years later, with the financial support of the former federal member for Longman, Wyatt Roy MP, I have largely achieved that: two new eastbound overtaking lanes between Woodford and Wamuran; safety upgrades at Canando Street, Woodford, and through the township of D'Aguilar itself; a new pedestrian crossing in Woodford; and welcomed speed limit changes at the Rangeview Estate, Wamuran. Is there more to do on the highway? You bet. An on ramp at King Street, Moodlu, and lights at the intersection of Campbells Pocket Road are just two improvements we still need.


I have secured traffic lights on Steve Irwin Way at both Bowen Road and Reed Street, Glass House Mountains. We will soon be seeing the signalisation of Kilcoy-Beerwah Road and Old Gympie Road at Beerwah. We put in pedestrian crossings in Montville, a new flood-proof bridge over the Mary River at Conondale and flashing school zone lights across the electorate.

Again, is there more to do? Absolutely. I am still fighting for upgrades to Maleny-Kenilworth Road at Cambronn and from Maleny to Witta. I am working with the community of Ocean View to secure upgrades to Mount Mee Road heading to Dayboro, and we desperately need flashing school lights at Peachester and Glass House Mountains state schools. The north coast rail duplication is getting closer to commencing and will be completed when Deb Frecklington and the LNP are elected in October 2020 because we will end the blame game and stump up the 50 per cent of funding needed to make it a reality.

Building infrastructure is necessary and rewarding, but the real highlight of the job has been working with the myriad of sporting, cultural and community groups around the electorate. Securing funding for soccer, cricket, netball, rugby league, touch footy, tennis, croquet, bridge rugby union, chorale societies, RSLs, service organisations, schools, scouts and show societies—to name just a few—has always brought a smile to my face. Again, there are many projects still to be done—one being the Joyce Newton Memorial Indoor Aquatic Centre at Maleny which is particularly high on my list of 'to dos'.

Time will not permit me to list everything we have achieved over the past 10 years or what is still to achieve, so let me conclude by saying thank you. To the constituents of Glass House, thank you for your trust, your support and your friendship over the past 10 years.

Townsville, Tourism

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.58 pm): I jump to my feet today to talk about tourism in Townsville. We all know that tourism in Townsville is hard because we compete against so many other great places in our state including Cairns, Mackay and the Whitsundays. We sit somewhere in the middle. We have had to invent what our tourism niche is. We have decided that we are going to go for events and edutourism. This is great news because we are currently building the greatest outdoor stadium facility in north Australia—and that is the North Queensland Stadium. It is going to become the home of the North Queensland Cowboys and it will also become event central for us in north Australia.

Not only do we have those—and I know that there are a lot of interjections from those opposite because they love Townsville as well—we also have the V8 supercars later this year. It will be the 11th year that we have run that event in our great city. I see the member for Broadwater acknowledging that, because when he was there he used to come along and support that event as well.

The Gold Coast Suns will play a home game, so they will become the 'Townsville Suns' for one game. That will be against St Kilda on 15 June this year. We had the great honour of having the tourism minister, Kate Jones, visit us on Friday. We went to the Townsville brewery and had a 'big wet beer', which is a fundraiser for the floods we had in Townsville. While she was there we announced that the ITU Multisport World Championships will be held in Townsville in 2021. This will attract 8,000 athletes and spectators for two weeks. It is estimated to inject around \$16 million into our local economy. It will take Townsville to the world as images will be beamed to a world audience, taking Townsville to the world and bringing the world to Townsville.

It is hard to compete with tourism right across our great state, but for the last five years tourism has grown \$70 million and created an extra 100 jobs in Townsville. I am very proud of the work we have been doing there. People like Paul Murray have been listening to us say, 'Come to Townsville.' It is the best thing anyone can do in this House. Come and visit us. Stay in our great city. Go to Magnetic Island.


Come to a Cowboys game. We will sit on the grass hill, have a beer together and watch the Cowboys beat any other team that comes. Please support our great city by staying and spending some time with us.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 28 February (see p. 577), on motion of Ms Linard—

That the House take note of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee report No. 9 titled *A fair day's pay for a fair day's work? Exposing the true cost of wage theft in Queensland* tabled on 16 November 2018.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.01 pm): I rise to give my contribution to *A fair day's pay for a fair day's work? Exposing the true cost of wage theft in Queensland*. This is the ninth parliamentary report from the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, of which I have the pleasure of being a member. I want to thank our chair, the member for Nudgee; the deputy chair, the member for Currumbin; the member for Maryborough; the member for Pumicestone; and the member for Cairns. We travelled around the breadth of Queensland to get a full grasp of what wage theft means in Queensland.

From the get-go I was a little concerned about the name of the inquiry. It had a few pointy bits for me when it said 'wage theft' straightaway. My background is mining construction. I have been a worker before. I have worked in all sorts of fields. I have worked full-time and I have also worked for labour hire companies. I have also seen the other side of the coin: I have been a business owner and have had to employ people at different stages. The idea that 'wage theft' was the name of this inquiry was concerning to me because I was not sure what imputations that would have.


The committee travelled around Queensland and held public hearings to discuss what wage theft meant to some of the people who were giving evidence. We heard evidence from all types of people—people from industry, people from big business, people from unions and young people who had been affected by wage theft. When talking about wage theft we heard that people were being underpaid. Whether that was deliberate or unintentional, it has been happening and it has been happening on quite a large scale in different industries.

While we were in Townsville we heard evidence from a security firm. The evidence given showed us that was one of the industries which was having a lot of problems. Bigger firms were undercutting the prices of everyone else in town with the intent of winning business. The way they were doing that was reducing their costs of running the business by either not paying people correct wages or finding sneaky and tricky ways to not pay people what they were worth.

As I said, coming from a working background I have always been under the impression that if you are not being treated well by your employer you always have the opportunity to leave. That has always been my belief about not being paid right. Through this inquiry it came to light that there are people who do not understand their rights as a worker. There are people who may not have somewhere to go like migrant workers, for example. A lot of migrant workers are studying at university and they need somewhere to work and they take whatever is on offer to them at the time. It has been identified that they are one of the most vulnerable groups of workers. What I would like to see come out of this report is some changes to help protect them.

Although I do not have direct reservations in regard to this report, I do have concern about recommendation 15, which is making wage theft a criminal offence. Recommendation 15 states that if it is a deliberate and reckless act of wage theft it is recommended that the person be charged with a criminal offence. I know that the other side of the House is really pushing for that. I am not saying that we should be protecting people who are doing this intentionally. It is just that I can see that maybe being a little construed sometimes.

I would like to support recommendation 16, which is about zombie agreements. They have been purchased so that people are not paid their true entitlements but are paid according to old agreements. I support that recommendation in this report.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise in support of the wage theft report. I would like to thank the committee for its excellent work, particularly the chair, the member for Nudgee, for the time and effort that she put into this report. I would also like to thank the member for Maryborough for allowing me to substitute during the report and being able to attend some of the hearings.

We know that wage theft is a big problem. There is nearly a story every week on wage theft in this country and we only need to look at some of the facts. AustralianSuper estimates that there are a staggering 2.4 million workers across this country who are underpaid in regard to their super alone. About one-third of Australian workers are losing up to \$3.6 billion each and every year. That is their superannuation. That is what they need to retire on. We know the compounding effect in regard to superannuation. If you do not get it at the start, you are definitely not getting the same amount at the end. Taxpayers have to pay for it at the end by paying extra pensions because of these lower super totals.

It is not just superannuation. If we look at Queensland workers, a conservative estimate is that 437,000 Queensland workers are not receiving their full wage which is costing our economy \$1.2 billion annually. These workers are spending that money in the economy. They are paying for food, they are paying for their school excursions, and this is being missed out from the economy here in Queensland.


During the inquiry I was expecting to hear just from workers and their stories of being underpaid, but what blew me away was the number of employers who turned up and said that we need to act on wage theft. They know as good employers they are being undercut by bad employers not doing the right thing by their employees. I was shocked to see whole employer groups in Townsville advocating for wage theft to be made a crime and for us to regulate harder in that regard because they know that the bad apples ruin it for everyone else.

I remember the member for Currumbin's contribution in the last sitting week when she said that it is not a business model. Again, we just have to look at some of the studies. The Fortitude Valley hospitality report by the Fair Work Ombudsman found that 60 per cent of businesses were not compliant. More businesses were not compliant than compliant. I have seen the business model and I will describe the business model for the member for Currumbin. Here it is. You pay a flat rate, you take away the workers' penalty rates and you keep that for yourself. If you happen to have one employee catch you out on it, you go into mediation and you pay what you had to pay but you get to pocket everyone else's penalty rates. If you pocket it for six years, the statutory limitation is then completed and that is all yours.

An employer being audited by the Fair Work Ombudsman is just like a needle in a haystack. In the whole time that the Fair Work Ombudsman has been in existence, there have been 55 prosecutions across the whole of Australia. It is a needle in a haystack and businesses know that and they are getting away with it. That is why we need to ensure we are bringing in the recommendations. I am glad to hear from the minister that the government has accepted these recommendations in principle.

It is not just us accepting these recommendations. A week is a long time in politics, but the federal industrial relations minister, Kelly O'Dwyer, has agreed also that wage theft should be a crime in an in principle agreement after a recommendation from the migrant worker report in the federal Senate. I look forward to the member for Kawana's contribution. I hope he is side by side with his federal colleagues in Canberra. The shadow industrial relations minister for Queensland, who is also the LNP member for Kawana, and his federal counterpart in Canberra should be rock steady in this.

This is about looking after good employees doing a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. I have represented workers before at the cop shop who were being accused of stealing. Under the code, stealing as a servant has an aggravated penalty because of the trust relationship. That trust relationship needs to be reversed. It needs to be the same for bosses stealing from their workers. They need to be able to take the same offence for that. I look forward to the member for Kawana's contribution and hearing him get on board with his federal counterparts.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.12 pm): Appointing the member for McConnel, who is a former union heavy hitter herself, as the industrial relations minister and in charge of industrial relations was always going to end badly for the people of Queensland. This wage theft inquiry was established and announced by the government, but they had no jurisdiction in terms of what they were inquiring about because wage theft and the accusations they were making were against federal corporations under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

The member for Capalaba was whingeing about the federal government and fair work. Guess what? Labor set it up. Not only did Labor and Julia Gillard set it up, but I was in the chamber when we had the regional parliament sitting in Mackay when Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, referred industrial relations power to the Commonwealth setting up the Fair Work Commission. Bill Shorten appointed the delegates on the Fair Work Commission. The very body they are whingeing about, the very body they are saying is not treating the workers fairly, was the very body set up by the very bodies

sitting on that side of the chamber. The Liberal National Party opposed it, because we said the workers would be better off staying in the Queensland industrial relations system. However, Labor, oh no, the party for the workers—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Cairns, if I need to call your name again, you will be warned.

Mr BLEIJIE: The party for the workers said the best thing for workers in Queensland was to send them to Canberra. That is what they did. At the Mackay regional parliament, the member for Woodridge referred industrial relations power to Julia Gillard. Those opposite were not here then and they did not know about it and I can see their blank faces. They are all sitting there thinking, 'That wasn't in our briefing note. It didn't mention that the member for Woodridge referred all the industrial relations power. We're meant to be attacking the Liberal National Party. We're meant to be the party for the workers.' Well, the party for the workers transferred the power. They got rid of them to Canberra, and now they are whingeing.

If the Labor Party want to really talk about wage theft, let us talk about the contractors who did not get paid for the Commonwealth Games. That is a wage theft inquiry. What about the security guards who did not get paid for the Commonwealth Games?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want to inform the member for Kawana that the microphone system is working.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I just want to inform the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that you are as arrogant and as foolish as ever, just like the Crime and Corruption Commission said about you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to the report Member for Kawana.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence and ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. If the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—who the Crime and Corruption Commission chair has said publicly was very foolish—wants to talk about that, let us talk about Queensland nurses and the payroll. Guess what? Nurses are still being sent debt collectors by the Labor government for money that they were never paid. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who was not here and probably does not even know, has probably said, 'That wasn't in the speaking notes. Do we still owe nurses money? Are we still sending debt collectors after nurses?' Yes, the Labor government is sending the debt collectors after the nurses.

What about the Minister for Industrial Relations's own department? We have seen strike action by her own departmental staff who complained that they have been given a zero per cent pay rise. In the minister's own department, we have seen the campaign by occupational therapists who just want to be paid the same amount as occupational therapists employed by Queensland Health, but the minister does not care about those employees.

Let us not forget that the same minister was caught out by the ABC last year helping establish the Young Workers Hub proposal. It was drafted in her office by a senior policy adviser to put the Queensland Council of Unions program into our schools, to infiltrate our schools. Let us not forget this is the same department now being completely infiltrated by the CFMEU in Queensland. There is a current investigation on foot by an independent body in Sydney looking at the actions of one Helen Burgess and the CFMEU and the infiltration of that particular union into the industrial relations department in Queensland.

I want to thank the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Currumbin, and also the member for Pumicestone for their outstanding job. I attended the Sunshine Coast forum. I asked one of the witnesses in the public forum, who was a former union member, 'Have you put these complaints to the federal fair work body to have these resolved?' His answer was, 'No, I haven't done that.' They are complaining about the very body that they are not putting complaints into. It was a set-up from the start in light of the federal election coming up. It was nothing but a political stunt.

(Time expired)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.17 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 25 titled *Inquiry into the strategic review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman* tabled on 20 November 2018.

I rise to contribute to the debate on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 25 titled *Inquiry into the strategic review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman*. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is charged with the oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and it is a requirement of the Ombudsman Act for a strategic review of the office to occur at least every seven years by an appointed independent reviewer.

In September 2017, Ms Simone Webbe was appointed to the role and the strategic review report was tabled here in the parliament in January 2018. Since that time, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee conducted an inquiry calling for submissions in response to the report and inviting the reviewer and the Ombudsman to public hearings. The strategic review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman was overwhelmingly positive. It found that the Ombudsman's role and functions—

remain essential, and well-served, elements in the Queensland accountability and integrity system.

and that it—

has delivered ongoing success against its Service Delivery Statement performance measures, meeting and exceeding all its targets measuring efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with complaints.

Nonetheless, the reviewer outlined 72 recommendations. However, the number of recommendations should not be seen as a reflection on the functioning of the Ombudsman. During the public hearing the reviewer stated—

Please do not be confused from the number that the system needs to be fixed.

...

My recommendations are merely to ... enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the—


office. This is because it is 'operating at such a sophisticated level' and that there should be a focus to—

improve the proactivity of his office in pursuing his second role of improving quality of public sector administration ...

There are two particular recommendations that I would like to make comment on here today. The first is recommendation 20—legislative amendments to enable the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and Queensland Audit Office to share complaints and investigation data and other systemic information in confidence. In practice this recommendation means that there would be a reduction in the duplication of work done by two extremely busy organisations. For example, in 2016-17 the Auditor-General produced three reports that covered the same areas as reports by the Ombudsman. The sharing of information will increase efficiency and communication between operations.

The second is recommendation 48, where the Ombudsman is encouraged to develop a shared learning strategy to connect agencies and common issues learned from investigative outcomes. I would like to lend my support to such an initiative. The sharing of corporate knowledge is a sign of a truly mature organisation. Investigations and reviews by organisations like the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman will always highlight issues in one organisational system that could easily transfer to another organisation if there were a mechanism for the findings of one investigation to be known by others. This is a great way for organisations to identify areas to develop for their own efficiencies, pre-empting any larger scale system reviews. Queenslanders should be confident in the functioning of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. The reviewer reported that after five successive years in which the office dealt with all complaints within 12 months, no backlog of complaints is the new norm. This is a tremendous achievement for the leadership, management and all staff of the office, and their sustained and continual improvements to achieve this outcome are to be commended.


The Ombudsman has commenced consideration and implementation of a number of the review's recommendations, and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee will continue to monitor the response to all recommendations.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.21 pm): I, too, rise to speak in favour of the report, and I would like to acknowledge my fellow committee members. I concur with the views expressed by the member for Macalister. The Ombudsman has performed very well indeed. As an officer of this parliament, I think that is something of which we can all be proud.

I was speaking with my honourable friend the member for Coomera, who alerted me to the fact that the word 'ombudsman' is Swedish for 'protector of people's rights'. Well might he be called an ombudsman because Mr Clarke has performed particularly well. I note that his workload and that of his staff has been increasing. The number of complaints dealt with by the Ombudsman in the most recent year was up by 16.5 per cent, yet the number of investigations which were completed within 90 days remains at 90 per cent, with almost 100 per cent completed within 12 months. When we consider some of the scope and complexity of the complaints that the Ombudsman's office receives, I think those are outstanding statistics.

One particular statistic that the Ombudsman was proud to alert us to was the proportion of complaints causing a corrective action in the agency complained about. In the past 12 months that has gone from 22.3 per cent to 13.5 per cent. That is a very significant statistic because it indicates that agencies which are scrutinised by the Ombudsman—and that includes state government departments, local government and university institutions which are domiciled in Queensland—are getting better. I think that is in no small part due to the work that the Ombudsman and his staff have done in recent times going out into the field and conducting a strategic campaign to educate institutions on how best to sharpen their administrative practices and how to deal with clients. I had a brief exchange with the Ombudsman during the last hearing we had with him. I put it to him that with that rate of improvement he might be doing himself out of a job. He responded that when he took the job on he hoped that he would be doing himself out of a job in due course.

All banter aside, I think the Ombudsman and his staff ought to be congratulated. As a local member, I refer a lot of matters to him on behalf of constituents. My constituents have always told me that his staff have been responsive and helpful. I certainly congratulate them on their care of the public good. As I say, I support the report.


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise today to speak about the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report on its inquiry into the strategic review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. The Ombudsman Act outlines the necessity for a review of the Office of the Ombudsman at least every seven years. Ms Simone Webbe was appointed in September 2017 to conduct this review and presented this report in January 2018. Despite the positive overall assessment, the review referenced 72 recommendations to improve the quality of administrative practices and procedures. At the public hearing the reviewer explained the large number of recommendations and reinforced to the committee that the Ombudsman's office is working very well and that her recommendations were merely to improve and enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the performance of the functions of the office.

Some of the recommendations outlined include: the Ombudsman's suggestion of legislative clarification to enable preliminary inquiries with agencies before commencing an own-initiative investigation, which is strongly supported; the Ombudsman's suggestion to amend the Ombudsman Act 2001 to insert a provision or provisions which give the Ombudsman a formal discretion following consultation with the agency to refer a matter to an agency for investigation with a report-back mechanism about the results of action taken, which is also supported.

Recommendation 20 suggested that legislative amendments should enable the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Audit Office to share complaints and investigation data and other systemic information in confidence. One of the most important recommendations is the development of a shared learning strategy across departments and agencies. This is something that I have worked passionately towards, applying this same strategy to build collaboration and understanding of teaching and learning approaches across schools in the metropolitan region. When we align our most successful leadership and management practices and apply these consistently across departments and agencies, Queenslanders benefit.

The Palaszczuk Labor government knows of the thorough, conscientious and professional work of our Queensland Public Service. Many of our departments and agencies are some of the largest in the country and are managing millions of dollars, projects and services. It is prudent that as a progressive and high-performing Labor government we continue to reflect to ensure continued improvement and that we continue to raise the bar around service delivery.

We thank the Office of the Ombudsman, as they have already commenced consideration and implementation of a number of the recommendations listed in this report. I thank all those who assisted the committee with its inquiry—in particular, Ms Webbe, Mr Clarke, his staff and the submitters. I commend this report to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak on the committee report concerning the strategic review of the Ombudsman, report No. 25. I would like to thank Mr Clarke and his team for their update concerning the valuable service of the Ombudsman. I would also like to thank the committee and the secretariat for the work they have done over the previous reporting period.

In undertaking the strategic review, the reviewer took into consideration all aspects of the activities of the Ombudsman by reviewing all previous review documents and parliamentary committee reports. They conducted initial scoping reviews with the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The 2018-19 report shows that out of 4,000-plus complaints, 99.1 per cent were finalised and there was an increase in complaints recorded of 16.5 per cent. Mr Clarke and his team are always facing issues of losing staff to other departments which have higher pay rates. This would lead us to understand that this department needs more funding to be able to deliver satisfactory results to a larger proportion of the people who need it.


This is a coalface where people deal directly with the government and its agencies. Denying access in any dispute is what leads to the mistrust of government that is so rampant today. Mr Green sees himself as the knot at the end of rope. This report asks the government to task the Ombudsman with more responsibilities. The government must fund this. If the government can spend half a million dollars renaming a hospital unnecessarily, then surely it can allocate the funds to help bolster the service of the Ombudsman for the very people who are paying for it. Service delayed is service denied.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.30 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee report No. 12 titled *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 16: 2017-18—Follow-up of managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments* tabled on 15 February 2019.

Our report is titled *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 16: 2017-18—Follow-up of managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments*, which is report No. 12 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I want to say at the outset that when it comes to protecting one of the great natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef, we on this side of the House know how important that is. Unfortunately, those opposite have a fairly questionable record when it comes to protecting the Great Barrier Reef. I know that this side of the House is always committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef not only now but of course for future generations. In relation to this report I do want to acknowledge the contributions of the deputy chair, the member for Scenic Rim, the member for Cook, the member for Jordan and of course the member for Noosa in putting together this particular report and for all the work they have done.

This report presents a summary of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's examination of Auditor-General report No. 16 of 2017-18 titled *Follow-up of managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments*. Our task was to consider the Auditor-General's findings in relation to two things: firstly, the effectiveness of departments in implementing the recommendations the Auditor-General made in report No. 20 of 2014-15 titled *Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments*; and secondly, whether the actions taken have addressed the underlying issues that led to the Auditor-General's recommendations in that report.

I want to place on record my thanks to the Queensland Audit Office for its assistance. We only made one recommendation, which is stated in the report—


The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of particular report.

In relation to the scope of the Auditor-General's reports, on 10 June 2015 report No. 20 of 2014-15 titled *Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in which the QAO examined the Queensland government's contributions to improving the

quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef from adjacent catchments. The focus was specifically on agricultural run-off. This is a very important issue because if we want to continue to have a fantastic Great Barrier Reef, not only now but for future generations, it is an important habitat for marine life. As the members who represent seats in Central, North and Far North Queensland would know, the Great Barrier Reef is also a tremendous tourist attraction. Amongst so much natural beauty in this state, many thousands of tourists come to the Great Barrier Reef every year from interstate and overseas to sample one of Queensland's really great natural icons.

In the time I have remaining I do want to draw attention to the audit's findings. There were five recommendations made in relation to report No. 20 of 2014-15. In relation to those particular recommendations, I am very pleased to report that four of the recommendations have been fully implemented and one has been partially implemented. That is really, really good progress. I draw members' attention to page 6 of the report. The Queensland government commits \$35 million annually for reef water quality action, and in 2015 it provided an additional \$90 million over five years. As we note in the report, in the most recent budget the Queensland government announced increased funding of \$13.8 million over four years to support the cane, grazing and banana industries in Great Barrier Reef catchments to improve water quality. It also included funding for other Great Barrier Reef and climate change initiatives.

I think it is pretty clear that on this side of the House the Labor Party has a clear and consistent historical commitment to support the Great Barrier Reef. I question whether those opposite can say the same.


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.35 pm): As a member of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, I would like to thank the Queensland Audit Office for their excellent work on report No. 16 of 2016-17 titled *Follow-up of managing water quality in the Great Barrier Reef catchments*, which highlights key improvements, gaps and priority issues well. The key gap identified is that industry best management practice programs are only reporting participation in, and accreditation of, their programs rather than reporting on the actual best management practices adopted as a result of them. According to the report, this is a longstanding situation which is meant to be addressed in the next round of contracts.

Also outlined are difficulties with regard to land management practices. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is still unable to adequately report on the level of practice change in management practice because it does not possess the necessary management practice data to measure the change. Even though accreditation rates in the grazing and Smartcane best management practice programs have increased, according to information supplied only two per cent of graziers and seven per cent of canegrowers are participating. It may be that the programs, incentives and engagement delivered through regional NRM groups will be effective in achieving higher percentages, and involving partnerships with government extension officers, industry groups and commercial deliverers and should be considered. Effective outcomes can be achieved from working together, not from criticising our food producers.

There are gaps in monitoring and evaluating the clearing of riparian vegetation, as it has the potential to play a significant role in achieving targets. Under the current system, failure to track land use change is also a significant issue, as is maintaining the long-term monitoring of land use and practice adoption. The use of remote sensing to track key practices can assist with this. Most importantly, the report identifies the degree of variation between the reported achievement in water quality parameters and the 2018 targets. This is an issue to ponder and investigate further.

The level of investment from both tiers of government may be insufficient to achieve the required change through voluntary practice change alone, and incentives should be considered as well as offsets. Regulatory approaches may accelerate change; however, there is much debate about the cost-effectiveness of mandating for diffuse source pollution considering compliance difficulties and monitoring history. One aspect to consider as a last resort—and I am sure future lively debate—is the 80-20 aspect, which could provide the potential to achieve large reductions in offsite flows of nutrients, sediments, pesticides and other chemicals through land use change negotiation—or even acquisition—of 20 per cent of the most vulnerable or polluting parts of the landscape. As has been otherwise suggested, this could be as low as five to 10 per cent of the reef catchment area.

In closing I again thank the QAO, my fellow committee members, the departments and agencies involved, and all who are working hard in this space to deliver the very best outcome in these essential endeavours, including our hardworking farmers and industries who require our assistance and partnerships—not further hardships—to achieve this.


 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.39 pm): Every member of this House should understand the importance of the Great Barrier Reef, the earth's largest coral reef system, which contributes \$6.4 billion annually to the Australian economy through tourism, recreation, commercial fishing, scientific research and reef management. Improving water quality flowing from land to the Great Barrier Reef is a critical contributor to the reef's health. The Queensland Audit Office's follow-up report has found that the relevant departments had undertaken considerable work since 2015 to implement the recommendations and to improve their strategies and programs for improving water quality in the Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Whilst the original audit had identified a fragmented program response and unclear governance arrangements, the Palaszczuk government's decision to form the Office of the Great Barrier Reef, currently within the Department of Environment and Science, has seen significant improvements. Of the five recommendations made in the report, four have been fully implemented, with one partially implemented. The follow-up report has found stronger governance, coordination, accountability and oversight by relevant departments as well as improved allocation, expenditure and accountability of public funds being directed to support this work.

The Office of the Great Barrier Reef now provides a single point of reporting on the total package of reef water quality investments, but many departments still contribute to the activities within the program and are responsible for the delivery of their investments. The Audit Office has identified further improvements to the accuracy of catchment monitoring, including projects to support even further expansion of catchment monitoring.

The report has found that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is still unable to adequately report on the level of change in management practice. This is because the farm management practice data is currently held by industry groups and, despite being funded by government, no information is provided to the departments, with industry groups citing privacy concerns. This was of particular concern to the committee, and we did seek additional information from the Department of Environment and Science on the status of negotiations with industry groups to access this important data. New funding agreements from June 2019 will now include a requirement for the provision of deidentified geospatial practice change data from industry to the Paddock to Reef program.

Whilst the original audit report concluded that Queensland's response lacked urgency and purpose, it is clear that all relevant departments now have a shared commitment to improving the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef through agricultural run-off and improving the overall health of this iconic global asset. I would like to thank the Queensland Audit Office, the committee secretariat and fellow committee members for their work on this follow-up report and, importantly, the departments that have implemented the recommendations of the original audit.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the committee report on the Auditor-General's follow-up report. As the member for Jordan did, I acknowledge the progress that was made from the original audit. That is a great step in the right direction. It also highlights areas where we need to look into the future.

I am very passionate about making sure that when governments budget for 'something' they spend on that 'something' and they spend it in that financial year. In my time in local government I saw councils go to a community and ask for money but then not spend it in that year. That is something that leaves communities aggrieved. It is no different for our level of government. It is a bigger pool of money, but people still deserve to know that the money levied will be spent on the stated purpose. The Auditor-General's report states—

Over the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years, the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program actual expenditure was about \$12.8 million short of the planned investment. Annual investment reports provide examples of where total planned expenditure was not spent, but they do not acquit actual expenditure against planned investment for each program. This decreases transparency and accountability. It is important that any underspend is carefully and transparently managed and acquitted to ensure confidence in the management of public funds. It would also demonstrate that necessary actions to improve water quality are undertaken on a timely basis.

They are wise words that we should heed. It is vital that the minister is able to hold her department to account—that what is allocated at budget time is required to be delivered on the ground.


The member for Noosa spoke about the gap between the BMPs, particularly that percentage. The percentage she mentioned is indeed low. I would be interested to know what percentage of growers who may not have signed on for BMPs are meeting those BMP targets. By looking at these numbers we may be able to come up with a formula—I do not want to pre-empt debate of a bill before the House—that can deliver us the environmental outcomes we need by working with farmers and having a clear incentive to reach firm, definitive targets and holding them to account—

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: As the good member for Moggill says, through incentivising rather than always legislating.

If my analysis of the data is correct, I suggest that the percentage the Queensland government is spending on ensuring BMPs work is less than one per cent of the cost of that program. I suggest that if we are serious about reef protection and good environmental outcomes we may be able to do more through working with industry and backing it up with finances.

I mention the way we monitor reef run-off and water quality. I am not convinced that, in an era of such incredible technology, we are monitoring things in the most timely fashion and using the best equipment. While the Auditor-General's report did not delve into that—of course it should not have—we as a House should consider it. If we are serious about water quality, we need that data—not retrospectively and not months down the track, followed by a recrimination process about how it came to be. In this day and age we are able to get that data in real time. By working with the catchment authorities, landholders and professionals in that space such as environmental groups and by using effective technology, which I do not believe is overly expensive in the modern era, we can get data in real time. Data in real time enables you to act and legislate in the correct manner to ensure future reports give us a clean bill of health for a magnificent asset for this state.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.47 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 12 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I acknowledge and thank the Minister for Environment and Science, Hon. Leanne Enoch, for her strong advocacy to protect the future of the Great Barrier Reef. I thank the committee secretary and assistant secretary. I thank my colleagues on the committee: the chair, the member for Stretton; the deputy chair, the member for Scenic Rim; and the members for Jordan, Noosa and Theodore.

Queensland's greatest treasure, the Great Barrier Reef, is the world's largest coral reef system, comprising over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching over 2,300 kilometres in length and over an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres. The Great Barrier Reef can be seen from outer space and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms. It supports a wide diversity of life and was selected as a World Heritage site in 1981.


Sadly, due to poor water quality the Great Barrier Reef is under enormous threat. There is strong scientific evidence to suggest that the poor condition of Great Barrier Reef ecosystems is due to poor water quality as a result of increased sediment and nutrient loads from reef catchments. Coral reefs and the ecosystems they sustain depend on the quality of the water within and around them. Declining marine coastal water quality, influenced by land based run-off, is recognised as one of the most significant threats to the long-term health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. Research shows that much of the declining water quality is associated with human activity and this is now posing a major long-term threat to the health of the reef.

Last year alone research found that, even though the Great Barrier Reef is able to recover over the last 30,000 years from natural disasters, changes in sea level and water quality have made the Great Barrier Reef extremely vulnerable in more recent times. The vast size of the Great Barrier Reef and its biodiversity shows that there is too much at stake. It is clear that without appropriate intervention measures the continuation of poor water quality will have major impacts on the natural state of the reef and its biodiversity over time. The 2017 *Scientific consensus statement: land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition* confirms that poor water quality continues to be a significant issue for reef health and the main source of nutrient sediment pollution is cumulative run-off from agricultural land use, with local scale contributions from urban and industrial land users.

The declining marine and coastal water quality influenced by land based run-off is recognised as one of the most significant threats to the long-term health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. The immediate threat to the Great Barrier Reef is great, but the effects to the Great Barrier Reef in the future are even greater. The risks associated with uncontrolled regulations will most definitely see an increase in sedimentation and nutrients and, as such, there will be higher algal growth, build-up of pollutants in sediments and marine species, and reduced light smothered corals. The immediate risks to the Great Barrier Reef will potentially compromise reef dependent industries such as tourism, fishing, recreation, research and education.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to taking care of the environment, and putting the right measures in place will only enhance the future state of the Great Barrier Reef for our children and our children's children to enjoy. Despite significant government and industry investment, particularly in agriculture, voluntary approaches have failed to facilitate sufficient uptake of improved practices and at the present trajectory the reef water quality targets will not be met. The slow rate of voluntary adoption

of improved practices should be noted despite nearly \$70 million in Queensland government investment since 2009 in industry led best practice management programs, science and on-ground programs directed at agricultural industries and over \$220 million in Australian government funding since 2008 in similar activities. It is quite clear that without further regulation the reef water quality targets are unlikely to be met. Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is one of Queensland's six priorities under Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.52 pm): I rise to speak on the report titled *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 16: 2017-18—Follow-up of managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments*. In effect, we are discussing a report about a report which reported on the effectiveness of recommendations in a previous report. This may confuse some. A lay observer would assume that this would be about managing water quality in reef catchments, but it is only that from a very narrow perspective.

In December 2017 the Auditor-General examined whether departments had effectively implemented the five recommendations made in its original report. It has found that they made significant efforts by implementing four recommendations and one partially. This may be commendable from a departmental perspective, but it has not improved the situation for primary producers because the original five recommendations largely focused on determining whether the adverse impact of broadscale land use on the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef is declining. It presupposed the guilt of those who undertake broadscale land use such as graziers and farmers without balancing it with other factors. It came from a limited and narrow focus on only one area of activity which impacts the water quality.


A glaring omission was any reference to natural disasters such as cyclones and floods in an area renowned for these types of weather events. Cyclones and floods can have a devastating effect on the reef regardless of any programs and management practices demanded by government and implemented by industries. Floods flush not only chemicals and pesticides into the system but also other debris, reduce salinity and increase turbidity, all affecting water quality. It is concerning that the first original Auditor-General report determined that land management programs to improve agricultural practices in the sugarcane and grazing industries were not achieving the changes needed to meet time lines while at the same time it found uncertainty and low levels of confidence in modelled results indicating that the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef was improving.

Because the data indicated improvements in water quality, the report determined that there must have been something wrong with the data and the practices of primary producers were still criticised. I have always strongly advocated for the use of quality evidence and data, but this appears to be an attempt to target primary producers because they did not get the results that they wanted. While the latest report says that this has been addressed by almost doubling the number of monitoring sites and monitoring all intensive land use catchments, primary producers are now at fault because of the rate of voluntary adoption of best management practices.

The Auditor-General has now determined that the proposed adoption of minimum practice standards will no longer rely on voluntary participation because the voluntary adoption rate is not sufficient. Responding to the committee's query as to the reason for the low rate of voluntary adoption of best management practice by producers, the Department of Environment and Science commented that the participation in voluntary industry led BMP programs continues to gain momentum. It said—

Participation is high in Smartcane BMP with 71% of cane land (48% of cane growing businesses) participating and moderate in Grazing BMP with 21% of grazing land (30% of grazing businesses) participating. Accreditation in both the cane and grazing BMP programs is lower than anticipated, with 18% of cane land (8% of cane growing businesses) accredited in Smartcane BMP and 1.9% of grazing land (1.4% of businesses) accredited under Grazing BMP.

The transparency appears to be between participation and accreditation. The department said this is because of the perceived and actual time and costs incurred to reach accreditation as a barrier. This is about spending more time and money on paperwork—on red and green tape—so that bureaucrats can tick some KPI boxes. Everyone wants the reef water quality to be as pristine as possible. Proposals to increase regulation, change management practices, lock up land and remove humans from agricultural industries are looking at the problem through a narrow lens. A thorough and candid investigation should consider all factors impacting the reef, not just the impact from the agricultural sector. This should not be yet another exercise to demonise primary industries.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to contribute to this discussion on *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 16: 2017-18—Follow-up of managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments*. In the time I have allocated to me I want to focus on reading into *Hansard* and sharing with the parliament some of the successes achieved by the former LNP government when it

came to implementing the recommendations of the Auditor-General, indeed in driving some of the recommendations of the Auditor-General. When the LNP came to government in 2012 there was no report card mechanism across the entire length of the Great Barrier Reef other than that that was put together overall of the Great Barrier Reef scope by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

When I was appointed minister for environment there were a lot of challenges in the Gladstone harbour and the solution that we settled on was to replicate our longstanding successful Healthy Waterways report card here in South-East Queensland in Gladstone harbour. Through a partnership of industry, government at all three tiers, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the community, including Indigenous representation, we were able to establish the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership, and it achieved exactly what the Auditor-General was looking for in terms of the fact that catchment monitoring needed to be expanded to aid in determining two things—firstly, the effectiveness of practice management change and, secondly, to enhance the confidence in modelled outcomes.

One of the challenges that many of the communities up and down the length of Queensland struggled with was having confidence in what was being shared with them in terms of the monitoring and the outcomes produced from the various reef projects. The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership turned that on its head. For the first time the community was actively involved in understanding water quality and other scientific quality readings and interpreting them and presenting them to the broader community in a way that the broader community could understand.

On the back of that success we then launched the Mackay-Whitsunday report card. That built on the Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Improvement Plan, and I understand that it is now called Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership. Again, that is a partnership between industry, including the agricultural industries, the mining industries, the ports, all levels of government, community representation and tourism. I understand that those report cards are now being utilised the length of the Great Barrier Reef. It was an initiative of the former LNP state government to implement those report cards. They have restored significant confidence, especially in the community, in understanding the scientific data that is produced.

I think there is a bit more work to be done. I listened to the contribution by the member for Gympie about understanding the effectiveness of practice management change. We know there is a lag, but I do not think that we are also measuring the right things. I also want to put on the record that the best management practice programs were implemented by the former LNP government. They were a huge success and far better than the stick approach that is being proposed by the current government.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 849, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.00 pm): I rise to strongly support this bill. This parliament will always take a strong stance against the threat of terrorism. That is why we went to the last election with a policy that was very similar to this legislation. We argued that there must be a presumption against bail for people charged with terrorist offences and, further, there should be the presumption against parole for those convicted of terrorist offences. It should give Queenslanders pause when they consider that it has taken the Labor Party two years to act on this issue. Still, this bill is before parliament now and, as a member of this parliament, I believe that the parliament needs to take a very strong stance against terrorism and parliament needs to be seen to be unflinching in this regard.

The mass murders in the New Zealand mosques were shocking in themselves, but I think they were doubly shocking to Australians because they were carried out by one of us. This was shocking not because we think we are somehow pure and incorruptible; it was shocking because Aussies have such a deep affection and regard for our Kiwi cousins. It was shocking because the terrorist was, for all intents and purposes, an Australian boy next door in a small town of Australia. It was shocking that he could lose his way into extremism with no-one to guide him back to the light and no-one to notice. It was shocking that he cold-bloodedly chose an attack on our friends in New Zealand as a way to demonstrate our vulnerability to attacks.

After such an attack, there is always debate about motivations and mental states, but the truth is that we may never know. What we do know is that we must stand up strongly against such attacks. This bill does that within the COAG national framework, which will ensure that all Australian jurisdictions have a consistent approach to preventing terrorist threats and prosecuting terrorist offenders. The bill implements an agreement made by the Council of Australian Governments that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity.


These presumptions are unusual in our justice system, but the phenomenon of terrorist attacks on civilians is unusual, both historically in the West and culturally in Australia. So alien is it that most Australians will react not just with grief and rage but also with anger and bafflement. We must look at the reality on the ground where we take our stand and we must start to work at once with the tools that come to hand. Better tools may evolve, but they will evolve only because we are making a stand.

The duty to defend our citizens and our way of life is sacrosanct. That means it must take precedence over the rights of an individual offender because, to do otherwise, is a risk for all of us. The need for a presumption against bail has created some concern among some in the legal profession, but I believe that most reasonable Queenslanders see the need to ensure public safety while the courts of justice grind their way through their process. The terrorist is not just an ordinary offender and it would be extremely foolish to free someone charged with such an offence when to do so creates the risk that they may escalate the offending or become a fugitive.

The other aspect of this bill that is unique is that it treats adults and children identically. This would appear to fly in the face of reforms to youth justice. In our courts there is usually a presumption in favour of bail when the person who is charged is a minor. This bill will reverse that and will also remove a judge's discretion in the matter of both bail and early release.

We must ask ourselves why the Council of Australian Governments has agreed to this measure. I believe that the answer lies in the very nature of terrorism itself. It does not rely on armies. It does not need expensive equipment. It does not need supply lines. It needs very little more than extremist belief and a little bit of know-how. It is digitally connected. It wears 100 different faces and uses 100 different modes of attack. This makes it very appealing to young people. Being Australian does not make our young people immune.

Some members who are parents may have come across the Australian author John Marsden's excellent series of young adult novels called *Tomorrow, When the War Began*. It tells the story of a group of Australian youth who form an underground resistance when Australia is invaded by an unnamed country. When you read it you find yourself thinking about the practical skills that the average 16- or 17-year-old Aussie kid brings to the table, especially those who grow up in the country. In an age of terrorism, those accurate observations by the author become chilling. The truth is that age is no real guide to the capabilities of the terrorist offender to create havoc. Against our natural sympathies, we must stand firm, letting terrorism be the exception in youth justice reform. The LNP makes no apologies for this stance against terrorist offenders. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. As we have already heard, the objectives of this bill are to support a national framework to ensure there is a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist threats and to implement the Council of Australian Governments—COAG—agreement that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole would be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity.

These objectives are achieved by reversing the statutory presumption in favour of bail for any adult or child offender who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is, or has been, subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code; creating a presumption against parole for prisoners who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are the subject of a control order as well as those who have promoted terrorism; giving the courts the discretion to fix a parole eligibility date rather than a parole release date for offenders with previous terrorist convictions and those who are subject to a control order, or who have promoted terrorism; removing the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date for a child that is any earlier than after serving 70 per cent of a period of detention; and to require conditions to be imposed on the supervised release of a child.

I note the work done by the committee in its assessment of this bill. I also note that the stakeholders who made submissions to the bill were, in most part, supportive of its objectives and methods of achieving them. The Bar Association of Queensland, the Parole Board, the Youth Advocacy

Centre, two academics from the Queensland University of Technology School of Law and the Queensland Law Society each recognise the government's responsibility to minimise the threat posed to the public by terrorism and offered some support to the bill.

On 9 June 2017, COAG agreed to ensure that there would be the presumption against the granting of bail and parole to persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity. Later that same year at a special meeting on counterterrorism, COAG agreed that the 9 June 2017 decision should be underpinned by a nationally consistent approach. It was at that meeting that it was agreed that close cooperation between Commonwealth and state agencies is the bedrock of our national counterterrorism effort.


Although we mourn the recent events in New Zealand, where an Australian born terrorist was responsible for unleashing his murderous rage on innocent victims, there is a real need to remain vigilant in our own backyard. We are not immune to this purge on our society—the actions of a few that wreak devastation on the lives of everyday hardworking men, women and children.

These amendments have been a long time coming and it is disappointing that this government has dragged its heels. New South Wales led the way in introducing new laws to provide greater protection to its citizens. It is disappointing that it has taken two years to strengthen laws in this state to protect our communities against terrorism. There is no greater fear in our society than the threat of terrorism and unprovoked violence against innocent individuals.

Queenslanders have a right to feel safe, to live in safe communities and to go about their daily lives without fear. There is no room for complacency in the ongoing battle against terrorism, an ideological warfare in our community. Some of the submissions did raise concerns around balancing the preservation of fundamental legal principles and infringing on individual rights and liberties. Terrorists, by virtue of their actions, forgo these rights and liberties just as they deny the rights and liberties of their innocent victims. The real question is whether or not the law itself is framed in a manner that addresses the ultimate human right to life. This must remain our highest priority.

Given the track record of this government and its lacklustre laws which protect the rights of offenders rather than victims, it is imperative that we strengthen our current legislation to ensure that we protect the community against these sorts of unprovoked and random attacks. Our laws must not only enshrine protection but also ensure swift and decisive punishment to those who threaten the safety of our community. Queenslanders deserve reassurance that their safety and that of their families is this government's No. 1 priority. That is why, as the custodians of our citizens' safety, we must send a very clear message to any would-be terrorist that they will be subject to penalties consistent with the crimes that they are committing. There is no room for sentences that do not meet community expectations or fail to deter would-be or repeat offenders.

Reversing the presumption against bail and parole signals our intent to deal swiftly and with purpose. These amendments are an important step in the process of strengthening the security of our state and its people. For too long this government has failed to listen, to act with purpose, intent and integrity, risking the safety of our communities. We can no longer accept political motivations or excuses. There must be a strong bipartisan approach. We must speak with one voice in order to try to shut down the threat of terrorism completely in this state. The parliament must take a tough stance on terrorism and reversing the presumption against bail and parole is one way to achieve this. Terrorism remains a major security challenge for Australia and that is why the LNP supports this bill which toughens Queensland's stance on terrorism.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.12 pm): I would like to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its detailed consideration of the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I, too, welcome the committee's recommendation that the bill be passed. We have all been talking about how shocking it is that even since this bill was introduced we have been faced with a terrible terrorist attack that is so close to home and so confronting for all of us. It has highlighted the even greater need for this legislation to be in place.

I thank those stakeholders in particular who made submissions to the committee and raised important questions about how these amendments may affect children and young people in the youth justice system. It is this in particular that I would like to speak to today. As the Attorney-General has outlined, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to introduce the first presumption against bail for children and removes the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date any earlier than the standard 70 per cent of a period of detention for the first time.

I will now speak to these amendments in more detail. For affected children, the bill makes changes that represent a departure from the way in which children are currently managed in the youth justice system. These amendments are driven by the unique and extreme risk to community safety that is posed by people, including children, who have demonstrated links to terrorist activity. The national threat level for terrorism remains at probable and it is important to make it clear that these amendments are not in response to any particular incident or threat. We are here because governments have a responsibility to do what they can to protect the community from terrorism.

The Council of Australian Governments has agreed to introduce presumptions against bail and parole for persons who have demonstrated support for, or who have links to, terrorist activity. The COAG commitment has been applied to children in Queensland to create, to the greatest extent possible, a nationally consistent bail and parole regime to counter the evolving threat of terrorism in Australia. This approach will ensure that no one jurisdiction is more vulnerable than another. Of those jurisdictions that have implemented the COAG commitment so far, all have applied the presumption against bail to children. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have applied the presumption against parole to children. Western Australia has indicated that a bill will be introduced in 2019 that deals with parole for people with links to terrorism. Tasmania has not implemented the presumption against parole for children.

I want to be very clear that these amendments are not intended to create a precedent for how other categories of child offenders should be managed in the youth justice system. This government is committed to an evidence based youth justice system that holds young people accountable for their actions in an age-appropriate way. We are focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for children and young people who are engaged in the youth justice system. We will continue to strengthen the prevention, intervention, restoration, rehabilitation and transition responses to offending by children and young people across Queensland. This is a key commitment in the *Working together changing the story: youth justice strategy 2019-2023* that I was very proud to release in December last year.

The number of children expected to be affected by the amendments in this bill is minimal. To date no child has been convicted of a terrorism related offence in Queensland. There are four ways that the bill will impact on children in the youth justice system: inserting new terrorism related circumstances into the existing list of matters to be considered by a court or police officer when determining whether a child should be granted bail; reversing the statutory presumption in favour of bail for both adults and children with links to terrorist activity; removing the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date any earlier than after a child has served 70 per cent of a period of detention for a child with links to terrorist activity; and requiring conditions that are reasonably necessary to reduce the risk of a child carrying out a terrorist act or promoting terrorism to be imposed as part of a supervised release order.

First, the bill will mean that, for all children who are involved in the youth justice system, when a police officer or a court is deciding whether to release the child on bail they must take into consideration any promotion by the child of terrorism or any association the child has or has had with a terrorist organisation or a person who has promoted terrorism. These matters will be taken into consideration by a police officer or a court when considering whether there is an unacceptable risk if the child is released on bail. For children, only associations that are for the purpose of supporting a person or organisation in carrying out a terrorist act or to promote terrorism are relevant matters for consideration. This recognises the vulnerability and lack of autonomy of children and makes a distinction between the associations an adult chooses to have and those a child may have. The bill provides that accidental or incidental association, such as through family relationships or religious or legal interactions, should not be considered to the detriment of the child.

Second, the bill reverses the presumption of bail for children in limited circumstances under the Youth Justice Act for the first time. The bill will amend the Youth Justice Act to reverse the statutory presumption in favour of bail for any child who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is or has previously been subject to a control order regardless of the offence they are charged with. Further, the bill limits the power to grant bail to a child who is subject to the reverse presumption to a court. A police officer will not be able to grant bail in these circumstances.


The bill introduces a higher threshold of exceptional circumstances to justify a court granting bail for a child who is subject to the reverse presumption. The term 'exceptional circumstances' is not defined and what satisfies this threshold will be determined by a court on a case-by-case basis. The bill further recognises the particular vulnerability of children by preserving the authority of a court to release a child without bail under the Youth Justice Act if the child satisfies the new exceptional circumstances test connected to the presumption against bail.

In Queensland there is no equivalent of adult parole for children. Instead, the Youth Justice Act provides for the automatic release of children after 70 per cent of their sentence has been served in detention. The remaining 30 per cent of a sentence is served in the community under a supervised release order that is monitored by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

When a young person is sentenced for an offence, the court may order an earlier release from detention if it considers that there are special circumstances. An earlier release order may be for release from detention after a child has served between 50 per cent and 70 per cent of the period of the detention. Decreasing the portion of time a young person spends in detention means they spend a longer period of supervised release in the community.

To give effect to the COAG commitment regarding a presumption against parole for children, the third impact for children is that the bill removes the discretion of a sentencing court to order an early release date for a child that is any earlier than the standard 70 per cent of a period of detention. This will apply for a child who has been previously found guilty of a terrorism offence, who is the subject of a control order or who has promoted terrorism. Courts will continue to have a range of sentencing options available to deal with children in a flexible way that is appropriate in the circumstances. This includes the discretion to set the duration of a detention order if a custodial sentence is warranted. The court can also combine a detention order with a community based order if it is of the view that a longer period of supervision in the community would benefit the child.

Finally, the bill requires the chief executive to include conditions that are reasonably necessary to reduce the risk of the child carrying out a terrorist act or promoting terrorism as part of a supervised release order. This will apply for a child who has previously been found guilty of a terrorism offence, who is the subject of a control order or when the chief executive is satisfied that the child has promoted terrorism. These amendments achieve the right balance for children in Queensland. The bill implements the COAG commitment in relation to children in a developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate way. The need to protect the community from the unique threat that is posed by persons who have demonstrated support for or who have links to terrorist activity is our highest priority. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Terrorist crimes have a devastating impact on victims, their loved ones and our society, and we have seen these tragic consequences in incidents over decades and most recently in the aftermath of the Christchurch massacre. I take the opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies to all New Zealanders, the Muslim community everywhere and everyone touched by this tragedy.

It is crucial that our criminal justice system is strong enough to prevent and deal with these crimes effectively. The effects of the bill before the House cannot be framed as a simplistic balance between the loss of individual liberties and presumed improvements in community safety. It is just not that simple. We must also consider the potential negative consequences of this kind of legislation that strips people of liberties in specific circumstances. What unintended consequences might this bill have in terms of the marginalisation and radicalisation of Queenslanders, especially children, who would otherwise be on the path to deradicalisation and reintegration?

In simple terms, this bill could well make Queenslanders less safe. The Greens cannot support it. We need to deal with terrorist crimes by reviewing and strengthening our existing legal system, not by creating a separate stream of laws that trash centuries of legal precedent. As legal experts from the University of Queensland submitted—

This bill does not fill a gap in Queensland's national security legislation. Queensland and the Commonwealth together have an extensive array of national security legislation including control orders, continuing detention orders and supervised or conditional release.

We have a robust criminal justice system, strengthened by centuries of legal precedents, which carefully balances rights to individual liberty with the need to protect the community. Bail, parole and avoiding retrospective laws are key features of our criminal justice system, and the reversal of the presumption of bail and parole is hugely significant.

This bill does several things, some of which are unnecessary, unfair and potentially dangerous. Firstly, it reverses the presumption in favour of bail for any adult or child who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is, or has been, subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. In those circumstances the accused person must satisfy a court that there are exceptional circumstances. Reversing the presumption of bail for children has never happened in Queensland before. Secondly, the bill reverses the presumption in favour of parole or early

release for persons who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are the subject of a Commonwealth control order as well as those who have promoted terrorism and in some other circumstances where the Police Commissioner suspects a person is likely to commit a terrorist offence. In those circumstances, parole can only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The bill makes similar changes to the regime for children by removing the discretion for a court to allow release from youth prisons before 70 per cent of their sentence is complete, no matter what offence they were imprisoned for. That change applies when a child has been previously convicted of a terrorism offence, has been subject to a Commonwealth control order or has promoted terrorism. The above changes apply to people accused of, or serving time for, any offence at all, not just terrorism offences. Terrorism, while dreadful, is a crime and should be dealt with in accordance with traditional legal principles. I have particularly grave concerns about the application of these changes to children and to a person who is or has been the subject of a Commonwealth control order.

Before I go on I would like to set the record straight on what the submitters to this bill actually said. I believe it has been said in this debate that the majority of submitters supported the bill. This is simply not the case. Out of five submitters, the Parole Board did not state their support but noted that particular logistical time frames were workable. Experts from the UQ Law School, the Bar Association, the Law Society and the Youth Advocacy Centre all opposed the bill in its current form. No submitter expressed support for the bill to pass as it stands, a fact which I am not sure any speaker in this debate has so far acknowledged, frankly.

The Attorney-General noted yesterday that 'this bill will reverse the presumption for bail for children under the Youth Justice Act for the first time'. This breaches the government's own Charter of Youth Justice Principles set out in the Youth Justice Act itself, not to mention the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Australia is a party under international law. The charter says that a child should only be detained in custody as a last resort. How can this be reconciled with a presumption against bail?

Our criminal justice system should always strive for and presume the possibility of rehabilitation, and this is particularly the case for children. There are far more meaningful ways to address the root causes of terrorism among young people. Submitters have very real concerns that heavy-handed treatment will undermine rehabilitation and risk re-radicalisation. For example, a child convicted of any offence can be denied early release from prison by a court on the basis of promoting terrorism. As the Youth Advocacy Centre noted, young people using social media are very vulnerable to accusations of supporting terrorism. That is based on their experience working with young people who have been charged with creating child exploitation material for sending a photo of themselves to another child. YAC noted—

Clearly, if there is a concern that children are involved in terrorism related activity, then action should be taken to address that, but it should focus on information and education for the child ... and an assessment of why and how the child is being so influenced ... Children (and adults for that matter) will be released from secure custody at some point: we would argue that the community is likely to be safer if we take this broader approach of addressing the issue rather than relying on locking them up for limited periods.

Control orders have existed in Commonwealth terrorism legislation since 2005 and can be issued with no criminal charge and no finding of criminal guilt. Indeed, they have been used in circumstances where a person is ultimately acquitted of terrorism offences or not even charged. Control orders are issued by the Federal Court on various grounds on the comparatively low civil standard of proof—that is, on the balance of probabilities rather than beyond reasonable doubt. Control orders can be issued if the court finds it would substantially assist in preventing a terrorist attack, that the person has engaged in training with a terrorist organisation or has been convicted of a terrorism offence anywhere in the world.

This bill would abrogate the rights of people currently or previously subject to a control order, even where they have never been charged with any offence, terrorist or otherwise. Under the regime set out in the bill, a judge will have limited discretion to take into account their current circumstances, the offences they are currently charged with and risk factors, as they normally would under present bail rules and conditions. There is a real risk that this will unjustly affect the subjects of control orders in years to come. As the Bar Association so eloquently put it—

... a full blown hearing over whether a person charged with urinating in public when drunk should receive bail because they were the subject of a control order 20 years ago seems unjust.

In another example, even more concerning, this bill would apply to a person who has never been charged with a terrorism offence but who was mistakenly suspected in the past and was subjected to a control order. If that person were later suspected, rightly or wrongly, of an unrelated offence, let us

say a drug offence, it would be almost impossible for them to obtain bail and, if convicted, to get parole. In communities, particularly Muslim communities, where marginalisation, overpolicing, poverty and the impacts of endless wars have driven a few people towards hateful radicalisation, we must show that the promise of civil liberties and freedom applies equally to all.

This bill runs the real risk of making Queenslanders less safe. As the Bar Association noted—

A person who has been sentenced and whose rehabilitation is progressing well could easily regard a justice system that ignores that progress when considering bail on a later offence unrelated to terrorism as a basis for reengaging with radical ideology as a result of perceived injustice.

Parole is a key plank of our system of rehabilitation, and as the Bar Association put it—

To disincentivise participation in rehabilitative programs in custody is likely to result in the release of prisoners who are not rehabilitated—and not motivated to rehabilitate—at the conclusion of their sentences.


Doctors Ananian-Welsh and Cherney of the University of Queensland suggested that to make the bill more proportionate—

It should be limited to people facing charges for a serious national security offence in the case of bail, or serving a sentence for a serious terrorism offence, in the case of parole. It should only apply to adults, as its application to children contravenes our international obligations. It should have a sunset clause of five years, with review of its operation at that time.

That last proposal is especially significant since national security laws are incredibly difficult to roll back—a fact that makes the shocking lack of scrutiny of this bill all the more concerning.

In conclusion, the opposition of the QLS and the Bar Association and almost every other submitter speaks volumes about the changes proposed in this bill, and it will be remiss of this parliament to overlook their concerns to blindly implement a rushed and ill-considered COAG agreement. It is difficult, in light of the submissions made opposing this bill, to take at face value the Attorney-General's assurances that the bill strikes the right balance. This bill's overreach must be checked if it is to enhance our national security laws. The bill in its current form should be opposed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next member, I would remind all members to conduct themselves in silence. If you need to have a conversation, please take it outside. There was too much audible conversation towards the end of that speech.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to address the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I abhor violence; I cannot stand it. I particularly abhor violence that is premeditated, calculated and determined to cause maximum impact, damage and media coverage with the sole purpose of putting fear into the hearts of our communities—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member. Pause the clock. There is too much audible conversation. If you need to have a conversation, take it outside.

Mr POWELL: It puts fear into our communities and terror into the hearts of individuals across the world.

My heart goes out to the people of Christchurch. My wife, Taryn, and I have visited there many times and spent many nights there. In fact, one of my wife's closest friends is a doctor who serves in the Christchurch Hospital. On the day of that event my wife sent her a text. She replied that she had been on shift all day. She had been on shift in the step-down facility of the emergency department. When the incident occurred they went into lockdown. Equally, her kids' school went into lockdown. At the time we got the text they had finally been released. That was 8.30 at night. She was spent. My understanding is that she had a small amount of sleep and then went back to the Christchurch Hospital.

It is not fair on this community. During the time we have spent with these friends we have spoken about the ongoing impact of the Christchurch earthquake and the scars that that has left not only on the physical landscape around Christchurch but also on each and every individual in that community. There are a lot of people still struggling to overcome the fear and feelings that that earthquake created. The people of New Zealand and of Christchurch are beautiful people. To then have to face what they faced in that calculated attack by an individual, who deserves to have the book completely and utterly thrown at him, is simply not fair.

I struggled to sit through the contribution we just heard from the member for Maiwar. I accept that there are long-held beliefs that things like bail and the presumption of innocence are important elements of our community, but that preceded a time when this kind of terror takes place. I am sorry, but I cannot support any element of the argument presented by the member of Maiwar, and indeed I support every element of this bill.

There are individuals—as we spoke about last night with regard to the child sex offender register—who are beyond rehabilitation and for whom the chance of recidivism is too high. Indeed, the threat of terror acts exceed the consideration of any human right. This individual must be treated accordingly.


The bill is based on the following. On 9 June 2017 the Council of Australian Governments, COAG, agreed that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity. This became known as the COAG commitment. The terrorist threat in Australia remains elevated. As we have seen from the events of recent weeks, it is ever-present. The cross-border nature of the threat of terrorism requires a national response to keep all Australians safe. As we have seen by the fact that the perpetrator in Christchurch is Australian, this issue transcends international borders and needs an international response. National consistency is important to support interoperability and cooperation in national efforts to prevent and respond to terrorist threats.

On 5 October 2017 COAG further agreed that implementation of the COAG commitment would be underpinned by agreed principles recognising the ongoing importance of national consistency in counterterrorism legislation and responses more broadly. The COAG commitment recognises the unique risks posed by a person with demonstrated links to terrorism. The amendments in the bill are significant departures from existing provisions and must be viewed as extraordinary measures to combat this unique risk to the community.

I again reflect on the contribution we just heard from the member for Maiwar. These are unique individuals who present unique risks. Those unique risks apply to our community as a whole. They cannot be dealt with through existing legislation. There is a genuine fear that if such persons were released on bail or on parole, the activity that police and other forces are attempting to prevent may come to pass.

Therefore, a number of principles have been agreed upon; that is, the presumption against bail and parole should apply to categories of person who have demonstrated support for, or links to, terrorist activities. High legal thresholds should be required to overcome the presumption against bail and parole. It is not just a case of them having to meet a threshold; those thresholds need to be extremely high to ensure that they cannot gain bail or parole. The implementation of the presumption against bail and parole should draw on and support the effectiveness of the joint counterterrorism team model. Implementing a presumption against bail and parole should appropriately protect sensitive information.

The men and women who serve on our front line in counterterrorism do an outstanding job. Our police at the federal and state level do an outstanding job. We are fortunate in Queensland that we have not to date, touch wood, experienced the kind of attacks that other cities in Australia and around the world have experienced. Therefore, I and my colleagues in the LNP are very comfortable in supporting these amendments to our laws to ensure those men and women on the front line, our police, have every power to ensure that any individual who has demonstrated a propensity or a link—any evidence that they could undertake a terrorist activity—is locked away so that those on the front line can continue to keep our community safe.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Terrorism remains a major security challenge for Australia, and from the outset I would like to advise the House of my support for this bill. While on my feet, I would like to send my deepest sympathies and those of my community of Bundaberg to New Zealand and the loved ones of those who recently lost their lives in the unimaginable event that took place just over a week ago.

I would also like to again commend the Bundaberg community for their amazing show of community spirit last Saturday. Hundreds of residents, including our political, school, church and emergency service community leaders, joined as one. We stood shoulder to shoulder with men, women and children from all across our great region to show our support for our Muslim community. It was a fantastic event that truly showcased our multicultural, multifaith community.

In order to protect our country, a national framework is paramount. This bill projects Queensland's support for a consistent national effort in preventing and responding to terrorist threats. The bill also strives to implement COAG's commitment that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, any terror related activity. These two major objectives are set to be implemented and achieved by making changes to a number of different elements of the legislation.

If passed, this bill will reverse the constitutional presumption which is currently in favour of bail for any adult or child offender who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is, or has been, subject to a control order under the Criminal Code. A new section, section 16A, will be inserted into the legislation which requires a court to refuse granting bail unless the court is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist. Any person charged with an offence potentially unrelated to terrorism but who has a previous conviction of a terrorism offence will be subject to this presumption.

The promotion of terrorism or association with terrorist organisations will also be added to the list of factors that comprise the unacceptable risk when a court is justifying refusal of bail. It is important to note, however, that the new section relates only to persons previously convicted of terrorism, disregarding those charged with terrorism offences.


The LNP will always support the strengthening of laws to guard against the risk of terrorist incidents occurring in Queensland and Australia. That is why we support the creation of a presumption against parole for prisoners who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are the subject of a control order as well as those who have promoted terrorism. This will ensure that those offenders with demonstrable links to terrorist activity are apprehended.

The presumption for parole is also reversed in circumstances where the Commissioner of Police provides a report to the Parole Board which identifies that there is a reasonable likelihood that a prisoner may carry out a terrorist act. If passed, the commissioner will be given the power to make a report involving a person charged with a terrorism offence. In particular, the Parole Board must refuse to grant the application unless the board is satisfied with the presented incomparable conditions.

The LNP makes no apologies for terrorist offenders who remain behind bars. The LNP is incredibly tough on crime, and we believe that the safety of residents should be at the forefront of any government policy. It is fantastic to see the government adopting the LNP's policy that we took to the last election which included those presumptions against bail and parole. It is just a shame that it has taken until now.

If passed, this bill will also make amendments to give the court the discretion to fix a parole eligibility date rather than a parole release date for offenders with previous terrorism convictions and those who are the subject of a control order or who have promoted terrorism in the past.

This bill also seeks to eliminate the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date for a child that is any earlier than after serving 70 per cent of a period of detention and will require conditions to be imposed on the supervised release of a child. The LNP supports stronger measures that will impact on children. Persons should always be held to account, despite their age. The safety of our community should always take priority and parliament must take a tough stance on terrorism. I thank the House for hearing my contribution. I support the passing of this bill.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.43 pm): The Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced on 13 November 2018 by the Attorney-General and makes changes to the Bail Act 1980, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Penalties and Sentences Act 2002 and the Youth Justice Act 1992. The reporting date back to the House was 7 March. Five submissions were received. They were from the Bar Association of Queensland, Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh and Associate Professor Adrian Cherney, the Parole Board Queensland, the Youth Advocacy Centre Inc. and the Queensland Law Society. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the department and secretariat on this bill. The only recommendation was that the bill be passed, and the LNP is in agreement.

There have been a number of bills introduced and passed in the Queensland parliament during my time as member for Currumbin. It is important to make mention of them here in order to appreciate the need for the legislation before us. In 2004 this House debated the Terrorism (Community Safety) Amendment Bill where I quoted from a 2003 paper entitled 'New Terrorism' that came through the Australasian Study of Parliament Group. Groups of the 'old terrorism' such as the Japanese Red Army, the Red Army faction and the Irish Republican Army had common threads. The motivation of these groups was mainly confined to national or local regional concerns to serve political agendas. The paper stated that the new breed of terrorism is exceedingly more violent and non-selective in its target groups and generally favours those with high symbolic value and broad international focus, with religious ideologies being the primary element. The paper further added that they have a desire to inflict mass casualties using technology for innovative planning.

Here we are 16 years on and we have a bill before us that involves a national approach to combatting the evil that is terrorism in all of its forms, forms which can occasionally continue to evade detection before despicable acts are committed. Fortunately, these acts are rare, and I have no doubt

that a number of events have been foiled due to the dedicated scrutiny and monitoring by staff in our federal and state crime prevention agencies. I would like to thank all who are engaged in efforts to keep us safe from harm for their efforts. I wholeheartedly agree with the Attorney-General's comments—

While the threat of terrorism is to be taken seriously, Queensland does remain a safe place to live and work.

However, it comes down to each of us to contribute to that safe environment and to be more aware of what is going on around us. I am constantly amazed how many people leave their vehicles unlocked and keys and valuables in plain sight of would-be thieves. It is no wonder car theft is up by 20 per cent. It is a known fact that terrorists frequently place bombs and other explosive devices in cars, so do not make it easy for them. In her introductory speech the Attorney-General explained—

The bill will implement the agreement of the Council of Australian Governments to ensure that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity—underpinned by nationally consistent principles to ensure there is a presumption against bail and parole in agreed circumstances across Australia.

Further—

The measures in the bill, while extraordinary, recognise that there should be a higher bar for the release of individuals who pose a higher risk to the safety of the community, whether that release be through bail or parole.

Committee report No. 30 of the 56th Parliament notes—

On 5 October 2017 COAG further agreed that implementation of the COAG commitment would be underpinned by agreed principles recognising the ongoing importance of national consistency in counter-terrorism legislation and responses more broadly.

The COAG commitment recognises the unique risks posed by a person with demonstrated links to terrorism. The amendments in the Bill are significant departures from existing provisions and must be viewed as extraordinary measures to combat this unique risk to the community.

The Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee, in consultation with each Australian jurisdiction, developed the following nationally consistent principles. First, the presumption against bail and parole should apply to categories of persons who have demonstrated support for, or links to, terrorist activity; second, high legal thresholds should be required to overcome the presumption against bail and parole; third, the implementation of the presumption against bail and parole should draw on and support the effectiveness of the joint counterterrorism team model; and, fourth, implementing a presumption against bail and parole should appropriately protect sensitive information.

This bill was introduced before the horror of the Christchurch massacre took place. I would like, as many other honourable members have done, to place on record my deepest sympathies to all those affected by this atrocious act of hatred and extend my sincere condolences particularly to those members of Muslim congregations who were engaged in prayer when this sickening attack upon defenceless men, women and children occurred. Aussies and Kiwis have very strong and binding connections. Our history shows that. Both of my children have Kiwi partners with parents living in their homeland. My thoughts have also been with them during this time of shock and grief.

Amendments to the Bail Act and Youth Justice Act will result in consideration of any promotion of terrorism by the person or any association the person has had with a terrorist organisation or another person who has promoted it. I do note the concerns raised by the Queensland Law Society and professors with regard to these amendments. I also note comments in the report that state—

The bill makes it clear that when considering promotion of terrorism any reference to a terrorist act includes a terrorist act that has not happened and is not limited to a specific terrorist act. The concept of promoting terrorism is used consistently through all legislation amended by the bill and requires more than accidental support for terrorist acts to be shown.

Australia's protection agencies—those responsible for terror alert status—have Australia's threat level remaining elevated. When it comes to acts of terrorism and those who plan and execute them, there should be no leniency; no weakening of laws. These acts are vile and repugnant.


Some submitters considered the bill a significant departure from legal principles, the infringement of individuals' rights and liberties unjustified, and that the bill departed significantly from the legal principles that underpin individual rights and liberties, but the general consensus was that government has a responsibility to minimise the risk to their communities from terrorism activities. Others were of the belief that existing legislative arrangements were sufficient and that amendments contained within this bill were merely codifying existing law.

September 11, 2001 changed the world forever. We all live in uncertain times and the extraordinary measures contained in this bill are warranted. Terrorism came frighteningly close to my family on 7 July 2005 when bombings ripped through the London Underground and on buses in the

heart of the city during the morning peak hour. Whilst writing this speech, vivid memories flooded back of that fateful day when our son lived in London. He had missed the train to work that morning but was spared as the train that he would usually catch was hit. This meant he also missed the bus that he usually caught after the train and was again spared as his regular bus was bombed. Watching the carnage, I felt so much sadness mixed with anger at this cruel act of hatred that killed innocent people, but I also felt a huge sense of relief and gratitude that my son was not amongst them.

The LNP's policy at the last election would have seen a presumption against bail and a presumption against parole introduced, and I have already mentioned that COAG agreed to these inclusions back in 2017. It has been mentioned by my colleagues that Labor could have been quicker to adopt stronger anti-terrorism laws that send a clear message to the people of Queensland that they can have confidence that not only the federal government but also the state government are working hand in hand and doing all they can to prevent attacks of a terrorist nature.

It would be naive to think that this type of hateful and destructive activity will be eradicated, and we all need to be more observant of our surroundings and vigilant in reporting suspicious behaviours. Governments have a responsibility to provide sufficient resources and tools to protect citizens from unforeseen attacks. Provisions in this bill will certainly add another layer of protection, but no doubt we will need more in the years ahead. In the meantime, though, let us stand together in our condemnation of terrorism in all its ugly forms and show some respect and understanding towards each other.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018 before the House. If you embrace terrorism and hence its actions and teachings, you by definition reject our way of life and the rights we are endowed with through a democratic system of government and society. You place yourself at odds with the fundamentals that govern this parliament, the judiciary and the people of this nation. Having done that, you forgo the protections ordinary citizens are entitled to. The caveat to that is the laws such as contained in the bill before the House need to be balanced and proportional to the threats they are targeted at. The committee's report at page 1 outlines the policy objectives of the bill as follows—

On 9 June 2017 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that 'there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity' ...

As a consequence of the COAG agreement, four principles were devolved, being (a) the presumption against bail and parole should apply to categories of persons who have demonstrated support for or links to terrorist activity; (b) high legal thresholds should be required to overcome the presumption against bail and parole; (c) the implementation of the presumption against bail and parole should draw on and support the effectiveness of the joint counterterrorism team model; and (d) implementing a presumption against bail and parole should appropriately protect sensitive information. Thus, in essence, the bill before the House covers questions of bail, parole and bail and release from detention for children and terror offences.

Other members of the House have dealt with the terms of the bill in some detail. I want to reflect on the roles of the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, people such as Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh and Associate Professor Adrian Cherney and others. They are critical to balance the ledger in a debate of this nature so that both sides of the argument are put forward and considered. They perform a role that often can put them at odds with public opinion. Ironically, it is sometimes the case that their function is to ensure that the same public who, if caught within the terms of a law of this nature, are given the best possible defence. Hence their input into consultation on bills of this nature and contribution at public hearings before they become law is paramount. The debate in this House would be poorer for that advice not having been given.

I therefore commend the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland and others referred to in the committee report and those who have made submissions for the work they have done. They have brought us to consider both sides of what are very difficult questions. They have brought us to the point where we have heard speaker after speaker comment upon the role they have played in the debate concerning the bill.


An example of that is the Bar Association's comment in relation to what is termed 'effective erosion of the presumption of innocence'. It states—

A grant of bail is a component of a civilised society's criminal justice system which arises out of an understanding of the importance of the presumption of innocence and the common law principles governing personal liberty.

There are similar comments throughout the committee report highlighting the necessity of the parliament to consider closely the implications of supporting this bill.

At the start I made the comment that if you embrace terrorism you reject the principles under which this society operates. You place yourself outside of what is seen as acceptable conduct. As a consequence, you run the risk of being dealt with in a severe manner. It cannot be denied that terrorism for a lengthy period of time has been a major threat to the principles of this House, to Queenslanders and to the nation. It is a sad reality that there are still people who are committed to the overthrow of our system of government and whom we must guard against. As a consequence, the House is left with no option but with a caution ringing in our ears by the bodies and people I have mentioned to pass this bill into law.

A final comment I would like to make is to remind members that not all laws of this nature result in the capture of the guilty. I refer to the case of Mohamed Haneef, a medical doctor and Indian national who was arrested at Brisbane Airport on 2 July 2007 in connection with the failed London bomb plot. He was held in jail for a period of 12 days before being charged with supporting a terrorist organisation. He was later released and charges dropped, but in the interim his visa was cancelled on character grounds—a decision on review that was found to be unlawful. Let us be mindful that the laws we pass have a significant impact on the lives of people, and we need to have a balance that there are protections so that people such as Dr Haneef are not caught in the system that can be seen as convicting them before they are properly and equitably dealt with by fair trial. Though I support the bill, I am also mindful that the balance needs to be struck such that the law does justice by both sides of the question. I support the bill.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Terrorism and terrorism activity continues around the world. It is a problem suffered in many countries and suffered by many people. Here in Australia and here in Queensland we must be ever vigilant to protect our community against people who would do us harm in the name of hate.

When terrorist activity happens at home or close to home, it hits us hard. My mum is a Kiwi and I have a large extended family in New Zealand and the events of the recent attack in Christchurch have hit them hard and hit me hard. I want to pass on my deepest sympathies and prayers to the people of New Zealand at this time—the victims, their families and all of those affected by this despicable act of hate. Those who seek to do us harm are often motivated by a warped ideology and hate, by a motivation often difficult to rehabilitate, by entrenched beliefs often that will never change and make them an ongoing threat to our community. That is why it is important to have the protections offered in the bill before the House today achieving the agreements of the Council of Australian Governments.


I noted the contribution by the member for Maiwar in terms of changing the way we deal with offenders, changing the way we deal with parole and bail, but our world has changed and therefore our responses must change. The presumptions against bail and parole that the bill offers recognise the difficulty in rehabilitating extremist views and recognise the ongoing danger a person, who by their past behaviour has shown terrorist association or acts, may pose to our community.

I note that the policy objectives of the bill include to support a national framework to ensure there is a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist threats and to implement the COAG agreement that 'there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity'. I will not go through the policy objectives of the bill. I am mindful of cutting down my contribution so others who are on the list can speak as we approach the guillotine again.

Five stakeholders made submissions to the committee. I recognise the member for Caloundra's contribution in relation to the importance of those contributions in putting the other side of the debate and having us consider what we are legislating here. I agree that the objections would under normal circumstances be quite valid. However, when it comes to terrorism and terrorist related activities, we are dealing with a new type of danger and it must be dealt with in a new type of way as agreed by COAG.

In relation to the presumption against parole, the BAQ, the QLS, Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh and Associate Professor Adrian Cherney raised concerns regarding the disincentivising effect of the presumption against parole created by the amendments to the Corrective Services Act. Their objections or concerns relate to the idea that a person may lose motivation to undertake rehabilitation and seek to reform if there is no incentive, such as earlier release from prison. Once again, these would be definitely valid concerns under normal circumstances, but COAG has recognised the difference in terror related activity and the special and ongoing danger that it poses. The safety of the public is paramount and the balance must be tipped in their favour in these instances.

The LNP supports this tough stance of keeping terrorists in prison longer for the safety of our communities. The bill is welcomed but it is long overdue. I have concerns about the time it has taken for this bill to come before the House. The Council of Australian Governments agreed to the presumption against bail and the presumption against parole back in 2017, but it has taken the government almost two years to act. Although the wheels of the government turn very slowly under Labor, it is good to finally see the agreed reforms come to the House. I support the bill as my colleagues on this side of the House do. I will leave my contribution there so that others can have a say.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I want to start by putting on record my condolences to the people and families of Christchurch who have suffered terribly in the recent terrorist attacks on local mosques. No individual should ever have to suffer such a violent act. No family should ever have to suffer the loss of a loved one through such a violent act. No-one should ever have to witness such a violent act. No house of faith should ever be the site of such a violent act, whether a mosque, church, temple or other sacred site. Through social media, the world should never have to view such a violent act.

I was approached by TV media for an interview about my view of the Christchurch terrorist act. I was approached in several capacities—as a politician, as someone who has worked professionally with Muslim people in Muslim majority countries and in Australia in my capacity in aid and development overseas, as a lecturer and academic in multiculturalism and intercultural relations, as a postgraduate researcher of Christian-Muslim relations, and as a Christian leader and a friend of Muslims. My response was this. We should ‘mourn with those who mourn’, quoting the Bible, Romans 12:15. Our first response should be to mourn the loss of human life and to mourn the suffering of individuals and families, and I do mourn with those who have suffered greatly and I continue to mourn. Now the work is underway to more fully understand what has happened in New Zealand, to learn lessons from it and for governments to review and strengthen legislation. In this regard, we support this legislation today as it moves toward making us safer here in Australia.

The policy objectives of the bill include: to support a national framework to ensure that there is a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist threats; and to implement the COAG agreement that there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or who have links to, terrorist activity. These objectives are achieved by: reversing the statutory presumption in favour of bail for any adult or child offender who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is, or has been, subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code; creating a presumption against parole for prisoners who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are the subject of a control order as well as those who have promoted terrorism; giving a court the discretion to fix a parole eligibility date rather than a parole release date for offenders with previous terrorism convictions, and those who are the subject of a control order or who have promoted terrorism; and removing the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date for a child that is any earlier than after serving 70 per cent of a period of detention and to require conditions to be imposed on the supervised release of a child.

Terrorism remains a major security challenge for Australia, which is why the LNP supports this bill which toughens Queensland’s stance on terrorism. We will always support tough measures to guard against the risk of a terrorist incident here in Queensland. This is why we took a policy to the last state election which included a presumption against bail and a presumption against parole. COAG agreed to the presumption against bail and the presumption against parole back in 2017. I note that as others have.


The parliament must be seen as taking a tough stance on terrorism, and reversing the presumption against bail and parole is one way to achieve this. I note that comment has been made about the impact on FLPs and, in my view, in the context of terrorism it is warranted, but a word of caution. In terms of applying strong laws, we must always be careful that what we do and how we do it is just and appears to be just. I say that because our enemies—those who would radicalise others—look for opportunities to claim that Western democracies do not treat Muslim people fairly. They seek to exploit the appearance of any form of injustice and to use that appearance to propagate their radical and violent messages.

Strong laws, even ones that may breach FLPs, could be used to tip the scales in favour of jihadists who seek to radicalise two particular groups of people. The first are second generation young Muslim Australians who can feel sometimes that they have missed out on the opportunities that a Western democracy should have brought them. Their parents have come from often Muslim majority countries with a great hope of opportunity here in Australia, and they have not sometimes seen the full

opportunities flow to their children, to the second generation. That is a problem. Poverty, a lack of jobs and a whole range of other areas feed into that. They may get the appearance that the system is unjust towards them.

The second group is young non-Muslim Australian converts to radical jihadist violent forms of Islam. Radical groups target young non-Muslim Australians in the juvenile and adult justice systems in particular. They present their simplistic, idealistic, violent form of faith as a lifestyle that will help these already often violent young offenders. They are two areas of warning and two areas where we need to be careful to be seen to be just. I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had over the last several years to work with Islamic councils and to talk with them about how we work with those who are being radicalised in our justice system, and that is an ongoing issue.

Terrorism in all its forms is a scourge on our society, whether from white supremacists or jihadi Islamists, whether mass events or lone wolf attacks. Violence is no way to solve the problems between people and societies. I call on all people of goodwill to work harder to resolve differences in a peaceful manner. We must also protect the freedoms of our way of life. Having travelled the world and worked in many countries, I have come to the conclusion that we have one of the best multicultural societies in the world. Our Judaeo-Christian foundation of loving one's neighbour as oneself, friendship and mateship, acceptance, forgiveness and the strength of the family unit among other Christian values have made our nation great. In our tolerance and acceptance of others we must still keep our guard up to fend off and thwart the actions of extremists and terrorists, whether homegrown or from outside, who mean us harm. I support the bill.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. From the outset I would like to place on record my condolences and offer support on behalf of the constituents of the electorate of Moggill to the people of Christchurch and New Zealand following the heinous and frankly unimaginable act of terror carried out just a fortnight ago. I would also like to support the sentiments expressed in this House, particularly by our Speaker in correspondence with the Rt Hon. Trevor Mallard MP, the Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives. While the rivalry between Australians and our friends across the Tasman Sea can often reach historic proportions, particularly on the Rugby field, I am proud to say that it has always been good natured and there is far more that unites the great people of New Zealand and Australia than has ever, or will ever, divide us.

It is a sad reality that we live in a time when terrorism, be it here or abroad, is a constant, ongoing concern. Terrorism does not discriminate. By its very nature it is designed to cause the greatest amount of harm, sow countless seeds of hate and inflict as much pain as possible on victims, families and various communities. As legislators and as citizens we must forever be vigilant and ensure that the darkness of terrorism never receives even a slither of light to allow it to flourish. Particularly as legislators, we must do all we can to ensure that those tasked with keeping us safe from such vile acts of hate have every strategy and tool available at their disposal.

To that end, this bill before the House will support a national framework to ensure a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist threats, implementing a commitment that was made by the Council of Australian Governments in 2017. By way of further background, following the commitment that was reached at COAG in 2017, the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee developed nationally consistent principles in consultation with each Australian jurisdiction. Principle 1 is that the presumption against bail and parole should apply to categories of persons who have demonstrated support for, or links to, terrorist activities. Principle 2 is that high legal thresholds should be required to overcome the presumption against bail and parole. Principle 3 is that the implementation of the presumption against bail and parole should draw on and support the effectiveness of the joint counterterrorism team model. Principle 4 is that implementing a presumption against bail and parole should appropriately protect sensitive information.

Under this legislation, the policy objectives are achieved by a number of mechanisms. Given the time remaining, I will not outline all of those. In achieving these objectives, I note in report No. 30 of the parliament's Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that—

Advice from the Department was that stakeholders that responded generally recognise the responsibility of government to minimise the risk to the community posed by terrorism, but consider such laws must be balanced against the preservation of fundamental principles of law and infringe on rights and liberties only to the extent that is necessary.

Such reservations by stakeholders have been canvassed well, both in the committee's report and by many members who have contributed to the debate already today. However, I will say this. I agree that it is never easy to propose or enact laws that may infringe on citizens' rights and liberties.


We rightfully take pride in our great institutions and freedoms that ensure our state and nation is one of the great free societies and democracies the world has known. However, as I said earlier, terrorism does not discriminate and the constant threat and challenges it poses means we must be ever vigilant.

That is why we on this side of the House support this bill, which toughens Queensland's stance on terrorism. Equally, the Liberal National Party will always support tough measures which guard against the risk of a terrorist incident in Queensland. We make no apologies for holding those who seek to do us the greatest harm to account. In fact, I must highlight that it was the Liberal National Party that took a policy to the last state election which included a presumption against bail and a presumption against parole which, pleasingly, we see in this bill today. That was in 2017. As I said at the start of my speech, this bill implements a commitment that was made by COAG in 2017. We are now in 2019 and so Queenslanders have every right to demand why it has taken nearly two years for the Labor Party to act—two years in which Queenslanders have had to wait for the Palaszczuk Labor government to ensure Queensland honours its commitment to support a national framework and ensure a consistent national effort. When it comes to community safety, national security and, ultimately, combatting terrorism, we cannot afford to have a government that suffers from inertia.

In closing, I want to restate the LNP's unapologetic commitment to protecting our community and doing all that we can to extinguish terrorism. My views on terrorism and terrorism related offences since first being elected in 2017 have been clear and consistent. I would like to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, including my colleagues the member for Southern Downs and member for Lockyer, for their consideration of this bill; the LNP's shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice and the LNP's shadow minister for police and counterterrorism for their contributions; and, of course, the fine men and women of our national security agencies, our counterterrorism units, our police, and federal and state law enforcement agencies for their continued efforts in keeping all Australians safe from the threat of terrorism.

In my remaining time can I also say that, in order to tackle terrorism and some of the violence that we are seeing in relation to people from various faiths and cultures, we certainly need leadership, and we need bipartisan leadership. It was a pleasure to attend the Harmony Day reception on Tuesday night that was held here and see the leadership from both sides of politics. The event was hosted by the Premier and attended by the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs as well as the Leader of the Opposition and many other members of parliament. Unless we have respect and tolerance, particularly for people of various faiths and backgrounds, unless we work together as legislators in this place and as community leaders and work with community organisations and those groups as well to foster that respect, that compassion and that tolerance, we run the real risk of having further disharmony and issues that arise not only in communities here in Queensland but also across Australia. I believe it is very important that we collectively and collaboratively work together to do that. I pay respect to the Harmony Day reception that was held the other night and the many people from different faiths and backgrounds who attended it.

In conclusion, I support the bill that is before us today. I am sure that it will contribute, in part, to keeping our communities safe right across Queensland.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.18 pm): I rise also today to speak in support of the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill. At the outset I, too, want to add to the condolences that have been passed on by many of us in the House over the last day or so to the people of Christchurch. There are many Kiwis who live in the electorate of Southport. In fact, at last count there were about 8,000 who live in Southport. Southport and Bonney share the Arundel mosque, so we also have a large Muslim community within our combined electorates.

It is incredibly sad to try to comprehend the absolute horror that occurred in Christchurch some 10 days ago. I know that it has obviously had a huge impact not only on the people of Christchurch but many people around Australia and New Zealand. The news of this has travelled to most parts of the world, and many people are very sad that this is the world we have come to know.

This bill supports a national framework to ensure a consistent national effort to prevent and respond to threats of terrorism. It also implements COAG's recommendation that there be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or who have links to, terrorist activity. What I find interesting is how long it has taken the government—the Labor Party—to do anything about COAG's recommendation. The Council of Australian Governments agreed to the presumption against bail and the presumption against parole back in 2017, but it has taken nearly two years to act on it. On this side of the House, the LNP knows

that terrorism is one of Australia's major security challenges. That is why the LNP took a policy to the last state election that included a presumption against bail and a presumption against parole, which has taken up until now to act upon. The LNP supports toughening Queensland's stance on terrorism, which is why we support the bill.

The policy objectives of this bill are achieved through a number of legislative mechanisms. The first is reversing the statutory presumption in favour of bail for any adult or child offender who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who is, or has been, subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. This will require a court to refuse to grant bail unless the court is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist to justify granting bail. A person charged with an offence possibly unrelated to terrorism, but who has a previous conviction for a terrorism offence, would be subject to the presumption against bail. Promotion of terrorism or association with terrorist organisations is also added to the list of factors that comprise an unacceptable risk justifying the refusal of bail.

The bill also creates a presumption against parole for prisoners who have been convicted of a terrorism offence or who are the subject of a control order as well as those who have promoted terrorism. This means that offenders with demonstrable links to terrorist activity will be captured by the reforms. The presumption for parole will also be reversed in circumstances where the Commissioner of Police provides a report to the Parole Board identifying a reasonable likelihood that a prisoner may carry out a terrorist act. The Parole Board must refuse to grant the application unless the board is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist to justify granting the application.

The bill also amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to give the court the discretion to fix a parole eligibility date rather than a parole release date for offenders with previous terrorism convictions and those who are the subject of a control order or who have promoted terrorism. The bill will also remove the discretion of a sentencing court to order a release date for a child any earlier than after serving 70 per cent of a period of detention and to require conditions to be imposed on the supervised release of a child.

I note that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, which examined this bill, recommended that the bill be passed. I would like to thank my LNP colleagues the member for Southern Downs and the member for Lockyer as well as the other members of the committee for their hard work in assisting the House with its deliberations on this bill. I also note that the majority of stakeholders who made a submission to the committee supported the bill and recognised the government's responsibility to minimise the risk to the community posed by terrorism.

We on this side of the House will always support tough measures which guard our fellow Queenslanders against the risk of a terrorist incident. The Labor Party needs to come into this chamber and justify to Queenslanders why it has taken so long to strengthen legislation to protect them against dangerous terrorists. We know that the Labor Party is weak on crime. You only have to look at their track record in this place to see just how weak they are when it comes to protecting Queenslanders from crime. My Gold Coast colleagues will remember how the Labor Party watered down the LNP's tough organised crime laws, welcoming back the bikies to the 'glitter strip' with open arms. My electorate of Southport does not want to return to the bad old days of bikies running cartels across the Gold Coast.

We have also seen the Labor Party's slashing of Gold Coast police numbers, and I alluded to this a little bit last night in the five o'clock debate. This is the same police force that we rely on to keep our communities safe. Under the Labor Party we have seen more than 40 police officers disappear from the Gold Coast despite our rapidly increasing population. It seems to the Labor Party that more people equals fewer police, so if you increase the population you decrease the size of the police force.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118 on relevance.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I draw the member back to the long title of the bill.

Mr MOLHOEK: I can assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that my community knows that the LNP can be trusted to keep them and their families safe. This legislation is well overdue. The LNP supports the presumption against bail and the presumption against parole and makes no apologies for trying to keep terrorist offenders behind bars. Terrorism is a scourge on our society. Those who perpetrate its crimes commit terrible atrocities while striking fear into the hearts of our communities.

A few years ago on September 11, when we saw that terrible act of terror in New York, we saw what an incredible impact acts of terror can have on the stability of our society and our way of life. Nearly 3,000 people were killed and over 6,000 people were injured. There was billions of dollars' worth

of damage to infrastructure and property, and subsequently many more people died from cancer related and respiratory diseases. I had the privilege of standing at ground zero only a few short months after that horrific act. It is a struggle to put into words the overwhelming sense of emotion that I experienced in that place and the conversations that we had with families and survivors of those attacks even a year or two on from the event. Subsequently, on my many return visits to the United States the events of that day still have a huge impact on morale and the sense of security that families feel.

In closing, I do not think we can understate what the people of Christchurch must be feeling at this time. It is one thing to endure an earthquake—and I have had the pleasure of visiting Christchurch on many occasions as I have friends there—but when something happens that is not an act of nature or an act of God, when something comes completely out of the blue, undeserved and unprovoked, we as members of parliament must stand against this. We must speak out in the strongest possible terms. We must pass laws and give our officers and police the powers they need to intervene and do all things reasonable to protect our society and our way of life. As legislators and leaders, we have to do everything in our power to battle terrorism and keep offenders in prison where they belong. This parliament must be seen as taking a tough stance on terrorism, and the passage of this bill is one way to achieve that.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I do not oppose this bill, however, I would like to raise a point that the minister may care to address: what denotes terrorism? Many people would link terrorism to people with bombs or guns who have radical ideas in relation to a political ideal or a religious view and who seek to impose that view on others against their will. That, to me, brings into question our moral principles and our attitudes to tolerance.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said—

Moral principles do not depend on a majority vote. Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong. Right is right, even if nobody is right.

Again Venerable Sheen said—

Tolerance is an attitude of reasoned patience towards evil—a forbearance that restrains us from showing anger or inflicting punishment. Tolerance applies only to persons, never to truth.

...

Tolerance applies only to persons, but never to principles. Intolerance applies only to principles, but never to persons.

We live in a world where acts of terrorism are nearly a daily event somewhere. The question is: what are we doing about it? I think this bill has the best intentions to try to further protect our citizens from terrorist threats.

Recently we have seen activists invade a feedlot business—I repeat for the benefit of those opposite, in particular agriculture minister Mr Furner: a feedlot business—on the Darling Downs and incite their political view and ideals whilst flagrantly breaking the law and against the wishes of the owners. Are they terrorists? No, perhaps not. I do not deny people the right to protest, but in doing so I take great exception to them breaking the law. Why is it that the law does not seem to apply? Are we too tolerant? What are our moral principles? If just one of those people were to introduce an exotic disease to Australia, for example, foot-and-mouth disease, that would bring the grazing industry in Australia to its knees. In my view, that would be an act of environmental terrorism. It is time we applied the full force of the law to these people who knowingly break the law. It is in my view an issue that needs our most urgent attention as lawmakers before it manifests itself into a huge problem. I support the intention of this bill and for the moment rest my comment on terrorism.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): In accordance with the business program agreed to by the House, the question is that the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Question put—That clauses 1 to 35 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 35 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.


Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Transfer of Responsibilities, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.32 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, that the committee responsible for reporting on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill be varied from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee and that the committee report by 13 May 2019; and to vary the reporting date for the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill from 12 April to 26 April 2019.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's report No. 15 of 2018-19 titled *Follow-up of oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools* be referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 19 September 2018 (see p. 2585).

Second Reading

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This legislation modernises economic development and planning legislation in Queensland and supports job creation. I begin by acknowledging the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's report on the bill tabled on 8 November 2018 and note that the government's response was tabled on 6 February 2019. I also take the opportunity to table an erratum to the bill's explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, erratum to explanatory notes [\[434\]](#).

I thank the committee for its consideration and close scrutiny of the bill. I know that the committee made five recommendations to the House, including that the bill be passed. The government notes recommendation 1, that the bill be passed.

Recommendation 2 relates to the establishment of a local consultative committee for provisional priority development areas, provisional PDAs, that includes a representative from local government. The government supports this recommendation, and I will later move amendments during consideration in detail to address this matter. The amendments will require that where a provisional PDA is declared the Minister for Economic Development Queensland, MEDQ, will appoint a consultative committee as soon as is practicable after the provisional PDA declaration. The purpose of the committee will be to provide local input in decision-making through representation from the local government as well as other entities and the local community affected by development in the provisional PDA. The amendments will prescribe that the functions of the committee will be to advise on the impact or potential impact of development in the provisional PDA and community needs and expectations.

A local consultative committee will provide a significant new opportunity for local input in decision-making for provisional PDAs. I am pleased to make these additional amendments to the bill in response to the committee's recommendation. This process will formalise the kind of approach

Economic Development Queensland used with the Oxley community for the Oxley PDA. This process involved an initial broad-based consultation to understand the community's values, preferred site uses, concerns and potential opportunities, and included establishing a community panel to inform the development outcomes in the PDA.

Recommendation 3 of the committee report seeks clarity that PDA exemption certificates will not have a detrimental effect on the cultural heritage significance of Queensland heritage places. I would like to respond by saying that in PDAs the MEDQ has responsibility for managing proposed development of Queensland heritage places. Accordingly, Queensland heritage places are considered when preparing development instruments under the Economic Development Act 2012, the ED Act, and also when assessing development applications involving Queensland heritage places.

This consideration of cultural heritage will be extended to any request for a PDA exemption certificate and is provided for in the bill through the requirement for the MEDQ to consider any relevant state interests in deciding whether to issue a certificate. The provisions also clarify that a PDA exemption certificate may be given, subject to stated requirements. This provides for any necessary requirements to be imposed to protect Queensland heritage places should MEDQ decide that the circumstances warrant a PDA exemption certificate. On this basis, I can confirm that exemption certificates will not have a detrimental effect on the cultural heritage significance of Queensland heritage places.

Recommendation 4 of the committee's report recommends that during this speech I clarify the powers for investigation and enforcement of PDA development offences under clause 102 of the bill and outline the need for such powers. I am pleased to provide this clarification to ensure that committee members and other honourable members have comfort that the powers for investigation and enforcement of PDA development offences are appropriate, relevant and necessary.

Investigation and enforcement are critical elements of a robust and orderly planning system. They provide a way for the government to protect the community and environment if there are contraventions or offences committed under the act; for example, carrying out development without a permit or not complying with the conditions of a development approval. Under the current ED Act, the only option for dealing with a development offence relating to protection of a heritage matter in the Bowen Hills PDA, apart from less powerful administrative action, was to progress the matter to the Planning and Environment Court. This caused costs and delays that could have been avoided if EDQ was able to take a more direct enforcement action approach, such as issuing a show cause notice to the developer, without having to go to court.

These new powers will provide the scope to deal with these matters in a timely and efficient manner. However, the current provisions and powers for investigation and enforcement under the ED Act are considered inefficient and not as comprehensive or contemporary as those used by local governments under the Planning Act 2016 despite the ED Act delivering a comparable system for regulating development. The bill aims to improve on enforcement powers in the act to manage compliance efficiently and effectively and further protect the community.

The current inspectors' powers in the ED Act derived from the Local Government Act only and do not provide for action to be taken in relation to development offences. It is not correct as stated in the statement of reservations that the inspectors' powers proposed by the bill can only be exercised by police under a warrant. These powers are available to local governments to deal with development offences under the Planning Act and are considered necessary to protect the community's interests. The bill seeks to apply the enforcement provisions of the Planning Act, including those related to local government inspector powers.

The Planning Act investigation and enforcement provisions were reviewed by the former Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee in its inquiry into the planning bills in 2015. The parliamentary committee, local government and industry stakeholders did not raise any objections to the Planning Act investigation and enforcement provisions which are now proposed to apply to the ED Act. I trust that this provides the committee and members of this House with certainty that these additional powers are important, relevant and necessary to provide for a robust regulatory system under the ED Act.

Recommendation 5 of the committee report recommends that the department correct a typographical error in clause 190 of the bill, which amends new section 79 of the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016. The government supports this recommendation and I will move amendments during consideration in detail to correct the error.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Building Queensland Act 2015, the Economic Development Act 2012 and other acts consequential on the operation of the ED Act, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 and repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004. I also want to thank the community for participating in the committee inquiry through the public submissions process.

Turning now to the Building Queensland Act, the amendments to the Building Queensland Act 2015 stem from the recommendations of an independent expert review of Building Queensland and the Queensland government's response to the recommendations. Building Queensland was established as a statutory body in December 2015. As with many newly established statutory bodies, the government decided that there should be a review of Building Queensland's operations after 12 months to ensure it was being effective. A national infrastructure advisory firm, E3 Advisory, was appointed to conduct the review. A report authored by Dr Peter Wood was prepared and the report was completed in May 2017. The review considered Building Queensland's functions and activities, its compliance with legislative requirements and its governance arrangements. Both the review report and the government's response to the recommendations are published on my department's website.

Part of the government's response requires three amendments to the Building Queensland Act. One amendment is an adjustment to the threshold for business cases that Building Queensland is required to lead and the other two amendments change the frequency of publication of the infrastructure pipeline report to annually and also allow for government Building Queensland board members to nominate a proxy for a single board meeting. Key infrastructure stakeholders were consulted about these amendments before the bill was introduced into the House. They included the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, Engineers Australia, the Queensland Major Contractors Association, Consult Australia, the Civil Contractors Federation, the Asset Institute, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia, the Property Council of Australia, the Urban Development Institute of Australia and Construction Skills Queensland. I am pleased to report to the House that none of these stakeholders raised any concerns about the amendments.

The Property Council of Australia said about the proposal to reduce the frequency of publishing the infrastructure pipeline report—

... the amendment to change the frequency of the Infrastructure Pipeline Report to align with the annual release of the State Infrastructure Plan will make the service more efficient and is also supported.

As I have already noted, this review is on the public record and was also provided to the committee during its consideration of the bill. Building Queensland will continue to update the community, including the infrastructure community, about the status of projects and new projects being added to the pipeline.

The bill also makes minor changes to the Economic Development Act. This is the Economic Development Act that was initiated, drafted and passed by the parliament during the term of the Newman LNP government. It was, of course, supported by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Glass House. It was also supported by the members for Everton, Kawana, Maroochydore, Chatsworth, Burdekin, Burleigh and Broadwater, and that includes both members for Broadwater—the current member for Broadwater in his then capacity as the member for Mundingburra and of course that icon of the 54th Parliament, the long lamented Miss Verity Barton.

Amendments to the Economic Development Act 2012, or ED Act, will improve its operation within the current frameworks established by the ED Act for facilitating economic and community development in the state and I thank the honourable members opposite for their support for this. These frameworks include the processes for declaring PDAs and for the planning and management of development within these areas. I repeat that this is the Economic Development Act that was initiated, drafted and passed by this parliament during the term of the Newman government. The framework, including the processes for declaring PDAs and for the planning and management of development within these areas, is very important. The bill does not propose to change the purpose of the ED Act or its fundamental processes. The ED Act has proven to be effective in delivering economic and community development in many parts of the state.

Proposed amendments to the ED Act, including amendments for consideration in detail, reflect the government's firm commitment to consultation when undertaking processes and making decisions under the ED Act. Increasingly, PDAs are being seen by local governments as a planning tool to realise their own local goals. Nine of the 14 PDAs declared since the ED Act commenced have been made at the request of local councils. These are PDAs that stretch from Townsville to the Gold Coast and include

the Mackay Waterfront PDA, the Maroochydore City Centre PDA, the Southport PDA and the Townsville City Waterfront PDA. I value an ongoing and productive working relationship with councils where PDAs are a feature of the planning landscape.

For example, when declaring provisional PDAs, a mandatory consultation process has been introduced for a draft provisional land use plan. The plan is finalised three months after declaration. While the plan is a draft, a decision cannot be made on development that would be inconsistent with the planning scheme. This maintains the status quo until the provisional land use plan is finalised. However, the provisions for declaring PDAs have unnecessarily constrained the creation of these short-term PDAs to the point that none have been declared since the ED Act, as drafted by the Newman LNP government, came into effect.

I need to make it clear that the provisions for provisional PDAs are different from those that apply to other types of PDAs. In particular, the requirement that the implementation of the local planning scheme must not be compromised does not acknowledge that the local planning scheme may no longer reflect the best use of the land or community expectations. For example, the former school site at Oxley may have lent itself to a provisional PDA because it is not a particularly complex proposal and a provisional PDA may have enabled community outcomes to be delivered more quickly. The bill and amendments for consideration in detail strike an important balance between providing new opportunities for local government and community input and delivering a streamlined plan-making process.

The bill also provides for PDA boundaries to be amended to correct drafting errors and to reflect changed priorities. For example, the bill provides for minor amendments to the boundary of a PDA in limited circumstances. The ED Act does not currently allow any changes to a PDA boundary, but if a minor error has been made—perhaps in relation to the alignment of the boundary along a road, or the PDA boundary cuts to a parcel of land—this creates situations where one parcel of land is administered under two different jurisdictions. Where a significant boundary change is required, the bill allows for this through the establishment of a replacement PDA using the usual PDA declaration process. This will include community consultation on the proposed development scheme for the new PDA. Currently, the ED Act does not provide for these situations. A PDA only can be returned to administration under the local government planning scheme.

The bill provides greater flexibility around planning time frames for PDAs and their instruments, including the option to extend the life of an interim land use plan from one year up to a maximum of two years. This option provides for the situation where there are known significant planning and infrastructure at declaration that would benefit from a longer development scheme preparation time. The decision about a longer period may be made only at the time of declaration, not at a time after the period has started.

The bill also includes amendments that provide for more effective development assessments in PDAs, including with respect to managing PDA development applications, provisions for infrastructure agreements and interaction with other acts, such as the Building Act 1975 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. New requirements around information requests and notification of applications will provide clarity and greater certainty for the applicant about the status of an application.

The bill refines the provisions for when PDAs cease. PDAs will cease either at the end of three years for a provisional PDA or by a revocation regulation once there is no longer a need for the ED Act to be utilised to achieve government objectives. Amendments to the ED Act will improve an administrative matter in relation to consumer disclosure statements under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997. This will not impact on consumer protection. Furthermore, requirements for public thoroughfare easements under the Local Government Act 2009, the City of Brisbane Act and the Land Titles Act 1994 have been amended. I also want to confirm that this does not affect the rights of the local government as the landowner to grant the easement. However, it provides the opportunity for a developer to provide high-quality public spaces at their cost that would otherwise be unavailable or at the cost to the community.

Amendments to the Planning Act 2016 will address operational matters arising since its commencement in July 2017. There is broad support for the proposed amendments, which respond to a number of key matters raised by the courts, councils and industry practitioners. Over the last year, the courts and industry practitioners have made clear that the requirement for a submitter appellant to notify other appellants of the appeal is simply not working. It is proposed that this requirement be removed as there are already effective ways for a submitter to stay informed of appeals, such as the Planning and Environment Court appeals information on the department's website. Importantly, removing this requirement does not change a person's ability to access appeals information.

The bill also removes a barrier in using electronic forms for notification of certain planning and development assessment documentation, which is strongly supported by councils in particular. I take the liberty of quoting the submission provided by Cairns Regional Council, which states, 'This amendment has the potential to result in both a significant time and cost saving.' In planning and development assessment, local government sometimes needs to provide many pages of printed documents to numerous recipients. The time, resources and costs associated with printing and postage of hard copies is not always pragmatic in this electronic age. The amendments propose to remove the limitations on the electronic service of documents while specifying that hard-copy documents may still be requested and must be provided as soon as practically possible.

Infrastructure charges are an important aspect of development assessment and decision-making in Queensland. Local governments rely on the ability to levy infrastructure contributions from developers to provide the necessary services to our communities across the state. The background of these amendments largely arises from a recent court matter in which certain infrastructure charges notices were considered to be invalid because they did not adequately meet the requirements to give the reasons for a decision under the SPA. This has created uncertainty about the validity of infrastructure charges notices issued by councils across the state and opens the door for developers to retrospectively recoup charges already paid to councils under the SPA regime since 2014.

The financial risk and uncertainty for local governments, industry and community are too great not to progress the proposed amendments. The bill restores certainty in the operation of the infrastructure charging framework for councils, the community and industry by validating certain infrastructure charges notices issued under the repealed Sustainable Planning Act to the extent that they did not adequately include reasons. To be clear, the bill will not make a charge valid where it may be flawed for any other reason.

The amendments also confirm that actions that have occurred or will occur in relation to the recovery or payment of the levied charge under those particular infrastructure charges notices are valid. The infrastructure charging regime has been in place for several years and was subject to extensive industry consultation during development. The industry has known that it was expected to pay infrastructure charges and has routinely been levied for, and paid, those charges to councils. It is an expectation of, and costed into, development in Queensland. That is why key industry stakeholders such as the Queensland branch of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Queensland branch of the Planning Institute of Australia and Queensland Law Society support the proposed amendments. The validation of these particular infrastructure charges notices clarifies that the technical omission of reasons means that ratepayers would not be forced to subsidise the cost of providing infrastructure and councils will not need to defend court actions by developers on the basis of a technicality.

The Planning Act already clearly sets out the requirements of an infrastructure charges notice, including how the charge has been worked out and appeal rights. However, the bill also introduces a provision that infrastructure charges notices must state any other matter prescribed by regulation. This is an opportunity to engage developers and councils to ensure that all parties have a clear understanding and expectations about what, if any, additional matters should be included in an infrastructure charges notice. If consultation with councils and industry identifies a need for an infrastructure charges notice to have further requirements, this may be the subject of a regulation amendment in future.

The bill also proposes to amend the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016. These amendments respond to a request from the court and achieve operational efficiencies for dispute resolution arrangements under Queensland's planning framework. Currently, the court is able to refer matters to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Registrar. This amendment provides powers to the court to use a private mediator where needed—for example, to support the workload of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Registrar or where expertise on a particular subject is needed.

The bill proposes to amend the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985 to list a retirement facility and residential aged-care facility as possible future uses at the resort. The amendments will help Sanctuary Cove residents retire close to family and friends. Being able to stay close to home in an environment you love, surrounded by the people you love, is important for residents in all communities as they enter their later years. The Sanctuary Cove Resort Act is over 30 years old and does not provide for a retirement or residential care facility at the resort. This limits opportunities for the resort community to retire in a place they know and in an environment where they feel safe and comfortable. These amendments are consistent with our government's policy to support diverse housing options and the ability for the community to age in place.

The bill ensures that applications may be made for proposed retirement facility and residential care facility uses at nominated zones or sites at the resort. To be clear, the bill does not automatically allow a development of this nature to occur at the resort. I am aware that some resort community members have concerns about the possible adverse impacts of a retirement or residential care facility at the resort. However, it is important to be aware that the bill does not change any existing processes under the act regarding making applications, voting or decision-making. The voting entitlements under the act also remain unchanged. This means that the community will have an opportunity to provide their views about any future proposal for a retirement or residential care facility at the resort.

The bill also proposes to repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004. The act's repeal will provide certainty for landowners through the Redland City Plan and ensure that the planning framework for the community is up to date and contemporary. Repealing the act will make sure that planning for the islands in the southern Moreton Bay area, including Russell, Macleay, Karragarra and Lamb islands, is up to date and contemporary.

Since its inception in 2011 as a temporary agency, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has managed a \$14.5 billion program of reconstruction works and become a national and international leader in disaster management and the empowerment of local communities during recovery. This summer alone has delivered some of the worst that Mother Nature can throw at Queensland—from droughts and bushfires to severe tropical cyclones and flooding. These events have resulted in loss of life; millions in damage to public infrastructure, agriculture, industry and tourism; and billions of dollars in insurance losses.


As the most disaster impacted state in Australia, we need to ensure that the QRA has the legislative authority and clarity to deliver its much needed and appreciated work while building a stronger and more resilient state. Amending the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act will ensure that the QRA can undertake an all-hazard approach to its responsibilities, continue leading the coordination of resilience and recovery policy in Queensland and facilitate the delivery of mitigation and betterment activities outside of post-disaster events.

We need to continue building our state's resilience, make our infrastructure and services stronger and equip our communities with the tools to better prepare for disasters. Amendments to the act will extend QRA's functions to facilitate that. I have no doubt that this amendment will ensure that QRA carries on doing what it does best, but with greater certainty and purpose as we continue building Australia's most disaster resilient state. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dick, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Community Clubs

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.00 pm): Tonight I rise to speak in support of our community clubs right across Queensland, community clubs that employ 22,000 people around Queensland, deliver over \$2 billion to the Queensland economy and offer over \$850 million through social distributions right throughout our small and larger regional communities in Queensland. We know that they face significant challenges, whether it be from casinos or enhanced competition from restaurants, bars and pubs. All that they are looking for is a level playing field.


Tonight the issue I would like to raise is community clubs that are captured under safe night precincts in Queensland. There are two clubs in particular that I wish to raise tonight, the Cowboys Leagues Club in Townsville which is caught in a safe night precinct and a club in Toowoomba, the Toowoomba Sports Club, an institution in our city, that is captured in our safe night precinct in Toowoomba.

We are aware that currently there is a review of the efficiency of safe night precincts and ID scanning. That review was due to be finalised mid last year. Now we are not quite sure when it is coming back. I am hoping it is coming back shortly. What we are seeing is significant disadvantage to these community clubs that are caught in safe night precincts. What we see in the Toowoomba Sports Club is most alarming. It is costing the Toowoomba Sports Club \$20,000 per annum in labour costs to operate ID scanners and another \$6,000 for the network system. There is a loss of revenue as members are turned away because of the operation of the ID scanning laws in this safe night precinct. The car park in the Toowoomba Sports Club is unworkable after 10 o'clock because of the operation of the ID scanners. Employment is down. Revenue is down.

Once upon a time the Toowoomba Sports Club used to employ three apprentices in the kitchen and two student tradespeople. They are no longer being employed. We are seeing total staff numbers at Toowoomba Sports Club drop from 50 to 42. Expansion plans have been thrown into disarray and, of course, the local sporting clubs—Souths, Valleys, Brothers, North Toowoomba Hockey Club and Toowoomba Basketball Association—all stand to suffer because of the lack of profit coming out of this community club because of the operation of these ID scanners and the safe night precinct.

I call on the Attorney-General to sit down with Clubs Queensland, general manager Karen Evans who runs the Toowoomba Sports Club so brilliantly and Clint Williams at the Cowboys Leagues Club and talk about the impact of the duplication and the discrepancies in the law.

New Zealand, Shootings; Clubs Queensland Awards

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.03 pm): I will be speaking about our clubs this evening but before I do can I, along with many other members in this House this week, pass on my condolences to the families who have been devastated by the Christchurch terror attack. We stand united with New Zealand in this awful situation. To all of those New Zealanders and Muslims across Australia who are feeling this very deeply—we are hearing very concerning stories that some Muslim children in Australia are feeling scared to go to school at the moment because of what happened—our thoughts are with you.


Turning to clubs, I acknowledge the contribution by the member for Toowoomba South. I have met with those clubs that he has talked about and have continued a dialogue with them and Clubs Queensland to consider the issues that have been raised. I want to talk about the fact that Clubs Queensland held their awards this week where we celebrated the wonderful work of our community clubs. There are 1,100 licensed venues in this state with 2.4 million members and they employ around 22,000 people. They are important to the economy, but they are significant to our local communities.

Tonight I acknowledge that I was very pleased, on behalf of the Palaszczuk government, to sponsor and present the responsible gambling award to Carina Leagues Club and the responsible service of alcohol award to the Cowboys Leagues Club. I also acknowledge the incredible number of very regional and remote clubs that were represented on Tuesday night. There were quite a few club representatives from Weipa, including Weipa Bowls Club. Many of these regional clubs took out awards on the night, including the Waves Sports Club in Bundaberg which took out the manager of the year award and Caboolture Sports Club which took out the club of the year award. Congratulations to Caboolture Sports Club.

Recently while we were governing from the Sunshine Coast I visited Coolum Surf Club and Nambour RSL to meet with management and staff. I had the great pleasure of having a meal there. Both of these clubs had their chefs up for chef of the year and both of them made it into the top three finalists. Well done to them. It was well deserved. The manager of Nambour RSL, Suzanne Long, was a finalist in the manager of the year category. I congratulate Nambour RSL which has just had its development approval signed off this week by council for a new greenfield site at Sippy Downs. It is great to see a second greenfield site after North Lakes Sports Club, which has been very successful.

I finish by congratulating Don Seccombe, President of Clubs Queensland, on his retirement after 11 years of great service in this role.

Hospitals, Demand

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.06 pm): When it comes to the health disaster in this state, the *Courier-Mail* headline 'Government refuses to call this farce a crisis' says it all. It is this head-in-the-sand, 'nothing to see here', blame-everyone-but-themselves approach and their generation of failure in health that is frustrating Queenslanders and the people of Nicklin. Not only are our Nambour Hospital upgrades three years late, we have a litany of distressed community members coming into our office with complaints of delays, lack of assistance and fear about what will happen next for them.


These are the faces of the crisis, the real people, the people we see every day in our electorates who are suffering because this minister and this government are just not up to the job. They are people like Penelope Gadsby, 83 years old, who has been in desperate need of a hip replacement since 2017. Penelope is in so much pain she cannot even sleep a full night in her own bed but has to sleep in a chair. After contacting the health service on her behalf we were advised her classification had been upgraded and she was due for surgery by 5 March but, guess what, Penelope is still waiting.

They are people like Jane, 74 years old. 'Jane' is not her real name. She is afraid speaking out may push her further down the list. Jane suffered a heart attack in June 2018 and was advised she had a 99 per cent blockage and required surgery. Jane has still not had the surgery. Jane is scared for her life. Jane only this week received written advice from the health service acknowledging she is outside of her recommended category 2 wait time.

They are people like Elizabeth, 77 years old, facing a four-year wait for cataract surgery to do one eye. She remains on a waiting list to have the other eye done. They are people like Michael, 79 years of age, who lives alone without support. Michael has a severe nerve condition that has left him with paralysis in his legs. He presented to emergency in February 2019 and was advised he needed to urgently see a spinal neurosurgeon. Over six weeks later, and after many expensive appointments with private specialists for advice, Michael has been advised he has an appointment in Brisbane with the wrong kind of specialist on 14 May for an assessment. Over five months after the day he woke up with partially paralysed legs he has an appointment for an assessment with an orthopaedic surgeon in Brisbane.

This is just the tip of the iceberg in my electorate. There are plenty more stories just like these. These are real people with real health problems and real fears desperately seeking help from our office as their last hope. We need this crisis and ongoing mismanagement fixed urgently for the people of Queensland and the people of Nicklin. It is not good enough!


Caboolture Hospital

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.10 pm): I speak tonight about the continued investment of our government in local health services in the Caboolture region. The modernisation of the Caboolture Hospital continues. We already have seen investment into new car-parking facilities and a new outpatient facility, which we opened last year, and just last week I had the privilege of officially opening our new medical imaging facility at the Caboolture Hospital, a significant investment in new equipment and new facilities for the people who use the Caboolture Hospital and of course those who are in the Caboolture region who need access to quality health services.

This multimillion dollar facility which I opened last week is a partnership between Queensland hospital and health services and I-MED Radiology. I must acknowledge that partnership, because not only has that partnership delivered this new multimillion dollar facility but it has also delivered \$3.5 million in new medical imaging equipment. This equipment is extraordinary. I had the opportunity to walk around with staff and speak to them about these new pieces of equipment. There is a new 3T MRI machine which is the bee's knees; it has everything. It ensures that we are able to conduct those MRI scans faster and in more detail, giving quicker diagnoses and also of course quicker response to medical treatment. There is a new CT scanner, new X-ray machines as well as new fluoroscopy units. This is a significant investment in new equipment for our Caboolture Hospital.

Part of the modernisation of the Caboolture Hospital precinct is to put new facilities in new places to create spaces for further upgrades. Relocating the medical imaging facility to its new location enables the upgrade of our emergency department, a \$20 million upgrade which is already underway. Essentially, it will double the size of the Caboolture emergency department. That then leads to the bigger redevelopment of our hospital—130 extra beds delivered worth more than \$250 million, a significant investment in new health infrastructure. I want to acknowledge our government's investment in our Caboolture Hospital. The staff at our hospital are outstanding. They deliver an extraordinary service to the people of the Caboolture region. Our government is backing them in with the latest equipment, upgraded facilities and of course a further investment in more staff to service that hospital, to service the Caboolture region.

Local Government, Voting System


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to inform the House of the Palaszczuk Labor government's plans to rig the voting system for Queensland local governments. Labor wants to take the 'local' out of local government. Driving, or should I say imposing, these reforms is the minister who could not get the trains to run on time, leading to 'rail fail', which continues today. The same minister presided over a grass-growing saga at one of Brisbane's premier race tracks. The minister has not released the KPMG review of grants so local governments can scrutinise these recommendations. Under this minister's watch, mayors and councillors were sacked by press release before the legislation was actually in place. This Labor government waited for two Labor mayors to be in the watch house before taking action to remove a well-known recalcitrant Labor council. Finally, the minister took three attempts to sack the government's Labor mates at Ipswich. Maybe his heart was not in it.

At this time, we see that local councils are working hard implementing integrity reforms. This Labor government is now overreaching with proposals to change the local government voting system. The Crime and Corruption Commission's Belcarra report did not recommend a change to the local government voting system, and the Soorley review recommended that the current system be retained until at least after the 2020 elections.

This minister talks of genuine consultation. It is more like an imposition of Labor's will. This Labor government's attempt to change councils' voting system under the guise of integrity reforms is not based on the recommendations from the integrity bodies. This Labor government has walked away from the partners in local government agreement. A survey undertaken by the LGAQ found that more than seven out of 10 Queenslanders are happy with the current local government voting system. Queenslanders will see this Labor proposal for what it is: an intrusion into the rights of every individual to complete their vote as they see fit.

There are many organisations that use the first-past-the-post and optional preferential voting, including the Queensland Teachers' Union, the Electrical Trades Union, the United Firefighters Union and a number of other unions. The Palaszczuk Labor government is happy for unions to have first-past-the-post and optional preferential voting but it is not good enough for local governments to have optional preferential voting. Why is it okay for OPV for unions and not for local government? This Palaszczuk Labor government has its priorities all wrong and only the LNP is committed to working constructively with Queensland local governments.

Redlands Electorate, Women

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.16 pm): On behalf of my community, I give our thoughts and prayers to the families affected by the Christchurch tragedy. I know that their community has been severely impacted and our thoughts are with them all.

Last week, Redlands lost a very special lady in Jenny Clapham. She passed away in Turkey doing what she loved most: volunteering and serving others. On behalf of my Redlands community, we give our sincerest condolences to her daughter Helen, family and friends. I know that she will be deeply missed.


In March we saw celebrations across the state of Queensland for Women's Week and International Women's Day. The theme this year was 'Invest in women, invest in the future'. There were fantastic events across the Redlands. The Redlands Centre for Women hosted 500 locals for high tea at Sheldon College. We heard from inspiring Redlands artists who are excelling on the world stage—Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, Quandamooka woman and designer of the Commonwealth Games medals, and of course the game's opening centrepiece Migaloo, and Maryann Talia Pau, founder and creator of the One Million Stars to End Violence movement. These women invest in their communities and our communities are yielding those dividends.

The Women's Network Australia also launched in Queensland Women's Week on our Redlands coast. The night was fantastic and saw over 100 Redlands coast businesswomen come together to share stories and ideas and create opportunities. There is nothing more powerful than women investing in women and that is just what the WNA achieved. I thank the Women's Network Australia CEO, Janelle Bostock, for championing our region and investing in our women in business.

TAFE conducted a try-a-trade day, and that was just awesome. There were lots of young women and senior students from across Redlands high schools. They rolled up their sleeves and had a go at electrical, plumbing, carpentry and bricklaying works. I had a go with some of the cement as well and found that I had new-found skills in bricklaying. To Barry, Allan, Lee and the teaching staff of TAFE, I continue to be inspired by your work. Our Queensland government is a great supporter of TAFE and women in that space.

Zonta Club of Wynnum Redlands had a great dinner. I was joined there by Senator Claire Moore. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the profound contribution, the decades of investment in women, that Claire has made. She has invested in women across Queensland, across Australia and indeed across the world. She is a powerhouse and has been a pioneer for women in Australian politics. She is a role model for all women and has been part of the significant change we have seen women make in politics today. Claire has been a member, chair, president, vice-president, ambassador, patron and so many other roles across numerous organisations, committees and groups; it is really hard to list them all. Needless to say, her work always has been centred around advocating and, importantly, investing in women. Senator Claire Moore is about to embark on a new chapter that I know will continue to be full of investment in women. Every week we should remember that investing in women is investing in our future.

Hinkler Federal Electorate, Regional Deal

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (6.19 pm): I rise tonight to mention the hard work of Keith Pitt, the federal member for Hinkler, and his invitation for all levels of government to participate in the Hinkler regional deal. This deal will mean jobs and infrastructure for our region. Similar federal government deals have pumped more than \$200 million into regions like Townsville and Launceston.

It would be a real winner for Hinkler to get such a deal. It would mean more jobs, more infrastructure and more money spent in our region. That is what we really need. They are looking at about \$150 million. That is not to be sneezed at.

I could not believe it when I saw the front page of today's paper. It says, 'Dud deal shunned: Blame game erupts as state govt refuses to sign bold Hinkler plan'. When one reads that it just goes to show that the Labor government is not real about unemployment. When we look at the Wide Bay area, Hinkler has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the state at over 20 per cent. The government really does not care about youth unemployment.

To have this plan smacked down by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and to slap this sort of money away from an area like Hinkler is absolutely flawed. It is terrible to see that sort of thing happen. I feel sorry for Bruce Saunders because he got slapped down and told, 'Behave yourself. Do what you get told to do.' To do away with that sort of money from the federal government is ridiculous.

For the benefit of the House, I will point out the townships in the Maryborough electorate that are in the federal seat of Hinkler. They include Howard, Burrum Heads, Toogoom, Torbanlea, Nikenbah and Craignish.


Mr Saunders: Gunning for Maryborough.

Mr SORENSEN: How can you say that? I really cannot believe—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr SORENSEN: This is all in Maryborough. How can you say that your electorate is not going to get anything? You would have a lot of this because half of your electorate is in Hinkler. It is unbelievable that the Labor government has shunned an area which has high unemployment.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Harmony Day

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.22 pm): During the last sitting of parliament I rose in this House to sing the Maori anthem for International Mother Language Day. I stand united with my beloved Kiwi community in condemning the violence that took the lives of 50 beautiful men, women and children in Christchurch two weeks ago in my beloved New Zealand. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend, I am sure on behalf of everyone in the House, the compassionate leadership of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who has shown not just New Zealand but the rest of the world what a true leader looks like in times of crisis and sorrow.

Last week my beloved Mount Ommaney community gathered at schools to celebrate Harmony Day. It was a true honour as their local member to be present for some of these celebrations. The tiny but mighty Darra State School celebrated with a morning of international games from all around the world. Corinda State School celebrated in a very unique way. The students had an assembly to solve maths problems from all around the world. Jamboree Heights State School had a full fashion parade with costumes from over 30 nations worn by children who have heritage from those nations.

Oxley State School was awash with music as performers from all around the world, from the Cook Islands to Thailand, came together to commemorate. While I am on the subject of Oxley State School, I want to wish a very fond farewell to our wonderful and long-serving Oxley principal, Errol Slingsby. Mr Slingsby was the principal for the best part of 10 years. It was beautifully clear to see on Harmony Day just how deeply the parents and students would miss this wonderful community leader. He has always been very proud of his multicultural school.


The kids were amazing at all of the schools. I am not ashamed to admit that when the Jamboree Heights kids sang *We are Australian* I got very choked up, because I could see that the children of Mount Ommaney absolutely have the right idea. With 35 per cent of my Mount Ommaney residents either being born overseas or having a parent from overseas, my schools are multicultural melting pots. They embody the kind of celebration of our amazing cultural diversity in Queensland that desires to be celebrated.

There are people who do not share that community spirit and the loving attributes of my wonderful schools. The attacks in Christchurch have shown that there are people in our community and in our parliament who seek to disrupt this peace in our community, and there are politicians who support them.

These politicians have been written off as some kind of curiosity, but we have all seen firsthand and cannot ignore that this dog whistling has consequences. I know that together we can stand with the beautiful kids in Mount Ommaney and stop the hatred and racism before it starts. Who is with me?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Moggill, I remind the member for Hervey Bay, you have been in the House for a long time, that the standing orders apply during the adjournment. You will direct your comments through the chair.

St Stephen's Hospital

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.25 pm): As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors and shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, it gives me great pleasure to recognise in this House the incredible achievement of UnitingCare Health's St Stephen's Hospital which is located in Hervey Bay. I am referring to the formal achievement and recognition of St Stephen's as the first Australian hospital to achieve stage 7 HIMSS certification—the highest level of certification for its inpatient electronic medical record. The Health Information and Management Systems Society is an esteemed international accreditation body.

At a time when countless industries—for example, if we look at banking, online shopping or, alternatively, airlines—have sought to improve the ways they conduct their business and enhance customer engagement strategies, what have they done exactly? They have fully embraced the digital revolution in which health care is significantly lagging behind such industries, but surely is more prevalent and pertinent to all Australians.

By becoming Australia's first fully integrated digital private hospital, St Stephen's is utilising technology and data to pioneer individualised care to patients and thus improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. What is more, thanks to this adoption patients at St Stephen's are benefitting from shorter lengths of stay due to innovative technology supporting the work of nurses and doctors. In other words, no-one is in hospital any longer than they need to be. Not only does this bode well for patients during their stay, but the follow-on effects of this digital adoption means better clinical outcomes, better health care and more sustainable options for the future healthcare provision of each and every patient.

The significance of this achievement really cannot be overstated. HIMSS is an international not-for-profit organisation that is dedicated to improving health care in quality, safety, cost-effectiveness and access through the best use of information technology and health management systems. For Hervey Bay patients, the adoption of the health standard, as advocated by this society, means that patients are receiving the best care made possible by the use of digital technology and on par with some of the best hospitals in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Middle East.


It was worth noting that this achievement from level 6 to level 7 has been made possible thanks to the terrific work of the hospital's own doctors, nurses and clinical staff. To achieve this level of certification, St Stephen's had to have the data and statistics to show that its nurses and doctors were actively utilising patient information to demonstrably improve patient care. On behalf of the Liberal National Party, I express my hope that this serves as an inspiration for other Queensland, indeed Australian, hospitals to follow.

This development and its implications for residents and the clinical outcomes, including ageing Queenslanders in the Hervey Bay and the Wide Bay regions, particularly those with chronic complex diseases, deserve recognition within our great democratic institution the Queensland parliament. Congratulations to all UnitingCare Queensland staff and visiting medical practitioners involved in achieving this outcome.

Having attended the annual AMA Queensland Past Presidents dinner last night, I know that current president Dr Dilip Dhupelia and many former presidents, including NEHTA chair Dr Steve Hambleton, Queensland Clinical Senate chair Dr Alex Markwell, Dr Bill Boyd and many others, recognise the significance of this achievement as well as the LNP's hardworking local member for Hervey Bay, Ted Sorensen MP.

(Time expired)

Mount Gravatt Community Centre, Social Isolation Project

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.28 pm): I rise in the House this evening to speak about the growing problem of loneliness and isolation and how a local organisation, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre, is tackling this issue. Loneliness and social isolation have serious consequences for individual

health and wellbeing, with studies finding that it is associated with a 29 per cent increase in the risk of coronary heart disease and a 32 per cent increase in the risk of stroke. The combined effects of loneliness and social isolation are recognised as pressing issues facing societies around the world. A former US surgeon general warns of an 'epidemic of loneliness', and the newly appointed Minister for Loneliness in the UK is rolling out a nationwide multiagency loneliness strategy.

Supported by the local community, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre and the University of Queensland have partnered to address social isolation and loneliness in Mount Gravatt through the 'Journey to Wellness' social isolation project—the first of its kind in Australia. This is an important project and by providing one-off funding of \$100,000 this government made it possible. The project will run for 12 months and is being implemented and managed by the Mount Gravatt Community Centre.

The project has engaged a community link worker whose role is to connect socially isolated members of the community to meaningful group programs and activities through social prescribing. Social prescribing is a way of linking patients in primary care with sources of group support within the community. It provides medical professionals with a non-medical referral option that can operate alongside existing treatments to improve the health and wellbeing of my constituents.

The link worker will receive client referrals from numerous sources including GPs, members of the community and self-referrals. They will then meet with the clients to discuss their health and wellbeing goals and identify groups or activities in the local area which align with their interests. A community led approach has the potential to ease the pressure on our primary health system at the same time as meeting the social needs of individuals. The project has also committed to developing a community resource book, which will detail the groups and activities available in our local area.

In parallel with the 'Journey to Wellness' social isolation project, the team from the University of Queensland who are leading academics in this area will drive a research project on the effects of social prescribing. One of the expected benefits of the research project is that it will include a validated social prescribing model that can be implemented in multiple settings across Australia. It is my absolute pleasure to once again work with the Mount Gravatt Community Centre and the University of Queensland as together we lead this project for the benefit of many vulnerable people in my community.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Well said, member for Mansfield.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Brown, Butcher, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson