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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 4 April 2019

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THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 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.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Public Release of Committee Documents

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today, in accordance with standing order 20, the Legislative Assembly will release to the public the minutes of its committees from 1988 as those documents have been in the custody of the Clerk of the Parliament for 30 years. These minutes consist of the very first sets of minutes of the parliamentary committee of public accounts, or the public accounts committee as it became known, following its establishment in 1988. The establishment of the public accounts committee marked a new era of accountability in Queensland.


For some years before the public accounts committee was established, there had been agitation for greater parliamentary scrutiny and executive accountability in respect of public accounts. History also records the establishment of a public accounts committee was a significant issue in the 1983 split of the National Party and Liberal Party coalition. The public accounts committee was one of then premier Mike Ahern's first measures to increase scrutiny and accountability in response to the ongoing Fitzgerald inquiry into police misconduct and corruption, prior to the Fitzgerald report being tabled in 1989. The public accounts committee marked the commencement of the modern parliamentary committee system in Queensland. Today's seven portfolio committees all have the same powers of the original public accounts committee.

I do want to temper members' expectations. These documents are largely administrative as they are the minutes of the first meetings. They look like they have been typed by a typing pool on a typewriter. All of the position descriptions to set up the secretariat were faxed to the committee members. The committee requested that the Clerk report on suitable word processors and photocopiers with collation features. Letterhead had to be agreed on. It was not cream. It was not white. It was not off-white or beige. They decided on ivory. These documents are like a 30-year time capsule.

The real story today, members, is that, following the release of the complete committee minutes from 1988, the Legislative Assembly will be proactively releasing committee minutes that have attained the age of 30 years to the public at the start of each year. By opening up the vaults of history, the parliament is continuing the tradition of the public accounts committee to sustain open and responsible government. The public accounts committee minutes from 1988 released today, along with information about the new publication scheme, will be available on the parliamentary website.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Matters of Privilege

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I want to remind all members that on 15 February 2018 I outlined to members my expectations and some basic, important rules of the House. In respect of members rising on matters of privilege, I outlined the following—

A genuine matter of privilege, suddenly arising, may be raised by a Member at any time under Standing Order 248. To satisfy the requirements of Standing Order 248, a matter must firstly be a matter of privilege and secondly, it must be a matter that has suddenly arisen and requires immediate redress.

The reality is that few matters fall within the definition of a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Matters that may fall into that category include: Members being unable or prevented from entering the Chamber, strangers being present in the House and interrupting proceedings, or required material not being available for proceedings before the House.

Unfortunately, as with points of order, some Members attempt to use matters of privilege to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another Member is misleading the House, or put the Member's own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or material.

These matters are not matters of privilege suddenly arising and are simply yet another example of abuse of the rules.

If any Member believes another Member has deliberately misled the House, then the appropriate procedure is contained in Standing Order 269. The Member should write to the Speaker with all evidence available supporting the allegation.

I will not allow other Members to simply rise and allege a deliberate misleading of the House during the course of business.

Persistent, deliberately disruptive or frivolous matters of privilege, being disorderly, may result in a Member being warned under Standing Orders 252-254.

On 28 February this year the member for Keppel rose on a matter of privilege suddenly arising and accused various members of misleading the House in various social media statements issued the previous evening. This was clearly not a matter of privilege suddenly arising and the member was abusing the rules of the House. Unfortunately, the Deputy Speaker in the chair at the time, the member for Bancroft, did not prevent the matter continuing, even after a point of order was taken. This in turn led to the member for Kawana rising on a matter of privilege suddenly arising which, although far more immediate than the member for Keppel's matter, was also not strictly a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Speakers' precedents in the House make it clear that for something to be a matter of privilege suddenly arising it must fulfil two criteria. Firstly, it must be something that is genuinely a matter of privilege—that is, it relates to the rights, powers and immunities of the House or its members; and, secondly and importantly, it is something that is happening or has just happened and which could threaten the proceedings of the House or the ability of members to participate in a debate or vote in the House. Genuine examples of matters of privilege suddenly arising include an impediment to a member's ability to get to the chamber through the obstruction of strangers or the failure of the high-rise elevators. It includes the unavailability of required papers in the House such as amendments being moved.


In our House, to encourage ethical behaviour, it has been that a matter of privilege suddenly arising also includes a member correcting the record of something that they themselves have said earlier in debate that they discover to be incorrect, but a member cannot use a matter suddenly arising to rebut, criticise or make allegations against other members' earlier statements. It is inappropriate and an abuse to use the pretence of a matter of privilege suddenly arising as a subterfuge for making a personal explanation or for raising a matter of privilege that is not urgent and could be delayed until the following sitting day.

The member for Kawana has asked that the member for Keppel be referred to the Ethics Committee, but, in accordance with standing order 269(4), I consider that this matter is sufficiently dealt with by this statement and does not warrant the further attention of the committee. I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 28 February 2019, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding matters of privilege suddenly arising [537].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from Samford State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers; student leaders from Browns Plain State School and Browns Plain State High School in the electorate of Woodridge; and St Joseph's school, Nundah in the electorate of Nudgee.

PETITION

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


Slade Point, Seagull Street Boat Ramp

From 509 petitioners, requesting the House to cause a boat ramp to be built at Seagull Street, Slade Point [533].

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): It is all systems go for Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project—Cross River Rail. This morning I joined the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport to announce an exciting new chapter in the \$5.4 billion project that will, without question, transform South-East Queensland like never before.

The 10.2-kilometre rail line will run from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, with a 5.9-kilometre twin tunnel under the Brisbane River and CBD, and there will be four new underground stations and upgrades to existing stations. This is Brisbane's new underground. Four of the new stations will be underground—Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Roma Street and Albert Street. Albert Street will be the first CBD station built in 120 years.


This ambitious project will unlock the Merivale Street bottleneck, have more trains travelling more often, ease congestion, improve connectivity with buses, allow an extra 18,000 seats into Brisbane during the morning peak and take 47,000 cars off the road every day. It will mean savings travelling to the CBD of up to 15 minutes on the Gold Coast line, 15 minutes on the Beenleigh line, eight minutes on the Caboolture line, eight minutes on the Redcliffe line and 14 minutes on the Cleveland line.

As well as improving connectivity across the entire south-east, it will create new precincts at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street, Roma Street and Exhibition, helping Brisbane to evolve as a world-class city with opportunities for world-class hubs. Make no mistake: this megaproject is a defining moment for Queensland and vital as our population booms. The state's population hit five million last year and by 2036, in less than two decades, the south-east alone will be home to five million people. As one of Australia's fastest growing regions, we must build the infrastructure we need now to keep pace with this growth.

Cross River Rail will also support 7,700 jobs over the life of the project, including 450 apprentice and training opportunities. I am pleased to announce today the world-class consortia that will deliver the three works packages for Cross River Rail: Pulse consortia, led by CIMIC Group and includes Pacific Partnerships, CPB Contractors, UGL, BAM, Ghella and DIF, will deliver the tunnel, stations and development public-private partnership; Unity Alliance, including CPB Contractors, UGL, Jacobs Group and AECOM Australia, will deliver the rail, integration and systems alliance; and Hitachi Rail STS will deliver the European train control system.

Over the coming months the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority will work with the consortia to finalise contracts and the project schedule, but I can tell the House that trains will be running in 2024 before most of the Queensland projects announced by the federal government in this week's budget will even start. Despite the federal government not investing one cent in this vital project in this week's budget, my government is getting on with delivering it. The federal opposition under Bill Shorten supports this project. Business supports this project. The community supports this project and commuters need it. We are getting on with the job building it. As much as it unlocks the public transport bottleneck, it will also trigger decades of economic investment that will be shared across the entire state.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, One-Year Anniversary

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): It was one year ago today that we welcomed the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. They were our games and they were awesome. There were 6,600 athletes, 15,000 volunteers—I thank the volunteers; it was an amazing effort from everyone who was involved—1.2 million spectators and a worldwide audience of 1½ billion, all of it delivered on time and under budget, a rolled-gold massive success.

Griffith University estimates our games will deliver \$2.5 billion in gross state product over nine years, an increase of \$500 million on estimates made in 2017. This includes \$1.8 billion for the Gold Coast, an increase of \$100 million on 2017 estimates. This is driven by return visits by games spectators. As many as 87 per cent said they were likely to return and 85 per cent would bring family and friends.

We used the opportunity of the games to sell Queensland business opportunities. More than 2,500 people participated in 32 trade and investment events on the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. Thirty-eight international delegations from 26 countries took part. Growth in trade and investment as a direct result of that activity is estimated to be worth \$840 million in the first four years after the games. Yesterday we saw another record monthly export figure for Queensland.


Mr Speaker, as you know, when it comes to sport it is always better to come first. Our games were the first held in an Australian regional city; the first to offer as many medals for women's sport as for men's; the first to showcase our para-athletes right alongside everyone else—and didn't we love watching that?—and the first to partner with Indigenous groups and make our shared heritage the star of every show.

In the first six months after the games, 320 events were booked in games venues generating \$61 million for the Gold Coast. More than 170 events are booked so far this year and 50 for next year. Events include the Pan Pacific Masters Games, the SportAccord, Australian Transplant Games, Big Boys Toys Expo and the Australian University Nationals.

Our games leave a lasting legacy. Eighteen sporting venues were upgraded. They are helping Queenslanders enjoy a fitter, healthy life with some Gold Coast venues reporting a 200 per cent increase in weekend sport participation. They will also help to grow a new generation of games champions. The colourful games village and popular light rail—a project accelerated by this government for the games—are two more tangible examples of what the games leaves behind. Schools and sporting clubs from Cairns to Coolangatta are reusing equipment from the games.

Then there is what we did with the squash courts and the boxing rings. You would never know it but the same building shows up in a host of international blockbusters. It is where Marvel filmed *Thor: Ragnarok*, then *Aquaman* and where they are just wrapping up *Godzilla vs. Kong*. The games helped grow our billion dollar movie industry, currently generating another 6,500 jobs and adding \$558 million to the Queensland economy. Together we delivered the most accessible, inclusive, inspiring and economically sensible Commonwealth Games ever. I look forward to providing future updates on its ongoing benefits.

Overseas Trade Mission

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): My government is committed to securing jobs for Queenslanders—rewarding jobs, secure jobs and skilled jobs for the future. Last week we saw ABS data that shows almost 185,000 jobs have been created since January 2015. Yesterday we saw yet another set of record trade figures, taking the value of Queensland's merchandise exports to \$83.1 billion. That is an increase of 88 per cent under my government, but we can do more and we must do more.


That is why this month I will travel to Dubai, Germany and the United Kingdom to secure more opportunities for Queensland businesses and more opportunities for Queensland jobs. In the UAE I will meet with investors looking to build new five-star hotels in Queensland from the Gold Coast to Cairns. I will visit a Gold Coast based company making electric buses for Dubai and a Sunshine Coast based aquaculture company operating a fish farm in Abu Dhabi.

In Germany I will meet the CEO of Rheinmetall to discuss our partnership that is building phase 2 of the Army's \$5 billion Land 400 project and hopes to build the Army's \$15 billion phase 3 which is based on its Lynx KF41 infantry fighting vehicle. This will also be based in Ipswich. This project would secure hundreds of highly skilled secure jobs directly and hundreds more indirectly right through to the 2030s.

I will see what the proponents of a Queensland hydrogen industry can learn from a German company that is already operating hydrogen filling stations for cars. I note many members from all sides of the House took the opportunity to attend a briefing on our potential hydrogen industry last week. In the UK I will meet with production and post-production companies working in screen and stream who are keen to become part of our fast-growing industry in Queensland.

I will join our Chief Entrepreneur, Leanne Kemp, at an innovation forum to encourage more investment in our start-up sector following on from the successful QODE held this week. As the UK grapples with what life after Brexit will mean, I will help Queensland businesses identify new export opportunities into the UK. I am proud to be the Premier of an outward-facing, export oriented state and I will never shy away from an opportunity to showcase the best of what Queensland has to offer the world.

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.48 am): I am very happy to rise today to mark another big milestone for our biggest infrastructure project as Brisbane's new underground begins to take shape.

This morning, as the Premier has mentioned, we announced the successful consortia which will build Cross River Rail. The Pulse consortia Unity alliance and Hitachi Rail are comprised of nationally and internationally renowned companies which will be responsible for delivering this transformative project for all South-East Queensland.

The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority will now work to finalise contracts before major demolition begins at the Brisbane Transit Centre later this year. The calibre of the bidders demonstrates how important Cross River Rail is to the Queensland economy and to the local business community. That is because industry knows that Cross River Rail will fundamentally change our region for the better. Cross River Rail will double our heavy rail capacity through the CBD unlocking the network for future growth and delivering more trains more often. A turn-up-and-go network will encourage people to leave their cars behind, in turn easing congestion and making the whole of South-East Queensland even more livable.

It will deliver 7,700 jobs and the opportunity for around 450 apprentices to learn their trade on an incredibly significant project. It will generate serious urban renewal opportunities, creating jobs, contributing millions to our economy and delivering new urban spaces for locals and tourists alike.

We have fully funded this \$5.4 billion project because it is fundamentally important to the future of our region. We were sick of waiting on the LNP in Canberra to come to the table. Budget after budget they have ignored the needs of our growing population. We saw the same this week, but Queensland cannot afford to be taken for granted any longer. Our population hit five million last year and, by 2036, in less than two decades, the south-east corner alone will be home to five million Queenslanders.

We will not let our state and the South-East Queensland region stand still. Because of our decisive action, Cross River Rail will be ready to service the south-east by 2024—to take cars off roads and tens of thousands of people to work, school and home every day. As Sydney and Melbourne frantically play catch-up on infrastructure delivery, we are acting now to deal with congestion.

Opposition members interjected.


Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the Premier. They are laughing because they have never supported this project because they do not support public transport and they do not support jobs. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that delivers the major infrastructure Queenslanders need to service our growing population.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are not going to get off to a bad start this morning, members.

Building Our Regions

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.51 am): It is day 2 of the dud federal budget and it is clearer than ever where the federal coalition government's priorities lie. There was \$3 billion for the north-south road corridor in Adelaide—described by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as one of Australia's slowest growing capital cities—and slow roads for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland. This demonstrates once again that the only government Queenslanders can rely on to improve our regions is the Palaszczuk Labor government.

That is why I am pleased to update the House on the progress of our Building our Regions program. Our government has now invested \$295 million to make regional Queensland even better. We have been joining councils across regional Queensland to announce their success in securing round 4 funding with a renewed focus on economic infrastructure. These are projects which will boost local economies and support local jobs.


Two weeks ago I was in Cairns with the member for Cairns and visited Munro Martin Parklands to announce a \$1.3 million redevelopment of its back-of-house facilities thanks to \$650,000 from the Palaszczuk Labor government. The redevelopment will unlock the potential to attract more performances to the venue, as well as boosting attendance and tourist numbers which will generate further economic activity and employment. In Townsville, the member for Townsville, Scott Stewart, joined Mayor Jenny Hill to announce the \$10.2 million Townsville Waterfront Promenade project. This project is receiving a \$5 million Building our Regions injection. Importantly, these projects support jobs, with an estimated 34 construction jobs for this Townsville project alone.

I know the member for Warrego will welcome our \$1 million commitment to upgrade airside services at the St George industrial estate. This will deliver five new lots for hangar development, a new hardstand area, an all-weather taxiway link and secure airside access for new tenants. I am sure the member for Warrego would also be very thankful to see that we have invested \$250,000 to help the Bulloo shire build a new boardwalk for the iconic Burke and Wills Dig Tree, protecting that iconic tourist destination for many years to come.

For the member for Gregory, \$1.5 million is going into his electorate—with \$500,000 to extend the rail siding at the Longreach Saleyards and almost \$1 million to fully fund Boulia's first industrial estate. In Maryborough, I was pleased to join the member for Maryborough and Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour two weeks ago to commit almost \$1 million towards the Maryborough CBD makeover. This project will bring more jobs and dollars to that great regional city. These are jobs for Queenslanders wherever they live and whoever they vote for.

Taken together, Building our Regions has created nearly 2,500 jobs while delivering the vital infrastructure that regional Queensland needs. It is a powerful example of while Scott Morrison governs for New South Wales and Victoria only the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for regional Queensland.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Legacy

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.54 am): Jingeri, Mr Speaker. It is 12 months to the day since we hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games, the largest event in Queensland's history. I am proud to say that Gold Coasters are continuing to reap the benefits of this investment. Today I can confirm that in the six months directly following the games, as the Premier has said this morning, more than 320 events were hosted in the brand-new Gold Coast venues that were built and the other venues that were upgraded for the Commonwealth Games. This has generated a huge \$61 million extra for the Gold Coast economy. The games legacy will continue to be felt on the Gold Coast for years to come, with 50 events already booked in Commonwealth Games venues for 2020.

These are venues like the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre—where we delivered a multimillion dollar upgrade ahead of the games—which is now hosting world-class sporting events. These venues are attracting events like the pool rescue component of the Lifesaving World Championships, bringing 5,000 competitors from 50 countries around the world to the Gold Coast and pumping around \$15 million into the local economy.

The legacy benefits do not stop there. We know that at a grassroots level after the Commonwealth Games we have seen a significant increase in grassroots sports—that is, Gold Coasters who are joining their local sporting clubs and taking advantage of having world-class venues in their own backyard. As the legacy chair, Rob Borbidge, has said repeatedly the No. 1 goal for the Gold Coast community was to make sure that we had a healthier and more active community, and that is exactly what we are seeing.

There was a significant investment at the multibillion dollar Health and Knowledge Precinct, with residents moving into this precinct at the moment. This is the site of the former athletes village. We made this investment because we wanted to diversify the economy on the Gold Coast and create long-term jobs for the next generation of Gold Coasters into the future. Members do not have to take my word for it. Di Dixon, the project director at the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, said—

It really provided an opportunity just to raise our profile, using the Games as that leverage.

For the Games it was really having that lead-up program that was very well organised and very well promoted globally ... to be able to reach places like London, Montreal and the Singapore market in ways we wouldn't have otherwise had.

Destination Gold Coast CEO, Annaliese Battista, described it like this—


The greatest impact of the games is being felt over the next few years with tourism and the event economies set to benefit the most. From a tourism perspective the key indicators for success include an increase in visitation and spend, heightened destination awareness and the ability to attract new major events to our city.

We also had Rob Borbidge, the chair of the Legacy Advisory Committee, who said—

We have shown the Gold Coast is capable of staging a major international event and the legacy of this is only just beginning ... this has taken the Gold Coast to the world and it will never be the same again.

We are very proud that it was our side of politics that backed the Commonwealth Games from day one and that we are able to be standing here a year after the games celebrating its legacy.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Police Powers Review

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): More than 3,700 police officers were deployed to ensure that the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games were the safest and most successful games ever. I take this opportunity to commend the Premier and the Commonwealth Games minister for their stewardship of the biggest sporting event in Queensland's history. I also commend the Queensland Police Service for the incredibly important role they played keeping everyone, including our interstate and overseas visitors, safe.

A year to the day since the games began, we can see clearly the enduring legacy Queensland's biggest ever event has given to the Gold Coast. We see the Gold Coast securing new, major events which is delivering a significant boost to the region's economy. The games supported more than 30,000 new jobs and facilitated the construction or upgrade of 18 world-class facilities through the government's \$320 million infrastructure program.

The Palaszczuk government also invested in new technology and training for our police and brought in legislation to ensure the safety of athletes, officials, local residents and visitors to the Gold Coast. The games presented a unique security environment. The objective of the new police powers, which were specifically designed for the games, was to ensure safety and security. These laws enabled police to quickly and efficiently search, without warrant or reasonable suspicion, people, vehicles and places in prescribed protective security zones at the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville.


I am pleased to inform the House that police detected no serious security threats during the games. After the games an independent review was conducted into the effectiveness of these police powers. The review and the subsequent report, *Operational Sentinel 2018*, was undertaken by the University of Queensland law school. While the review team found that the police powers were extraordinary, they also found that the powers were fit for purpose and appropriate for an event of this magnitude. The report commends police for their use of accountability measures such as body worn cameras. Should similar powers be considered for any major events of this nature in the future, this government will continue to ensure any police powers are used in a manner consistent with established protocols.

I take this opportunity to table the report prepared by the University of Queensland law school. I also table the Queensland Police Service response to the report.

Tabled paper: University of Queensland, TC Beirne School of Law report, dated 31 October 2018, titled 'Report of the Independent Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of Chapter 19A of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)' [[534](#)].

Tabled paper: University of Queensland, TC Beirne School of Law report, dated 31 October 2018, titled 'Report of the Independent Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of Chapter 19A of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)'—Queensland Police Service response to the report [[535](#)].

Townsville, Health Services; Member for Pine Rivers

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): The great city of Townsville is booming. Their population is set to increase by about 30,000 people over the next 10 years and with that they need a healthcare service that is world-class and that will keep up with demand. The Palaszczuk government delivered a record budget for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service this financial year: \$983 million, a \$50 million increase on the previous year. We are delivering a second MRI, more funds for the new paediatric ward, more services and more staff.

In January of last year, federal Labor committed to building a new 33-bed ward at the Townsville Hospital. A Shorten Labor government will invest \$13 million to build the ward, which will provide state-of-the-art care to cancer and cardiovascular disease patients, general medicine patients and general surgery patients. It will mean more North Queenslanders can get the care they need closer to home. The ward will be established in an existing shell space on the hospital grounds with the fit-out expected to take about 18 months.

We know Townsville is booming, federal Labor knows Townsville is booming but look who has finally come to the party. Just last week the federal government finally committed to matching federal Labor's commitment of a 33-bed ward at the Townsville Hospital. But—there is a but—in the budget on Tuesday night we found out that in the imaginary scenario where they are re-elected, those funds from the Morrison government will not be delivered until 2022-23.

Mr Dick: Onwards.


Dr MILES: In the onwards—past the forwards, in the onwards. The people of Townsville need this ward underway now, not kicked down the road. The people of Townsville need the federal government to reverse its cut to hospital funding—over \$20 million was cut from the Townsville HHS. That is 178 hip replacements or 325 knee surgeries. This affects the people of Townsville in a very real way.

It is clear that the federal government does not have a clue when it comes to North Queensland and what people in the north need. A Shorten Labor government has committed to this funding in its first budget. Only a Shorten Labor government will deliver better health care for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Mr Speaker, while I am on my feet, I hope you will allow me on behalf of all members of the House to congratulate my good friend the member for Pine Rivers. She and her partner, Reece, welcomed a little baby girl yesterday afternoon and I understand they are all doing well.

Mr SPEAKER: Hear, hear!

Silicosis

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.03 am): Congratulations to the member for Pine Rivers and her partner, Reece.

The emergence of disease from exposure to respirable crystalline silica among engineered stone benchtop workers is a matter the Palaszczuk government is taking very seriously. I was deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of Anthony White, a Queensland worker from the engineered stone benchtop industry, who died from silicosis, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. Workers and their families can be assured that the Palaszczuk government is leading the nation in responding to the threat of silicosis and doing all it can to support people diagnosed with this terrible disease. Since we issued a public warning about the risks of engineered stone in September last year, audits of all known engineered stone benchtop fabricators in Queensland have been undertaken, health screening for 810 workers in this industry has also been arranged and medical and industry forums have been held.


An expert reference group of medical professionals met on 6 March led by the Office of Industrial Relations with assistance from WorkCover Queensland and other agencies. The reference group included representatives from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists. At its first meeting, the expert reference group agreed there was a need for clear, clinical guidance to ensure consistent diagnosis and management of workers who have been exposed to silica dust in the engineered stone benchtop industry. This group will meet again in early May 2019. As recommended by the expert reference group, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine have been invited to join the group recognising the important role of GPs in managing affected workers.

In the meantime, the Office of Industrial Relations and WorkCover Queensland are developing a draft framework for diagnosis and management of workers exposed to silica dust. WorkCover Queensland is ensuring that workers with silicosis are provided with access to high-quality treatment, care and support services. While we know there is no cure for silicosis, there are several treatments available to assist workers to manage symptoms and prevent complications. We also know that more research is required that ensures best practice and evidence based treatment is available for workers which will accurately guide decisions about the treatments best suited to each worker. I look forward to further work with Minister Lynham and Minister Miles in this area.

However, there is an urgent requirement for a national response to these issues. To this end, WorkCover Queensland is consulting with medical experts to understand where this vital research is most needed with a view to funding research to develop an evidence based approach to return to work and vocational rehabilitation for affected workers.

Queensland is leading the way in responding to the threat of silicosis. I again urge any worker worried about their exposure to silica dust to see a doctor and contact WorkCover Queensland to arrange a health screen. This government will stand beside them every step of the way.

Federal Budget, Bruce Highway

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.07 am): There is no road more synonymous with Queensland than the mighty Bruce Highway. From Cairns to Brisbane, the Bruce connects Queenslanders and tourists and it drives our economy. That is why the Palaszczuk government, as part of its unprecedented \$45.8 billion, four-year infrastructure program, is delivering record investments for the Bruce. Let's load up the electric vehicle, because it also doubles as the electric vehicle super highway, the longest electric vehicle super highway in one state in the world. Let's have a go. We are delivering from the far north to the south-east on the Bruce Highway.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr BAILEY: The first stop is Cairns, where the Palaszczuk government is planning the \$481 million Cairns Southern Access Corridor from Gordonvale to Edmonton, which I am sure you would be familiar with and be very supportive of, Mr Speaker—stage 3—and building the \$104 million Kate Street to Aumuller Street upgrade after completing the Robert Road to Foster Road upgrade recently.

The next stop we go to is Townsville, the home of the mighty Cowboys, the home of our new stadium we are building there and also stage 5 of the region's ring-road. After putting up our fair share for Townsville Ring Road stage 5 in last year's budget, the federal government have finally, after a whole year of dithering, stumped up their investment to match our investment to get this important project for Townsville going. Unfortunately, in Tuesday's federal budget we saw no additional dollars for the Bruce Highway program from the federal government.

Stage 5 is the missing link for Townsville that will ensure the entire 36-kilometre stretch of the Bruce Highway through Townsville will be at a four-lane standard. We cannot stop there, so let's get along to Mackay, where the Palaszczuk government has invested \$99 million to build stage 1 of the city's ring-road. This is a massive project for Mackay locals, with more than 1,000 workers inducted, 80 per cent of whom are local.

When we get to Central Queensland we see the Rockhampton Ring Road. In Rockhampton, the beef capital, we have committed \$200 million. Planning is now underway to build an upgrade of the Bruce Highway for the region's thriving freight and agriculture industry. This follows the commencement of work on the \$157 million Rockhampton northern access upgrade. We have also done significant section upgrades south of Maryborough such as the Tinana interchange. As we close in on the south-east we stop at Curra, where the Palaszczuk government is investing \$200 million into the Cooroy to Curra section D Bruce Highway upgrade, building the Gympie bypass between Woondum and Curra.

Finally, we come to the booming Sunshine Coast, which was ignored by the previous government. Forty-nine girders are being lifted into place in Australia's first ever diverging diamond interchange, designed and delivered by Labor. As part of that \$812 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway from the Sunshine Motorway to Caloundra Road, the Palaszczuk government is delivering. This upgrade will improve travel times and reduce congestion for the 63,000 vehicles that travel on the road daily, while preserving 700 hectares of local forest as dedicated national park.

It has always been a long drive on the Bruce Highway, but it is not over yet. The Bruce Highway is critical to our state, and that is why we are looking to the long term. We have a plan. The Palaszczuk government plans to see an investment of a billion dollars in joint funding for the Bruce Highway via a Bruce Highway trust. We are still waiting for the federal government—still waiting for the federal government—


Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY:—after the budget to make their commitment to match our commitment to the Bruce Highway, because we invest in it and so should the federal government.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, can I check that you did not use unparliamentary language during the interjection?

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Federal Budget, Small Business

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.11 am): There is nothing small about small business in Queensland. Our small businesses are continuing to thrive after recording another year of growth,

but this week's federal budget's promise on skills and training has turned out to be a mirage for small businesses struggling with skills shortages. The reality of the budget is that \$525 million was provided with one hand while it took away \$649 million with the other—a cut of more than \$120 million.

After all of the fanfare of budget night had passed, the Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry's director of employment, Jenny Lambert, warned small businesses that the government's commitment to skills was questionable. She said—

Just because they have said they are funding the Skilling Australians Fund it doesn't mean it's happening.


Small businesses concerned about skills have been absolutely let down by this budget, but it was not the only let-down. This week's budget was also a wasted opportunity for Scott Morrison to get behind federal Labor's proposed Australian investment guarantee. Under the proposed Australian investment guarantee, all Australian businesses will be able to immediately deduct 20 per cent of investment in eligible depreciable assets over \$20,000. Unlike the federal LNP's instant asset write-off, federal Labor's approach is open to all businesses. Importantly, federal Labor's plan is permanent because they want businesses to stay in business.

Already the federal LNP's election sweetener is wearing thin. The Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce CEO, Jo Sheppard, has called for this type of tax reform to be made permanent, and it is Labor that is once again delivering for small business. Tom McLroy in yesterday's *Australian Financial Review* said that Labor's plan 'would give business in industries with large-scale investments featuring long depreciation timeframes over decades the largest cash flow boost.' This is the type of support we need to continue to drive productivity in our economy. The need to support productivity was echoed by Jennifer Westacott from the Business Council of Australia when she said that she was disappointed by the federal budget failing to lift investment. She said—

What is missing in this budget is the whole of economy investment focus which is the only way we are going to drive productivity.

It is obvious that after all the dust has settled from federal budget night Scott Morrison and the LNP in Canberra have failed to provide Queensland small businesses with their fair share.

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, 30 April 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

Report


 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House unanimous report No. 19 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 November 2018 and 11 February 2019*.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 20, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 November 2018 and 11 February 2019 [536].

The report examines two important pieces of subordinate legislation which will improve health services for the people of Queensland: subordinate legislation No. 174, the Health Legislation (Scope of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2018; and subordinate legislation No. 175, a proclamation made under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017. I commend our report to the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That Part 3 of the Health Legislation (Scope of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2018, Subordinate Legislation No. 174 of 2018, be disallowed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Child Protection

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.16 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. The Morrison government has funded a National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders so that all families can know if a predator is living in their neighbourhood. Fardon rape survivor Sharon Tomlinson has expressed her support for this policy. Will the Premier now stand with victims and agree to fully participate in the LNP's plan to keep Queensland kids safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our No. 1 priority is absolutely to keep our children safe. That is why we have a record budget when it comes to child safety. That is why we put on extra workers in the child safety department. We have the strongest laws in the nation when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable. When it comes to a register there are issues that require a national approach, and I am quite sure that these issues are usually addressed at the ministerial council meetings of the attorneys-general.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite voted against this in a previous parliament. Even Hetty Johnston does not support a national register. We know how important the work of Bravehearts and Hetty Johnston is in relation to the safety of our most vulnerable children. It is our firm opinion that in relation to this more work would have to be done at a national level, and we have not seen the fine detail when it comes to this policy.

Transfer Duty

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. This week it was revealed that the Treasurer made a billion dollar blunder when forecasting transfer duty revenue in the budget. Will the Premier rule out increasing taxes to cover the Treasurer's billion dollar blunder?

Ms PALASZCZUK: What the Treasurer released is an update in relation to revenue that would be coming in because of a decline in property construction.

Mr Powell: Because of Labor's taxes.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, not at all.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are the low-tax state when it comes to—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: When we talk about construction, you only need to look at the announcement we made today when it comes to building Cross River Rail, which will be city changing. We will see huge residential and commercial investment as we build these new precincts. Lord Mayor Graham Quirk talks about Brisbane being a world-class city. My government is building the world-class city. We have seen investment, with Queen's Wharf slowly coming out of the ground.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members for Toowoomba South, Glass House and Chatsworth, I ask you to cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will see investment around the new Brisbane underground. Cross River Rail is a transformational project for the entire south-east. It means better travel times for people coming in from Redlands, coming up from the Gold Coast and coming down from the Sunshine Coast. This is a city-changing investment. How much was put in by the Morrison federal government?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members for Glass House and Toowoomba South, you are hard of hearing today. I asked you to cease your interjections. You are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we saw in the Morrison federal budget handed down this week is this amount of money for Cross River Rail: zero. Today the Deputy Premier, Minister Bailey and I stood with the members of the companies that will be building a world-class transport system for the south-east of the state.

Ms Trad: You just sack, sell and cut. That's what you do.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We know the record of those opposite: cutting, sacking and selling.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it is Thursday. Can we please get through Thursday?

Ms PALASZCZUK: You only have to ask any of the 14,000 people who lost their jobs. The Leader of the Opposition was proud of the budget handed down that included those sackings. We on this side of the House will—

Opposition members: Tax!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You really are embarrassing—really.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have just risen to my feet. It seemed to make very little difference to the level of interjection or the type of interjection. I will tolerate a level, as I have always promised this House, but the volume level of those interjections was ridiculous. I ask you to tone it down.

Regional Queensland, Transport Infrastructure

Mr HARPER: My question without notice is of the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on the delivery of regional transport infrastructure across Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for that question. Not only are we building a world-class transport system in the south-east of the state; we are delivering for regional Queensland as well. I know that the member for Thuringowa's No. 1 project is Riverway Drive. Stage 1 has been completed. Because of the impact of the floods we were unable to officially open that. I can confirm for the member that next month I will be in Townsville and we will officially open Riverway Drive.

This morning members heard the Minister for Transport outline our investment in the Bruce Highway. My government committed to putting in place the Bruce Highway Trust. We will put in \$200 million a year to ensure we deliver this most vital transport network which connects our far north to the south-east. In addition, we know how important regional and western roads are. That is why over the next four years we are delivering \$12.6 billion in infrastructure outside the Brisbane region, supporting more than 11,000 jobs. My government governs for all of Queensland. No matter where they live, we want to make sure people can get where they need to go. That is why this transport infrastructure is vital and necessary.

I will give some examples. In Cairns, the \$152 million Smithfield bypass is on track for completion next year, supporting 115 jobs. That is 100 per cent funded by this government. In Townsville, we have committed \$102.9 million towards the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade, and we have committed \$42 million for pavement widening and strengthening on the Gregory Developmental Road.

In Rockhampton—I was there with Bill Shorten and the member for Rockhampton when we announced it—there is a \$200 million commitment by this government for the Rockhampton Ring Road. Once again, we are building the infrastructure that is needed for the regions. In Mackay, as mentioned yesterday, we committed \$99 million towards the Mackay Ring Road stage 1, supporting 1,000 jobs—80 per cent of those jobs are local jobs—and \$30 million towards the Walkerston bypass, supporting another 200 jobs. In Gladstone we have committed \$20 million to improve safety in Gladstone. In Wide Bay—

Mr Mander: Regional deals.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Regional deals? The Hinkler deal? The one for the federal electorate? No-one else has that. There is a Brisbane city deal and the Townsville City Deal—and then we have a Hinkler city deal which is based around the federal electorate of Hinkler.

(Time expired)

Transfer Duty

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Yesterday the Treasurer said that her billion dollar blunder in transfer duty revenue projections is evidence of a downturn in the housing market. Has the Treasurer asked Treasury to model the effect of Bill Shorten's massive housing tax policy on Queensland's property industry and the effect it would have on the Queensland budget?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for his question. I can inform the House that I have not instructed Treasury to do such modelling. It is currently working on the significant impact on the Queensland economy of the GST writedown under the Morrison LNP government. Let us be clear about the reason for this \$8 billion GST writedown. It is based on a slowing national economy. It is based on the fact that the colleagues of those opposite in Canberra—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Ms TRAD:—have been absolutely unable to deal with the No. 1 issue facing our national economy—that is, stagnant wages.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton!

Ms TRAD: You cannot address stagnant wages while you are cutting penalty rates, while you are cutting workers' wages. Those opposite want modelling done on Labor's economic plan to make housing more affordable for workers and young people and basically cap the number of properties that can be negatively geared within our economy, which I think is eminently sensible. No other nation has an uncapped negative gearing policy.

I am not going to ask Treasury officials to waste their time. There has been extensive economic analysis done on Labor's housing policy—a housing policy that I am personally very proud of. I am asking Treasury to do as much work as possible on what we are to do with the significant GST writedown because of the inability of the federal government to deal with the No. 1 issue facing the Queensland economy.

While I am on my feet, those opposite are so concerned about the billion dollar writedown that I have spoken about, but in 2014 when there was a similar billion dollar writedown what did they say?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Everton, I have warned you twice. You are warned under the standing orders formally now. Member for Caloundra, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders, as is the member for Mudgeeraba. The Deputy Premier has the call. Deputy Premier, you have 17 seconds remaining.

Ms TRAD: What was said in 2014 when there was a forecast of almost a billion dollar writedown? Those opposite said, 'The coal price's fallen off a cliff and the other thing is the federal government has changed when they're going to pay us in natural disaster payments.' Those opposite should just grow up!

Federal Budget

Ms McMILLAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on some of the impacts on Queensland arising from the federal budget and whether there are any alternatives?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question and for her strong advocacy for her community and the future for her community, because she absolutely understands that the decisions that we make in government—the decisions we make today, whether it is in the federal budget, in our budget, in this place, in the federal parliament—are meaningful not only for people today but also for future generations, and this is something that I know the member for Mansfield is very passionate about being an educationalist herself.

As I have already informed the House, there are a number of things that are bearing down on the national economy and the Queensland economy in a very challenging way. The first one, as I have already talked about in this House this morning, is stagnant wage growth. Stagnant wage growth is absolutely choking our national economy. The simple fact is that household consumption in the nation is going on a downward trajectory and that is because of the escalating cost of living and stagnant wages—wages that are cut by the Liberal National Party at a federal level when it cut penalty rates. It has no plan in the federal budget to address stagnant wage growth.

The other thing that this federal budget refuses to grapple with—something that is very important for the future generations of our nation as well as every single person sitting in this place—is the issue of climate policy. This budget has done absolutely nothing for climate change and for managing the increase—the escalation—in our emissions. I was grateful to be at a breakfast hosted by PwC yesterday and I was joined on that occasion by former Liberal leader John Hewson, who had this to say about the federal budget and the federal budget's focus on climate policy. He said—

The budget was a very cynical and political exercise that simply looked at what key marginal seats were needed to buy political support and they just went down that list and ticked those boxes. There was no clear plan for climate change.

Everyone—the RBA, heads of industry, heads of corporations, everyone—is asking for action on climate change because they know of its huge economic and social disruption in our community. What did Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg offer up in the budget on Tuesday night? Zero, which is exactly what they have been offering up for the past six years.

(Time expired)

Shark Control Program, Administrative Appeals Tribunal Decision

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. I refer to a decision by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal that has weakened drum line operations designed to protect families from shark attacks at many Queensland beaches. Will the Premier commit to lodging an injunction against the decision and leave the drum lines operating as they have for more than half a century pending an appeal?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The House may be aware that the minister stood in this House yesterday and made a ministerial statement that we are urgently appealing that decision. Secondly, because it involves the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the minister has also written to the federal minister seeking their urgent intervention as well. The federal government was party to this action and therefore it needs to also join with Queensland in relation to protecting our tourism industry and making sure that everything is done. I give the House an assurance that we are doing everything we possibly can. We want to partner with the federal government to do—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is exactly what we are doing. We are appealing and asking for a stay.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Broadwater, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me assure the member for Broadwater that the first respondent is the Commonwealth government—the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—and Queensland has joined with the Commonwealth in relation to this. Therefore, the minister urgently wrote—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—urgently wrote—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maroochydore, member for Broadwater, Leader of the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The minister will update the House on further developments, but we have acted quickly. Meetings were held yesterday and now we ask the Commonwealth government to partner with Queensland on this very important issue.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders. I have tried to give you clear guidance.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Regional Investment

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in our regions and is he aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. He knows how important regional Queensland is and our investment, particularly our recent investment into Munro Martin Parklands in his electorate which will make a big difference up there. I know the members representing the city of

Toowoomba will be very pleased that the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise is here in parliament today, and I know it will welcome the \$7.4 million that I announced yesterday to upgrade parklands in Toowoomba's parks with better walking paths, nature trails and visitor facilities. Even better, there will be 24 jobs in construction, with a further 19 jobs ongoing after we complete that investment. That is a great example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government allocates funding from the state to benefit regional Queensland.

There was a government that claimed to support regional Queensland—another government—and that was the Newman LNP government. I recently came across a magazine in my office in 1 William Street—which of course was its only major capital works program—titled *RegionsQ Framework*. I did a bit of research and that was a production of the then deputy premier and minister for state development, Jeff Seeney. There were two editions, so I made some inquiries about the cost—\$640,000: two editions, one magazine, \$640,000, or \$320,000 for each edition. Let us not forget the consultants. I managed to get a copy of the creative brief from the agency and the agency brief helpfully states—

It's critical that this project is not seen as government propaganda and requires its own unique look and flavour.

That fell on deaf ears, because there is a picture of Jeff Seeney on page 2, and I table a copy of *RegionsQ*.

Tabled paper. Document titled 'RegionsQ: Issue one' [538].

Not content with that, that famous YouTuber Jeff Seeney set up his own YouTube channel to support Regions Queensland. There he is in all his glory reading *RegionsQ*. What a sight it is! I will table this so all honourable members can look at it.

Tabled paper. Photograph, undated, depicting Jeff Seeney YouTube video regarding RegionsQ [539].

Here is the YouTuber Jeff Seeney with 26 views—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please table that, otherwise put it down.

Mr DICK: There were 26 views, including two from me—and that is two views too many. He spent \$640,000 on the magazine with 26 views and zero comments. Here is a comment for the LNP: how is that for government waste? We had the lecturing and the posturing last night, yet \$640,000 was spent by the opposition party that purports—that pretends, that fake party—to represent regional Queensland. It spent \$640,000 on self-promotion of Jeff Seeney. That is a very hard cause, I must admit. It just reinforces the point: while the LNP only invests in itself, we are invested in regional Queensland.

(Time expired)

Mount Crosby Interchange

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier. Labor's federal member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, said last week—

The worst intersection on the Warrego Highway is the Mount Crosby Interchange. The State Government hasn't put in a request. How about they actually put the plans in place, put the business case on the table.

I ask: why has the Palaszczuk Labor government failed to even ask the federal government for funding to upgrade the worst black spot intersection on the Warrego Highway?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. It is interesting that the members opposite are now interested in what Labor is offering the people of Queensland. I am sure Minister Bailey would love to meet with the member for Blair and discuss this issue. We undertake consultation. From memory, the black spot program is a federal-state program. I am quite sure that, if Bill Shorten is elected Prime Minister, there is probably more chance of getting it done.

Cross River Rail

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the benefits that Cross River Rail will deliver to outer urban areas?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Bancroft for his question and his passionate advocacy for the public transport commuters of the outer suburbs. This morning, I was very proud to join the Premier and the Deputy Premier for the major announcement of the successful consortia for this transformational project. This project creates 7,700 jobs. It will transform our rail network. It will have benefits for everybody—even those who will not use rail. There will be such a shift of people from road to rail that we will see benefits right across our transport network.

This project also involves the European train control system, which means a safer network and greater productivity—more trains closer together using the latest technology. That is a \$634 million commitment. The project will start with the new Cross River Rail tunnel and it will progress from there. It will create a safer, more productive transport system. It will double the rail capacity of the inner city, which benefits everybody across the South-East Queensland rail network, particularly those in the outer suburbs, represented by the member for Bancroft and all of those other members who represent those communities of the outer suburbs. This project will make a faster rail service into the CBD. It will make it more competitive.

Commuters will also benefit from our latest smart ticketing system, which involves people using their smart watch, their smartphone, their debit card or their credit card. That will replace the go card system. It will mean faster boarding and a better, more productive transport system. Vancouver, London, New York and Chicago use this smart ticketing system and we will be using it for the first time in Australia. This project will also enable other rail network enhancements. This government has invested in the duplication of heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera and stage 2 of the Gold Coast Light Rail. Now, we have Cross River Rail. That will enable the Sunshine Coast rail duplication.

Who invests in public transport? It is Labor. It is always Labor that invests; it is the LNP that cuts. Under the LNP, there were 48 fewer drivers. We are employing them at a record rate and 212 people are being trained. They are in the system already. Cross River Rail could mean, on average, a train on the Springfield line leaving Brisbane every five minutes. Cross River Rail will see a big modal shift to rail.

Who has the vision for public transport? The Labor Party. Who invests in public transport? It is the Labor Party. We do not ignore commuters. We do not ignore people. You cannot act on congestion unless you act on rail. Those opposite still do not support Cross River Rail and their friends in Canberra do not support it. They refuse to back Queensland. They discriminate against Queensland. We will not. We will keep investing.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, I have already given you some guidance this morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

Animal Activists

Mr PERRETT: My question without notice is to the Premier. It is publicly reported that, on 8 April, there will be another radical activist farm invasion targeting a Queensland farming family—claiming they will undertake the biggest action the world has ever seen. What measures has the Premier ordered to be taken to protect Queensland farming families and their livelihoods from these radical activists' unlawful actions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gympie for that question. It is an important question. I understand the stress that this issue is causing our farmers, our families. Last week, Minister Furner and I had the opportunity to talk directly to the Queensland Farmers' Federation about this important issue. I have asked Minister Furner to look at if there are any other measures that we can take.

Let me say that I do not believe that anyone in this House would believe that it is acceptable for people to cause this distress to hardworking families who work hard on the land. We do not accept this kind of behaviour. There are laws against trespass, but if there is anything further that we can do, I have asked Minister Furner to go away and have a look at that, to talk with the Attorney-General to see if there is any way—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, this is another example of the Premier being responsive to the question asked and she is continually being interjected upon. I ask you to hear the Premier's response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for asking this question. It is an absolutely valid question. It is an important question. It is one that we are taking very seriously. As I said—and I will say again—on behalf of all in this House, we want our farmers to get on with their job, to be able to work in a stress-free environment and not have activists, who are coming mainly from interstate to Queensland, causing them distress, which has an impact on our export industry as well. Everything that we can do we will do.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Sports Assets Legacy Program

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Can the minister update the House on the impact of the government's Commonwealth Games Sports Assets Legacy Program?

Ms JONES: I thank the member for his question. I know he attended the Commonwealth Games with his family and really enjoyed it. Certainly, we know that when young children in particular get an opportunity to see their heroes on home soil, who knows who the next Sally Pearson will be. They might come from your electorate, from the great new school out your way that you are building single-handedly brick by brick.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Ms JONES: It is very personal for him. As a government, we made a decision that we wanted to ensure that the sporting equipment that we invested in would be used for the future generations of Queensland athletes. Traditionally, after the Commonwealth Games those goods are often sold. We made the decision, sitting around the cabinet table as we were—and the Premier was very firm about this—to make sure that these sporting assets benefited the next generation of Queenslanders.

I am very proud to announce to the parliament today that more than 20,000 sporting assets have been disseminated across Queensland and are now being used by young Queenslanders. In the electorate of the member for Everton, Bowls Queensland has received balls, mats, scoreboards, scoring bats, tape measures and flagpoles—and he likes flagpoles. In the electorate of the member for Broadwater, the Runaway Bay sports super centre received beach volleyballs, nets, post uprights, pumps, corner flag units and a gazebo. In the former electorate of the member for Broadwater—we did not turn our back on Mundingburra—Wulguru State School has received a new long jump run-up.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms JONES: It was your decision, not mine.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will put your comments through the chair. You will cease the backwards and forwards.

Ms JONES: In the electorate of the member for Southport, the Ashmore PCYC received three boxing rings, gloves, punching bags, protective equipment, skipping ropes and medicine balls. I could have a field day with that one.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great legacy of the Commonwealth Games for the people of the Nanango electorate. The kids of Kingaroy State High School are now enjoying their brand-new long jump run-up made from a track used at the Commonwealth Games. We also know that it was not just the great legacy—

Government members interjected.

Ms JONES: We are. We also know that it was not just a great legacy. We also saw gold, gold, gold for Australia, with the Australian team securing 80 gold medals, and 198 medals in total. Eighty has a nice ring to it. It would be great if we got 80 per cent funding for the M1. No, we have the Leader of the Opposition—the chief apologist for the Morrison government—saying, 'We don't want 80 per cent for the M1; we'll be fine with 50 per cent.' It is a disgrace. I say to the people in the gallery that the M1 in New South Wales is getting funded at 80 per cent by the Morrison government, yet it will fund the M1 in Queensland at only 50 per cent. That is not gold, that is not silver, that is not bronze; it is the wooden spoon. We will stand up to Canberra—

(Time expired)

Ms Jones: Jump in, member for Burleigh!

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, your time had expired. I had asked you to resume your seat. You are warned under the standing orders.

Indigenous Communities, Housing

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. While Queensland Labor plays silly political games about Indigenous housing, the Northern Territory—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right! Member for Burleigh, please start your question again. The question will be heard in silence.

Mr HART: While Queensland Labor plays silly political games about Indigenous housing, the Northern Territory Labor government and others have agreed to work with the federal government to build new Indigenous homes. Will the Premier explain why her government prefers to play silly games rather than focusing on outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders, leaving them at risk of homelessness?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I ask that you not go to your preamble. I ask that you go to the core question and remove what I would suggest are inferences in that part of the question.

Mr HART: I will read the question again?

Mr SPEAKER: No, the question not the preamble.

Mr HART: Will the Premier explain why her government has refused to negotiate with the federal government rather than focusing on outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders, leaving them at risk of homelessness?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I am happy to stand in this House and talk about remote Indigenous housing and how Queensland has definitely not been given a fair share when it comes to housing. The federal government has essentially ripped up its long-term partnerships that it has had over 50 years working with the states to deliver remote and Indigenous housing for some of our most vulnerable members and families of our community. It is an absolute shame that a 50-year agreement has been stopped by the Morrison government.

My understanding is that in Western Australia and the Northern Territory they accepted an exit agreement. I do not accept an exit agreement because I believe it is a Commonwealth and a state responsibility to deliver long-term, secure, affordable housing for vulnerable members of our community. What this agreement would have meant for Queensland is \$1.6 billion over 10 years. We will continue to lobby for our fair share of Indigenous and remote housing.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yesterday the Deputy Premier and I had the absolute privilege, with the member for Cook, to meet with Mayor Vonda Malone. We were talking about how hard it is to deliver remote Indigenous housing in the Torres Strait. We are investing \$239 million in this housing. I am very proud that through my government we are assisting members and families of the Torres Strait to become home owners. It is a great dream of people living in the Torres Strait to live in and own their own home.

Dr Rowan interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is what my government is working towards. It is obvious that those opposite do not support long-term Commonwealth-state agreements when it comes to remote Indigenous housing. It is cruel, it is disgraceful and it is happening under the LNP Morrison government. When I go to COAG I talk about this issue because it is fundamental to Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Can I remind all members who are on warnings that that means no interjections.

Energy Rebates and Concessions

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House of the state contribution for electricity rebates and concessions for Queenslanders and is he aware of any further concessions provided by other jurisdictions?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Aspley for the question. In 2018 the Palaszczuk government is investing \$212 million to fund a range of energy rebates and concessions to support our vulnerable customers. This includes \$196 million to deliver the \$341 per year electricity rebate to eligible pensioners, seniors, veterans and Health Care Card holders. Since January 2018 we have assisted more than 6,300 customers to receive up to \$720 in government support towards their energy debt. Financial help is also available to those with specific medical conditions who rely on life support machines at home or, indeed, need to use air conditioners intensively to better manage their chronic diseases. More than 1.9 million Queensland households received an asset ownership dividend payment of \$50 in 2018 and will receive another one this year.

We know what it is going to cost because we got it right in the first place. We did not have to change our mind while the ink was still damp on the budget. In Canberra the LNP has left out thousands of Australians who rely on government payments. Within hours of delivering his budget, the Treasurer caved in to pressure from Labor and said that Australians on Newstart will now receive the energy supplement. That instantaneously produces an \$80 million black hole in the federal budget. Was it a sudden rush of post-budget compassion? Why did they do it? In the Prime Minister's own words on the *7.30 Report* last night, 'I took the decision to get with the finance minister and the Treasurer to extend that payment so it simply passed the parliament.' He is not sincere about helping the nation's most vulnerable people. He is not sincere about fair wages. He is not sincere about Abstudy, Austudy or Newstart increases. I will tell members what he is sincere about. He is sincere about privatising our assets. He is sincere about stopping our transition to renewable energy. He is sincere about increasing power prices for all Australians. The federal budget was chaos and confusion and all the federal government offers is continual chaos and confusion.

Bruce Highway

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Residents have campaigned for years for the East Feluga-Bruce Highway intersection to be fixed. This intersection has taken lives, had numerous accidents and near misses. Will the minister commit to fixing this dangerous intersection?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I thank him for raising this issue with me in the chamber. Every death and serious injury on our roads is a tragedy and this government takes that very seriously. We are doing everything that we can to reduce the road toll, not only in terms of fatalities but also in terms of hospitalisations which cause so much trauma often for the rest of people's lives.

I am aware of the tragic fatal crash at the intersection on the Bruce Highway and East Feluga Road in December last year. I express my condolences to the family of the young woman who tragically lost her life, and I am sure every member in this chamber joins me in doing so. The Department of Transport and Main Roads continues to work with the Queensland Police Service to determine the precise circumstances surrounding the fatality. I am aware of community concerns about safety at the location and I have heard the representations of the honourable member. For that reason, I have asked the department to look at what we can do to improve the situation into the future.

I am also advised by Transport and Main Roads that there was a program of works which could help improve the situation, including the installation of additional warning signs, sight distance improvements, skid resistant improvements and the installation of a staggered intersection. The next step there is to carry out the necessary planning and design work, to undertake any works and also to seek any funding to allow construction to proceed. Of course, it is part of the Bruce Highway so a funding contribution would need to be sought from the Commonwealth as part of that. I am happy to keep the member informed about this matter and how it progresses.

While I am addressing this issue, the road toll this year in North Queensland is up about three fatalities, which is a concern. While we are doing better relatively in other areas, that certainly is a concern. I urge all members to get across the message into their constituencies about the fatal 5 that are contributing to the vast majority of crashes. They involve poor judgements by drivers—not everyone but many. The fatal 5 includes speeding and not wearing a seatbelt. It still amazes me the number of people who do not strap up. They are heavily overrepresented in fatalities. There is distraction and that mobile phone issue—put it away. We all have a role to play to help road safety and get that message across. It is like driving drunk. That is what the evidence base says, from all the researchers in road safety. Drink-driving and drug-driving represent a massive increase in risk, along with fatigue, particularly in the regional areas. Let us all play a role in getting that road safety message across in our constituencies, no matter where we represent.

Capricornia Correctional Centre

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Police and the Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister please update the House on the expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member, who is a strong supporter of the Capricornia Correctional Centre, as is the member for Keppel. I had the opportunity to visit the centre a number of times with the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel, and I know that they are very excited about the expansion works underway—\$241 million worth of expansion works. The overwhelming majority of the work on those expansion works is being done by locals because of our Buy Queensland procurement policy. Some 193,000 hours of work have already been undertaken on the project, and 172,000 of those hours were completed by Rockhampton workers. That means nearly 90 per cent of the work was contributed by local workers. What an outstanding contribution to the local economy. It is a big win for local workers and, what is more, supports local suppliers. I know that the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel often hear from people in the street about how this project is supporting the Rockhampton economy.

During construction the project will deliver 172 construction jobs and, once complete, 130 full-time Public Service corrective services employees for the region. It is a great investment in the local economy and, of course, it continues our great legacy of supporting public service delivery in the Queensland corrective services space. That is why I was very surprised to see the opposition last night during debate attack our decision to back public prisons in Queensland. What did they say in the motion? They said that it was a waste of money and the wrong priorities to back public prisons. Well, they have let the cat out of the bag. They need to be honest with the 5,000 members of Queensland Corrective Services and say that they will not privatise their jobs, because when it comes to privatisation

those opposite have not seen a public asset or a public service they do not want to privatise. It is in their DNA. They do not listen to the community and they have not listened. They have not changed a thing.

Last night they confirmed their position that they do not back our public prisons decision and they call it a waste of money and the wrong priorities. The leopard does not change its spots, because when the LNP were in government in 2013 the *Courier-Mail* stated in an article titled 'Wheels in motion to privatise state jails'—

The State Government is embarking on a secret plan to privatise all Queensland prisons ...

Not only do they criticise our decision about public prisons; they want to privatise them all.

(Time expired)

Black-Throated Finch Management Plan

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the environment minister. Given the significant delays to date, will the minister commit to making a decision on the Black-throated Finch Management Plan for the Carmichael mine project before 1 May?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. As I hope the member would be aware, there are a number of management plans that are required for the proponent he is referring to to be able to uphold its own EA. There are two management plans that they are expected to be able to fulfil before they can uphold their own environmental approvals. One is the Black-throated Finch Management Plan for which the department has sought out independent scientific advice so that it can make its final determination. The other management plan is the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan. That is with the federal government. The federal government, at the very same time as the state regulator—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. I ask you to cease you interjections.

Ms ENOCH: At the very same time as the state regulator was seeking independent scientific advice, the federal government was seeking independent scientific advice with regard to the GDEM. That has not been provided to the regulator in Queensland, even though I have written to the federal Minister for the Environment and even though the regulator has written to the federal department of the environment. We have still not received that advice or that independent report from CSIRO and Geosciences Australia. The only thing right now that is holding this up is that that particular GDEM Plan has not been provided to the regulator in Queensland to use that to go through the various channels to be able to make their own decision.

In the meantime, with regard to the black-throated finch, we absolutely ensured that the regulator, who is out of reach of political interference—and I know that is not something that we saw from the former government—is able to do its job without political interference so that we can uphold the incredibly important environmental laws of this state. We need to be able to find a thriving balance among jobs, the environment sector and of course our mining sector. We need to find that thriving balance. That is why we will ensure that the laws of this state will be upheld without political interference. The regulator is able to make its decisions with the information that it gathers. When the regulator requires extra information, it will go and get that information—but when there is a federal government that will not hand over the independent scientific report on GDEM, we know that something is being hidden.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Jobs

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Can the minister inform the House how the government is delivering jobs, supporting infrastructure in Maryborough and the Wide Bay and other parts of regional Queensland?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. As I know he knows, the Palaszczuk government is passionate about jobs in Maryborough and the Wide Bay. Our \$600 Works for Queensland program, partnering with local government, is a jobs powerhouse in the region and across the rest of Queensland. To date this outstanding program is supporting 4,284 jobs in the Wide Bay region and counting.

There is \$73.8 million worth of investment committed, with a total of 232 local infrastructure projects—infrastructure that is improving livability, supporting businesses and supporting the local economies. A great example is our \$150,000 Works for Queensland investment in the Maryborough Heritage Centre. This is helping to preserve and protect this iconic heritage listed building for future generations. We know how important heritage is to the region and the city of Maryborough—one of my childhood homes.

Then there is the \$2.5 million Maryborough CBD works project that is transforming Bazaar Street. In Hervey Bay a near \$2 million Works for Queensland contribution is helping deliver the new Fraser Coast Sports and Recreation Precinct, which is also in the electorate of Maryborough. I helped official open this in February with the member for Maryborough and Mayor George Seymour.

In Bundaberg, Works for Queensland is delivering \$50 million for a flood warning system. It is also delivering elsewhere in regional Queensland. It is supporting 13,700 jobs statewide, while injecting millions into local economies. There is \$45 million for the Cairns Regional Council, including \$3.4 million for the Cairns Regional Council Redlynch master plan implementation. There is \$18.2 million for the Gladstone Regional Council, including \$348,000 for the upgrade of the local BMX club. I am sure the member for Gladstone will be on his treads there very soon.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I take the interjection from the member for Gladstone. There is \$32.4 million for the Mackay Regional Council, including \$500,000 for the Blacks Beach park fitness stairs. I know the Mayor of Mackay, Greg Williamson, is a great fan of Works for Queensland.

There is \$27.2 million for the Rockhampton Regional Council, including \$500,000 for upgrades to Gracemere's SES facilities. There is almost \$70 million for the Townsville City Council, including \$460,000 for the Townsville North Shore Youth Hub, which I joined Mayor Jenny Hill and local members to open in November.

Works for Queensland is yet another sign that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for all of Queensland. It is a demonstration of how we are delivering now and closely in partnership with local government for all of Queensland. That is in stark contrast to the on-again off-again federal budget that is not delivering in the near future.

(Time expired)

Redland Hospital

Dr ROBINSON: My question is to the Premier. I table page 107 of the federal budget and ask: will the Premier now stop playing political games and match the \$16 million of funding set aside by the Morrison government to improve patient access at the Redland Hospital?

Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled 'Supporting Our Hospitals—additional infrastructure and services' [\[540\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Member, similar to the guidance I gave the member for Burleigh, can I ask you to rephrase that question without the inference?

Dr ROBINSON: Will the Premier match the \$16 million of funding set aside by the Morrison government to improve patient access at the Redland Hospital?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We know how important the Redland Hospital is for that region. That is why the health minister is undertaking a business case in relation to that area. As I said yesterday in this House, we do the business case, then we let the contracts and build after we have had the design done. We will be looking at that as an absolute priority. I give this assurance to the House: we value the health of Queenslanders right across this state, no matter where they live.

Land Restoration Fund, Establishment

Ms LUI: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Can the minister update the House on the progress of the government's commitment to establish a land restoration fund in Queensland?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Cook for her question. I add that she has been an incredible advocate for environmental programs in her electorate—an electorate that is home to some amazing biodiversity and beautiful country. I wanted to acknowledge the hard work of the member for Cook.

While the LNP are still unable to articulate where they stand on climate change, the Palaszczuk government is delivering on our commitment to introduce a land restoration fund, to support the carbon-farming project, tackle climate change and create jobs. The \$500 million flagship fund will also help Queensland transition to a low-carbon future economy.

I am pleased to announce today that more than \$1 million in funding is being allocated to six projects under the Pilot Projects Program to lay the foundations that will enable Queensland's industry to grow. This includes Cape York Natural Resources Management in the electorate of Cook, which is receiving \$200,000 to develop a carbon project across 14 properties, and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, which is being funded to undertake a strategic analysis of Cape York Peninsula fire patterns leading to increased carbon credits. Other successful applicants include FNQ NRM, Deakin University, Southern Gulf NRM and the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia. The projects receiving funding will improve grazing lands for carbon, enhance fire management and generate income for landholders.

The \$500 million flagship land restoration fund forms a key plank in this government's commitment to taking action on climate change. We accept the science and recognise that action is needed now if we are going to address the impacts of a changing climate. By contrast, in this week's, what I can only describe as disappointing, federal budget the Morrison government announced no new initiatives to tackle climate change and no new money to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Stakeholders are already expressing their dismay, with Oxfam describing the budget as a catastrophic failure of leadership in the face of the climate crisis.

On top of that, if it is not bad enough that we do not have leadership from the federal government with regard to action on climate or any deliberate attempt to look at action on climate change, Queensland research institutes were also snubbed in the budget. We saw \$50 million allocated for new environmental research centres in Victoria and Western Australia and nothing for Queensland. Queensland has not got its fair share and we are continuing to fight on behalf of the people of Queensland.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Premier be permitted to immediately move a motion regarding the federal budget within the following time limits to apply—

- 10 minutes for the Premier and Minister of Trade;
- 10 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee); and
- 5 minutes for all other members.

with the question to be put no later than 12.55 pm today.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Federal Budget



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.17 am): I move—

That this House—

1. Notes that the Morrison LNP government budget delivered on 2 April:
 - (a) fails to restore funding cuts to Queensland hospitals and dental services
 - (b) fails to restore funding to the skills and training sector
 - (c) fails to restore funding to remote indigenous housing
 - (d) fails to provide disability support in Queensland due to federal government failure to provide NDIS packages
 - (e) fails to commit to funding universal access to early childhood education beyond the 2020 calendar year
 - (f) fails to provide any funding for Cross River Rail
 - (g) fails to deliver Queensland taxpayers a fair share of infrastructure and services and continues to put the vast majority of road funding commitments beyond the forward estimates
 - (h) fails to recognise the need for regional services and infrastructure in a decentralised state like Queensland
 - (i) fails to provide a coherent and stable federal climate policy to reduce emissions and transition to a clean energy economy.
2. Calls upon the federal government to revise this disastrous budget to ensure Queensland gets its fair share.

I rise to speak on this motion because it is absolutely important for Queenslanders and members of this House to understand that we did not get our fair share when the federal budget was handed down this week by the LNP Morrison government. It is absolutely disgraceful that Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project—Cross River Rail—got zero from the Morrison government.

Today the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Transport and I announced this city-changing infrastructure project. It means thousands of jobs. It is congestion busting. Before the budget was handed down, the Morrison government was talking about this being a congestion-busting budget. It is not a congestion-busting budget for Queensland.

What we have seen time and time again is Queenslanders paying taxes and those taxes being spent in southern states. Whilst I do not have anything against New South Wales, except when it comes to State of Origin time, and I do not have anything against Victoria, although the Minister for State Development may have something against Geelong—but I am quite sure that is to do with AFL—I do have deep concerns when it comes to Queensland taxes being spent in New South Wales and Victoria.

Announced in the federal budget was money for a new hospital in Geelong—\$50 million. Announced in the federal budget was money for a fast train from Melbourne to Geelong—\$2 billion.

Ms Fentiman: No business case.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There was no business case. We have had a business case for Cross River Rail for years and we did not get one single dollar—shame. It is an absolute shame.

What about the con job we saw when it came to transport infrastructure in this state. Days before the budget the LNP were boasting about this extra investment on the M1—half a billion dollars from memory. What did we clearly show yesterday in question time? It is zero, zero, zero, zero 'onwards'.

Ms Trad: Onwards!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Onwards! Not only does New South Wales get \$7.3 billion for transport infrastructure and Victoria \$6.2 billion; Queensland continues to miss out. Recently the Prime Minister wrote a letter to me talking about the budget. He talked about \$4 billion over the next decade for new land transport infrastructure projects. That is simply not enough for Queensland. That is not our fair share.

Mr Dick: Unacceptable.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is unacceptable. I table that letter for those opposite.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 April 2019, from the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding Federal 2019-20 budget decisions relating to Queensland [\[541\]](#).

When it comes to other issues, in relation to health we are still owed \$300 million—\$300 million. Time and time again I go to COAG and talk about how we need this \$300 million. It is Queensland's money. We are owed that money and it should be paid to Queenslanders.

Ms Jones: And the GST.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. Then of course there is the GST. Once again, Queenslanders are owed over a billion dollars in GST from the write-down. Once again, that impacts on Queensland's budget. Why should the money be going to New South Wales and Victoria and we miss out?

Ms Jones: We have to mop it up.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And we have to mop it up. We are owed money for dental services. We are not getting the money for remote Indigenous housing. I am quite sure the Deputy Premier and Treasurer will talk more about that. It is the one issue that all of our mayors in remote and regional areas talk about—how important it is to deliver housing in those communities. What did those opposite do? They did absolutely nothing. They do not care.

Mr Speaker, you only have to look at the fine print. I talked about \$4 billion in new money, but I think the Prime Minister even got that wrong. I am advised that, in the fine print, \$600 million of that \$4 billion is already budgeted for. The new money is actually \$3.4 billion instead of \$4 billion over 10 years. How much does Sydney get for just one rail line? \$3.5 billion. It is okay to spend our money in New South Wales and Victoria, but it is not okay for Queensland's money to be spent right here in Queensland.

We will always stand up to the federal budget. When it comes to the federal election, there is a date with destiny. I am quite sure that every single Queenslanders will go to the ballot box and think long and hard about the decisions that they have to make because for so long now Queensland has missed out.

We will continue to work with federal Labor and Bill Shorten because Bill Shorten understands Queensland. He was there with the member for Rockhampton and me talking about the Rockhampton Ring Road. He stood with me outside the Roma transit station committing \$800 million to Cross River Rail. He has travelled the Bruce Highway—and he stayed on the bus! He did not hop off the bus. He stayed on the bus and he travelled the Bruce Highway right up to Townsville.

Ms Jones: Talking to ordinary Queenslanders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. Time and time again he will get out there and speak to Queenslanders, understanding their needs and issues. What we have said consistently and what everyone on this side of the House firmly believes is that Queensland wants its fair share when it comes to the federal budget.

We can talk about the shambles when it comes to climate change as well. For years and years and years the federal government has buried its head in the sand and denied the signs of climate change. What I have said this year is that every single candidate should stand and account for whether or not they believe in the science of climate change. We have had to face our fair share—in fact, more than our fair share—when it comes to natural disasters. What we firmly need is a national climate change policy.

Whilst I am on my feet, we also need a national energy policy. As I have said, Minister Bailey and Minister Lynham have wasted months of their lives—in fact, probably years of their lives—having to get their head around a federal energy policy only to find out that it has changed. Not only has it changed; usually the Prime Minister changes as well as the same time.


We want our fair share of the GST. We want our education funding for our public schools based on a needs basis. We want our TAFE funding. We want our dental hospital funding. We want our transport funding. We want our Cross River Rail funding. This is the Queensland that we are building for tomorrow, and we cannot do it alone without support from the federal government. My point remains this: we pay our taxes. We pay our taxes and we are entitled to have those taxes back.

Today I am looking forward to hearing from the Leader of the Opposition on how she accounts for the mistruths that the federal coalition has made in Canberra, talking about funding that is in the never, never.

Ms Trad: Onwards!

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is 'onwards'—it is blank, blank, blank. They are conning Queenslanders. It is absolute hypocrisy. It is an absolute disgrace. On this side of the House we will always stand up for Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I will remind members that there are several members who are on the warning list already from Mr Speaker. I will remind you of those. They are the members for Toowoomba South, Glass House, Everton, Nanango, Caloundra, Mudgeeraba, Broadwater, Chatsworth, Cooper and Moggill.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.27 am): I rise to speak against the Premier's motion because Queensland deserves more. Queensland deserves better. Queensland deserves more than this Premier when it comes to standing up for Queensland.

Let us look at this. We have a Premier in Queensland who refuses to negotiate with the federal government. We have a Premier in Queensland who has no clue as how to cut a deal with the federal government. We have seen it in relation to Cross River Rail. We had the Premier stand up here proudly last year, backed up by her Treasurer, saying, 'We don't want your money, federal government. We're going to go it alone.'

Ms Trad: We never said that.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is exactly it—and we have had the Treasurer saying it again. We have her sitting in this House. That is what Queensland gets under the Palaszczuk government. We have a Premier who refuses to stand up for Queensland and who refuses to work with the federal government, and we have a Treasurer whose only plan is to slug us with five new taxes. The federal budget that has been handed down is good news for Queensland. We have a budget of tax cuts, a budget of increased infrastructure spending and a budget that supports rural and regional Queensland.

What have we got with the Palaszczuk government? More taxes and nothing more for Queensland, because what we have seen is a billion dollar black hole. We have a Treasurer who cannot plan for the future. We know that the property industry is going backwards under the Palaszczuk

government. How can they have certainty when we have a Treasurer who comes into the Queensland parliament each and every year and thinks, 'Where can I get more money? Let's tax more people. Tax, tax and tax—and tax the property industry while we are at it.'

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. What do we see from the Morrison federal budget? We see a stronger economy with fewer taxes. We see a budget that brings us back into the black. When I am talking about those tax cuts, which is something that the Palaszczuk government has absolutely no clue about—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Treasurer in this House laughs because the Treasurer's only solution is more tax. The federal LNP, just like the state LNP, believes that Queenslanders deserve a fair go. That is exactly what the Morrison budget has given. It is projected that 2.26 million Queenslanders will receive tax relief in the 2018-19 financial year.

Not only does the federal Morrison government believe that a projected 2.26 million Queenslanders deserve some relief; that is what Prime Minister Morrison and federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg believe. That is what our shadow Treasurer, the member for Everton, believes. That is what the LNP state team believes. Today we have the state Treasurer and the Premier of Queensland speaking against the federal Labor leader. That would be Bill Shorten who stood up this morning and said, 'I support the federal Morrison government's tax cuts for an estimated 2.26 million Queenslanders.' Who is over here? We have the Premier who obviously struggles to negotiate with anyone. We have the Treasurer who does not back Queenslanders having tax relief, who refuses to back more money for infrastructure and more tax relief for the people of Queensland.

This is their motion. The Premier has been set up by her Treasurer. We are wasting time because we cannot get our house in order to determine what bill to debate so we are going to filibuster about the excellent federal Morrison budget. It would have been good if we could continue the debates, but the Leader of the House is struggling trying to work out which bill she is going to talk about. Let us get back to this one. Let us talk about infrastructure investment under the Morrison government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. We do not need quarrelling across the chamber. The member for Nanango has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection from over here. We are missing out because those opposite came in promising openness, accountability and transparency. What have we got? We have a filibuster motion which is ripping off 2.26 million Queenslanders because they cannot organise their business of the day. They cannot get their house in order because they do not support Queenslanders. What a shame!

Let us talk about infrastructure investment. The Premier so proudly held up her budget paper yesterday pretending that there was nothing on it—again misled by the person who wants to be the Premier sitting behind her. In the federal budget papers the government will provide an additional \$2.6 billion from 2020-21 for priority regional and urban transport infrastructure in Queensland. On this piece of paper for 2020-21 there is a five; on the next column for 2021-22 there is 105; and for 2022-23 there is a 203 there. Is it not amazing the piece of paper that the Premier gets handed? I table that document.


Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Infrastructure Investment Program—Queensland Infrastructure Investments'. [\[542\]](#)

Unfortunately, the poor Premier has again been set up by her Treasurer, who is desperately trying to get her job.

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. On a serious note, one of the wonderful line items in this budget from the Morrison federal LNP government is its increased support for mental health funding, its increased health funding and its increased education funding. One that I am extraordinarily proud of is the increase in mental health funding for rural and regional Queenslanders. How can we help deliver that? The Palaszczuk Labor government in Queensland is so inept that it has a health system in crisis. What have we got from the federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg? We have more money for a rural generalist program for our Queensland hospitals. That is exactly what we need—help from the federal government, an increase in health spending and funding from the federal government, an increase of \$1.1 billion. Why do we need that? We need that because the Palaszczuk Labor government has a health system in crisis in this state. All hospitals in the south-east corner are reaching

absolute breaking point. Worse than that, we have a Premier in this state who believes it is okay to shut down rural maternity services. How dare a Premier in this state come in here and move a motion to say that 2.26 million Queenslanders do not deserve a break. How can the Premier of this state not stand up for Queenslanders? The LNP will always stand up for Queenslanders. We will always stand up for increased health spending and tax cuts for Queenslanders.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.37 am): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier, because fundamentally the federal budget that was handed down on Tuesday is unfair. It is unfair to Queensland, it is unfair to the nation's most vulnerable, it is unfair to future generations and it is unfair to the regions. We have had some economic modelling done by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling which shows quite clearly that under this budget people in regional Australia and older people will get the least benefit from the coalition's tax cuts. This is why we do not support the federal government's budget, because it is fundamentally unfair to those Australians who are doing it the toughest.

We also know that their pretend surplus in the outyears is built on their incompetent rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Because of their incompetence, people with a disability will miss out on the services they need. Rather than fixing their mistakes, they are using the underspend to prop up their surplus.

What we do know is that economic growth is down, consumption growth is down, wages are flat and debt has doubled. Our debt to revenue ratio is now the highest it has been in 70 years. As for those tax cuts which have been trumpeted by those opposite, let me tell the House that the member for Nanango will get an \$11,000 tax cut but those who work in a takeaway will get a \$4.50 a week tax cut. They are the sorts of tax cuts that those opposite like—the big end of town.

Ms McMillan interjected.


Ms TRAD: The fat cats, I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield. They get a nice tidy tax cut, but the workers on \$40,000 or \$60,000 a year get \$5 a week. That is disgraceful.

The member for Nanango said that we did not know how to cut a deal, but there are a number of examples of how those opposite got a deal and then tore it up. They got a deal on Cross River Rail. They got 50 per cent funding, availability payments and the debt on the federal government's book to build this nation-building infrastructure. What did Scott Emerson do? He wrote to Anthony Albanese and said, 'We'd like to accept your deal,' and then Tony Abbott called up Campbell Newman and said, 'I don't support public transport infrastructure,' and he said, 'Okay, we'll tear up the deal.' And that is what they did. Those opposite know how to get a deal out of federal Labor and then tear it up. They turned their backs on Queenslanders.

While I am talking about deals, let me talk about the deal that Campbell Newman and his protege, the member for Nanango, did on the NDIS. Those geniuses over there signed a deal with the Abbot government that saw Queensland's contribution to the NDIS fixed. That means it does not matter how many people went into the system; we had to fund the system to 90,000 individuals. Well, because of the federal LNP government's incompetence, we are funding for 90,000 participants when we only have 50,000 participants. What does that mean? It means that Queensland is picking up 80 per cent of the tab in terms of rolling out these individual packages and the Commonwealth is spending 20 per cent.

Those opposite know how to turn their backs on Queenslanders. They know how to get into bed with Canberra at the expense of Queenslanders because they do not care. If we need any indication of how much they do not care about Queensland and the most vulnerable, it is their support for this stinking budget. This stinking budget sells out people with a disability and people living in remote Indigenous communities. It sells out the most vulnerable in our community. Their support for this budget is shameful. What more could we expect from Campbell Newman's protege, who was so proud of sacking workers, cutting services and privatising.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): I rise to speak against the motion. How dare this government lecture anybody on economic management. They have the hide to stand up and criticise a government that has brought about growth and brought about one of the lowest unemployment rates in years. How dare they do that.

Just this week, we have seen the competence level of this Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Under the cloak of the budget, the Deputy Premier tried to sneak through this little fact: 'We're just a little bit out in our projection for the budget for the end of the year.' Just four months ago, this is what the MYFER

said: 'an improved outlook for transfer duties in 2018-19'. Just 100 days later, the Treasurer advised Queenslanders, 'I was a little bit out. In fact, it's not an increase, it's a decrease'—and it is not by a few million dollars but by \$1,000 million. The Treasurer has the hide—

Mr Bleijie: The audacity.

Mr MANDER: The audacity, I will take that interjection. She has the audacity about the federal budget. The other thing we heard this morning is that the Premier gave no guarantee that they would not increase taxes or introduce new taxes to pay for that black hole, to pay for that blunder by the Treasurer. I fear for Queenslanders in the next budget because they are going to have to fill that black hole some way. This government have introduced five new taxes to bring in around \$2.4 billion a year and still they have this black hole that they have to fill. It is embarrassing.

That \$1,000 million would pay to construct 25 brand-new schools, but they said, 'It's a rounding error. It's nothing. It's a mistake. Everybody's experiencing the same thing'—but other states plan for it, and this Treasurer did not. They thought that the transfer duties would increase, and 100 days later it has come down.

This government has no right to lecture anybody about economic management. It has an unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent, where the federal unemployment rate is five per cent—that is, 5.7 per cent compared to five per cent. When we look at business confidence, this government has the least amount of confidence from small and medium sized businesses in the nation. When it comes to construction jobs, the December 2018 quarter was the worst for construction we have seen since 2006 and was \$7.5 billion below the peak under the LNP. The federal government has brought in a fantastic infrastructure spend and I want to give one example in my area. The linkwood road—

Mr Powell: The Linkfield Road.


Mr MANDER: The Linkfield Road and the Gympie Arterial Road upgrade—that is \$100 million that Peter Dutton and the federal government have committed to.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Members, let us bring it back to a normal level.

Mr MANDER: That is \$100 million that has been committed to this upgrade, where people in my electorate are stuck in traffic in peak hour for a long time as they try to get onto the main road. What has the member for Aspley done? The member for Aspley is touting a \$3.5 million split lane. He put it on Facebook and the constituents started laughing at him. They themselves can see the comparison between a little patch-up job and a total upgrade which is what is needed.

The Morrison government is a government that delivers tax cuts for all Australians and for Queenslanders. It is a government that invests in infrastructure. That is why it has an unemployment rate of five per cent. That is why it will be returned in May this year.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.48 am): I am very pleased to rise in the House this morning to strongly support the motion moved by the Premier. Let me start by responding to the principal complaint of the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I will tell those honourable members why we can lecture the LNP on fiscal management in this state. We had four budget surpluses in a row—four Labor budget surpluses in a row.

When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was a member of the Newman cabinet and when the Leader of the Opposition was sitting around crafting the budgets of the Newman government, what surplus did she deliver? Absolutely nothing. She could not deliver one surplus in three years in office. That is why we are proud to stand in this House in this debate to condemn the federal LNP government for short-changing Queensland once again.

This federal budget is not a budget that brings home the bacon; it is a budget that seeks to save the bacon of the LNP across the nation. The only state that loses out of that is Queensland. They have promised a surplus, they say; they say it is written down. It is a promise; it is on the never-never. It will not happen until next year. Remember Joe Hockey? Yes, I know it is hard to remember. Remember when Joe Hockey was the treasurer? He promised a surplus in every year of the federal coalition government. Six budgets later that broken promise has been written up in red ink.

Only the LNP could have produced federal deficit after federal deficit and still cut funding to schools, hospitals and infrastructure in Queensland. Only the federal LNP could cut funding to essential services and infrastructure and deliver deficit after deficit, because the rorts have been coming thick

and fast. There is \$50 million for a hospital in Geelong. We have heard all of those honourable members complaining about Queensland hospitals, yet what did they get for Queensland? What did those state and federal LNP members get for Queensland hospitals, for Queensland hospital infrastructure? Absolutely nothing! There is \$50 million for a hospital in Geelong, \$2 billion for a fast rail to Geelong, but nothing—everything on the never-never—for Queensland.

Even Adelaide, which has the lowest growth of any state capital city in the midst of net migration loss—that is more people are moving out of Adelaide than are moving into Adelaide—gets \$3 billion for the Adelaide north-south road corridor, \$3 billion for a state that is going backwards and a city that is going backwards. What did those members opposite say about that?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. I hear the member for Southern Downs. What did Port Augusta get, a town the size of Warwick? It got a bridge worth \$160 million. That is what Gawler got. I say to the member for Southern Downs that he had better speak to David Littleproud.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DICK: Gawler in South Australia has a population of 26,000 and gets almost a quarter of a billion dollars—\$220 million—to electrify the rail line.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Southern Downs.

Mr DICK: I would not be interjecting if I were the member for Southern Downs; I would be hanging my head in shame that he cannot deliver anything for his community.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs!

Mr DICK: The fact of the matter is I am calling out what is happening in southern states in places like Geelong—and I have no complaint with the city or people of Geelong. My complaint is with the absolute rorting that is happening, the bodgying up of marginal coalition seats to save those seats at the cost of Queensland.


Honourable members do not have to take my criticism of the LNP; they can forget that altogether if they wish. They can ignore me completely, but let's see what others are saying about the LNP. They say we are seeing 'candidates and elected members of the LNP whose primary focus is not a desire to serve their communities but to serve themselves'.

Ms Jones: Oh, Jane Prentice.

Mr DICK: Who said that? The federal member for Ryan, Jane Prentice; a woman who they have cut from their federal parliamentary team, probably because she is a woman, is saying that they only exist to serve themselves. Does this federal budget not write that large? Is that not in absolute flashing neon? This budget is for the LNP and it is against Queensland and the needs of regional and rural Queensland in particular.

I support the motion. I strongly support it because we need our fair share in Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.53 am): I rise to support the Scott Morrison federal budget and reject this motion. It is a scary day in Queensland when the people of this great state get a lecture on economic management from the Labor Party. Let's just have a couple of reminders. They so poorly managed the budget that it was a Labor government under former premier Anna Bligh that sold the forestry, sold the ports, sold Queensland Motorways and sold the railway lines across this state in a fire sale. It was the Labor Party who so mismanaged the budget here in Queensland that they snuck in five sneaky taxes that each and every Queenslanders is going to be paying over the coming years. It is the Labor Party that have raided every single hollow log they can possibly find—

An opposition member: Super.

Mr POWELL:—including the long service leave and superannuation provisions of our public servants. Like the shadow Treasurer, I will not be lectured to by those opposite on economic mismanagement.

We have heard a bit today and quite a lot over the past couple of years about Cross River Rail. I want to put on the record some comments made by the Deputy Premier that 'we will go it alone'. Honourable members might think the Deputy Premier said that today in her press conference as they

announced the contracts for Cross River Rail, but, no, those comments were made back in July of 2017. I table this ABC News transcript from an interview given, and the comments made, by the Deputy Premier that they would go it alone on Cross River Rail.

Tabled paper: Article from ABC News online, dated 26 July 2017, titled 'Cross River Rail: Infrastructure Australia rejects project for priority funding' [543].

Why do members opposite think the federal government has not provided them funding? It is because they have said they will fully fund it themselves. They cannot say that and then retract it and go on each and every budget saying, 'Where's our money for Cross River Rail?' Those opposite said they did not want it.

On that note, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to ask a couple of the members in this chamber, through you, whether or not they want the following projects. There is \$4 billion in new funding announced in the Scott Morrison federal budget for the following projects. There is the Cairns Ring Road—\$287 million. Do the members for Barron River, Mulgrave and Cairns want to throw that money away? They do not want it. What about for road funding? What about funding for Cooktown to Weipa—\$190 million? Does the member for Cook not want that money or that investment? Should we throw it away? Then there is the Yeppoon road duplication—\$64 million. Are those opposite—the member for Keppel—telling us that they do not want \$64 million to duplicate the Yeppoon road? There is the Cunningham Highway, which goes through the member for Logan's electorate—\$170 million. They do not want that, either. As the shadow Treasurer said, there is the Gympie Arterial Road-Linkfield Road interchange—\$50 million. Does the member for Aspley seriously not want to accept that money?

Ms McMillan: Four years away.

Mr POWELL: Does the member for Mansfield not want \$12 million to fix the intersection at Newman and Wecker roads in her electorate? There is \$12 million being funded for that.

Government members interjected.

Mr POWELL: I hear those opposite saying it is four years away. Here is the reality. The reality has been summed up not by someone on this side of the chamber but by one of their own—the federal Labor member for Blair. They have not done the planning, and the member for Moggill raised this issue this morning about the intersection of Warrego Highway and Mount Crosby Road. The reality is that money is available.

Those opposite need to stop playing politics, get on with the planning, get on with putting out the expressions of interest, get on with signing the contracts and make sure that these projects happen because every day that we delay through debating silly motions like this instead of getting on with the work at hand means delaying every single one of those congestion-busting regional economic growth projects around this state.


Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWELL: The Minister for Main Roads can harp on all he likes, but the reality is that he has been found out by Scott Morrison and our federal colleagues.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWELL: They are putting the money on the table for these necessary projects. Clearly those opposite do not want it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for McConnel, member for Miller, your interjections were not being taken. I see you are on the list. You can have your go when your turn arrives.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.58 am): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier, and why would we not support it? We see those opposite getting up here pontificating about money coming to Queensland not after this election but the election after. We actually have to elect the Morrison government twice before any money flows. It is extraordinary. They get up here and they claim all this money, which is four years away—in the 'onwards' and the never-never, in a land far, far away. They get up and they run off all of this money which is not even due at this election. If they were successful—and we do not know what is going to happen there—we would have to wait for the election after that one, and they pontificate that that is good for Queensland.

Those opposite want to ignore the federal budget. This is supposed to be a trivial motion. This is about money coming to Queensland, money that Queensland taxpayers pay and this state not getting its fair share, yet they claim this is a trivial motion. They must have buried their heads so far in the sand

when it comes to the inept Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government that they cannot see the forest for the trees. That is the problem with those opposite. Let me say what I would have loved to have seen in this budget. We do not ask for much: we just want our fair share.

Opposition members interjected.


Ms GRACE: Every single one of those members interjecting come to me for money for their schools. They all have their hands out, each and every one of them, and we are spending tens of millions of dollars on their schools.

Do you know what I would like to have seen in the budget, Mr Speaker? I would like to have seen an extra \$14 billion for public schools over the next decade, ensuring that every child in every school is better off and that over the next three years Queensland will receive an extra \$650 million. That is what I would like to have seen. Do you know who has promised that? Labor has promised that! I would also like to have seen the introduction of a new four-year \$1.75 billion national partnership agreement with states that will provide universal access to kindergarten in the year before school and extending access to kindergarten for three-year-olds. Do you know who has promised that \$1.75 billion over four years? Labor!

Do you know what those opposite have promised in the federal LNP budget? They have promised another 12-month extension. That is six years of extensions. They have had six years in government to negotiate with the states on long-term concrete funding for this important education area—early childhood kindergarten—in this state. Do you know what they did instead? They negotiated with a foundation that did not even put in a submission and gave them half a billion dollars. Then they gave another half a billion dollars to a company that had a shack on Kangaroo Island. That equates to \$1 billion. Then they wasted \$185 million on a political stunt to open and close Christmas Island. It is an absolute disgrace!

We have had nothing but chaos and cuts under this government. They take with one hand and give very little—the crumbs—with the other. Lord help us if we have to sustain ourselves further on the cuts and chaos that is happening federally, particularly under this budget. The most heartfelt issue for me is that there is not one extra dollar in education for students with a disability—not one extra dollar. The state public system educates 85 to 90 per cent of all children with a disability in this state, and they did not give us any extra funding for the teachers and parents who do a remarkable job in these schools right throughout Queensland. I would like to have seen \$300 million for that sector, but do you know who has promised that? Labor has promised that, not those opposite. They have cut us short in every kind of way.

When you talk about flat wages in this state, there is nothing about labour hire—doing a measly little thing with that. There are no extra inspectors. They have once again downgraded wage growth in this state. If you want to get the economy working, put money in the pockets of workers. With the changes to penalty rates and what they have taken out of their pockets, the tax cuts are nothing more than bracket creep. That is all it is, and it is not enough. This budget fails on every measure. I support the motion.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.03 pm): Listening to the Labor Party in Queensland talk about budget responsibility and bad budgets is like listening to Hugo Chavez talk about democracy, peace and prosperity in Venezuela: it has the same lack of authenticity but the same complete denial of reality.

We have heard the member for McConnel talk about promises and payments to be made over four years. Let us not forget the biggest promise that was made about something that would happen over four years in 2012, when Wayne Swan got up and said, 'Today I announce four years of surpluses.' We were waiting. The people of Australia knew you could not trust Wayne Swan because he had just delivered five years of deficits. In 2007 he had taken a budget in surplus with \$25 billion in a future fund, an education fund and a technology fund and blown it all and locked it in. Not only had he blown it but he had locked in an extra \$40 billion worth of expenses growth over the forward estimates. That was what the federal government that came in in 2013 had to deal with.

We heard the member for Woodridge talk about Labor's four surpluses, and he made the absurd claim that we had never delivered a surplus when in fact, as he knows, and as his Treasurer also knows because I see her eyes roll upwards whenever he says it—there must be something good going on there—we delivered two budgets with two surpluses in a row. In 2013-14 we delivered a \$486 million surplus and in 2014-15 we delivered a \$420 million surplus. We came to office after the mass fire sale of assets they never took to the people of Queensland. After they sold off the Gateway Bridge, after they sold off Forestry Plantations Queensland, after they sold off parts of Brisbane Airport and after

they sold off Queensland Rail and bought off the unions, do you know what the outcome was? It was a \$260 million deficit. They sold off millions of dollars in assets and delivered dams without pipes, pipes without dams, trains without seats and trains without air conditioning. Does the Tugun desalination plant ever get turned on? Yes, a little bit to keep the pipes and membranes going. They spent money on a ski jump; we remember that one.

Mr Minnikin: In Chatsworth.


Mr NICHOLLS: In Chatsworth. We had the member for Cooper and the 'loo with a view'. We had \$480 toilet brushes going into their offices.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes. Someone on the Labor side at least had the grace to mention the Health payroll system. Yes, there was the Health payroll system which cost hundreds of millions of dollars, 400 extra staff and took three years of hard work to fix up. Even their own premier at the time described it as a 'basket case' and I think she was going to take a meat axe to it. We also had the member for Woodridge who in 2013 admitted that the Labor Party got it wrong in his term in government. We do not need to hear lessons from them.

Talking about our fair share and the constant whinge of those who cannot do the best for themselves, that is certainly the case with this government. When you look at the GST distribution, we are doing better than our population share. We are at a relativity of 1.05. That means that for every dollar that goes out of Queensland in GST we get \$1.05 back. The relativity is there. Those opposite speak with forked tongue and they do not mention the actual relativities: New South Wales is below one; Western Australian is down at seven; and they will not tell you that they agreed to the new GST system last year. They signed off on it and it went through the parliament. No state is worse off. Every state is getting top-up payments, GST is increasing from \$67 billion to \$78 billion over the forward forecast and Queensland continues to get the relativities that it always has—in fact, better than it always has. This is a bad motion from a bad government—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (12.08 pm): The next federal election will be about fairness. It will be about the type of Australia that we want for our future and our children's future. I cannot believe that the LNP in Queensland have come into the parliament today to defend five-figure tax cuts for the wealthiest Australians and \$5-a-week tax cuts to the lowest income earners in our country. It is not surprising when you have the member for Clayfield coming in here and saying, 'Suck it up. Work a little bit harder', always blaming individuals for their lot in life.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: We will get to the NDIS. Honourable members should not take my word for it that this is a cynical budget designed to sandbag the seats they are so desperately concerned they will lose at the federal election, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria. John Hewson has said that this is exactly what this federal budget is all about.

Do members know what is the worst bit from a Queensland perspective and what the LNP is defending? It will rip Queensland taxpayers' hard-earned money out of our state and put it into projects in marginal seats in Victoria and New South Wales. That is why we are debating this motion today. It is not about what happened in Queensland 10 years ago; it is about what is happening right now to the hard-earned money of Queenslanders—whether it is to fund the tourism strip on the Great Ocean Road to go and look at the shipwrecks in Victoria or whether it is the \$1.6 billion, the 80 per cent funding, going towards the M1 in New South Wales.

Those opposite—I see a number of Gold Coast members here in the chamber: the members for Burleigh and Broadwater—say that we should be okay with 50 per cent funding for the M1 for Gold Coasters and 80 per cent funding for the M1 for people in New South Wales. It is actually indefensible. We know that the member for Broadwater is willing to do whatever it takes to get the top job. He left his family behind in Townsville and moved down to the Gold Coast. Why would he defend 50 per cent funding for the M1 on the Gold Coast when the same government is providing 80 per cent funding for the same road in New South Wales? It is just not good enough. Sometimes in life you have to stand up for something. I call on the member for Broadwater to stand up for the electorate he wants to use to make him premier. He should say, 'Eighty per cent is what we deserve. We deserve the same as New South Wales.' Maybe he should have packed up his caravan and driven over the border and ended up at Byron Bay. He would have got a better deal.

This comes on the back of the cheap and nasty trick of those opposite when it comes to light rail. Last time we had to drag them, kicking and screaming, to chip in anything. When the federal Labor government was in power, we received 36 per cent or 38 per cent for light rail stage 1. Do members know the offer for light rail stage 3A? It is 16 per cent. Once again the federal government is short-changing the Gold Coast when it comes to the infrastructure that growing city needs.

The meanest and trickiest part of this budget is not taking Queensland taxpayers' money from the Gold Coast to pay for the M1 in Newcastle in New South Wales; it is the fact that it is using its massive underspend in delivering the national disability system in Australia to prop up its budget surplus. It is a disgrace. We remember that in the past there was a song about the LNP being mean and tricky. Is there anything more mean and tricky than taking the money every Australian paid via the Medicare levy, in good faith, to provide a better system for their fellow Australians who rely on the support of a national disability system and keeping it in your own pocket to prop up your own surplus. It is gutless. It is shameless. It is cruel.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Cooper, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms JONES: I withdraw. We know that is why their own members are jumping off the sinking ship.



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (12.13 pm): Wasn't that a speech full of mistruths? Fair dinkum!

Ms Grace: Name one.

Mr HART: I will name a number of them in a minute. With no notice the government put this motion to the House, and then government members are surprised when we speak against it and defend the federal budget. How incomprehensible!

Let us look at some facts. The Labor government never lets the facts get in the way of a good story—or a bad story in this case. I have here figures from 2012-13, when Labor was in power federally. Total Commonwealth funding to Queensland was \$19.4 billion; this year it is \$26.8 billion—a rise of \$7.4 billion. They got more money. Specific purpose payments are up from \$9.8 billion to \$12.6 billion. They got more money. In 2012-13 GST entitlements were \$9.6 billion; they are now \$14.2 billion. They got more money. Education and skills funding is up from \$3.1 billion to \$4.9 billion—more money. Infrastructure funding is up from \$0.6 billion under the Labor government in 2012-13 to \$1.8 billion. Health and hospitals funding is up from \$3.1 billion to \$5 billion. Those opposite are just not telling the truth.

The member for Cooper spoke about the M1. We all know that the federal funding split of 80-20 is on new federal roads. The M1 is not a new federal road. This is an upgrade we are talking about, and they have always been funded 50-50. It is clear as a bell. The member for Cooper also mentioned light rail stage 3. The Morrison government has stumped up the money for that. It is in the budget. Where is the money from the state government for light rail stage 3A? We keep asking, but we have not yet seen a cent.

The Premier said that the Deputy Premier would talk about the remote Indigenous housing national partnership. She failed to talk about that. This morning we asked how much Indigenous housing this government has built. We did not get any answer to that question. They have failed completely to negotiate in good faith with the federal government. We have spoken continually to the federal government about the negotiating process, and the feedback we get is that the Northern Territory has signed up to have \$500 million and Western Australia has signed up. Those opposite have deliberately—as a political ploy—avoided signing a number of national partnership agreements, including this one. If there is a minister yet to speak, perhaps they can tell us how much Indigenous housing this government has built.

Tabled paper: Question on notice No. 211, asked on 27 February 2019, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, Hon. Mick de Brenni, together with the answer [544].

I went through this last night. For the members who were not here last night I will repeat it. We look forward to watching the federal Leader of the Opposition give his budget reply speech tonight. We know that Labor will be pushing for 50 per cent of all cars in the future to be electric vehicles. That is over 10 million vehicles. A new modern electric vehicle takes about 30 kilowatts to charge up and run for an hour. If we extrapolate that to 10 million vehicles, that is 300,000 megawatts of power. The National Electricity Market in Australia produces only 54,000 megawatts. For six hours you have to charge up a car to run for 100 kilometres, if these lunatics get their way. How is that going to work?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Burleigh, you have used unparliamentary language.


Mr HART: I withdraw. We will be charging these cars for six hours for just 100 kilometres. We are never going to get anywhere. That is for sure.

Last night the member for Miller said that he would take on board comments from the regulators at the federal level. I table an article referencing the Australian Energy Market Commission.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 4 April 2019, titled 'Renewable energy puts national power grid under stress' [545].

The article states that 'Australia's electricity grid is relying on emergency safety nets to keep the lights on' and that the Energy Market Operator stepped in more than 100 times last year to order South Australia's gas generators to fire up. We all know what is happening in South Australia: the lights are going out.


(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.18 pm): For the sake of all Queenslanders, we can say that it is nearly over—these long, hard years of LNP rule at a federal level, these long years of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison failed governments. It is nearly over, and lucky for us because on Tuesday night we saw just how badly it has failed and it continues to fail. This motion moved by the Premier outlines precisely how this government has failed—failed on health and hospitals, failed on dental care, failed to look after Australians with a disability, failed to look after older Australians in need of residential aged care. That is why those of us on this side of the House will be supporting this motion moved by the Premier which supports Queenslanders and what Queenslanders need and getting a fair deal for Queenslanders.

I am not usually in the business of giving political advice to those opposite but, if I were, my advice would be that they do not need to do this. They do not need to defend the federal government. They need a bit of distance. They need a bit of differentiation. They do not need to walk in here and say that they are more loyal to Scott Morrison than they are to Queenslanders—but, no, instead there they are lock step with their party bosses in Canberra defending them and their failed decisions and their failed policies instead of defending Queenslanders. Those opposite should not do that because this is a bad government that delivered a bad budget. This bad budget locked in \$316 million in cuts to Queensland's hospitals. That is funding for surgeries and procedures dating as far back as 2016 which we have not been paid for despite a huge increase in demand. The federal government refuses to pay our hospitals their fair share.

This budget fails because the supposed surplus is propped up by funds stolen from the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Could there be a lower way of getting the budget back in the black than by throttling access to the NDIS, which is precisely what the federal government has done? There are 400 people in Queensland hospitals waiting for their NDIS packages, 250 of them in South-East Queensland hospitals. Instead of giving them the accommodation that they need, Josh Frydenberg has said, 'No, I want that money because I want to pretend that I have a budget surplus.' This budget again locked in the LNP's cuts to dental funding. Even in the face of recent reports from the Grattan Institute that found Queenslanders were waiting too long on public dental waitlists and recommended the Commonwealth fund universal dental care, instead it has ignored that report and not even reversed the cuts that it already made—its \$8.7 million of cuts—to public dental despite COAG health ministers from both sides—Labor and the LNP; none from Queensland, but other LNP members—saying that it should reverse its cuts and it should sign a new long-term agreement on public dental.

In the face of these cuts from the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison—whoever is in charge this week—government, it is the Palaszczuk government that has had to do the heavy lifting for our hospitals. We have already opened 527 new beds, and there are more on the way. We have hired more paramedics and nurses and healthcare staff to help with that demand. Our job will get a lot easier when we have a Shorten Labor government that will stop the cuts to health care, stop the cuts to disabilities, stop the cuts to aged care and instead work with us to take better care of Queenslanders.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to oppose Labor's motion. In the 56th Parliament we have seen gag orders by this Labor government opposite, but today it has lifted the gag order for us to have a proper debate and understand what the federal coalition government is delivering for not only Australia but also Queensland. This debate is important because we will be able to put some facts on the record in the House today. The federal Morrison LNP coalition government is delivering a strong economy and it is delivering border security as well. As we have heard, the budget is back in the black and that is important for Australia and it is important for Queensland. This federal budget will deliver tax cuts particularly for low- and middle-income earners.


For the information of those opposite, those tax cuts will mean that people will spend money in the economy, and that is important. That will be important for small business. It will be important for our economy overall not just here in Queensland but across Australia. It is projected that 2.26 million Queenslanders will receive tax relief in the 2018-19 financial year and 670,000 small and medium sized businesses will be eligible for instant asset write-offs, and that is pretty important for small business. I know that those members opposite do not support small business, but it is important for businesses here in Queensland. Those opposite do not care about small businesses. They do not understand small business. They do not understand how it operates. The fact is that small business can employ people.

This budget is also full of infrastructure spending. Let us take the Urban Congestion Fund. It is up to \$4 billion from \$1 billion. That is important for infrastructure projects here in Queensland. There is also \$500 million for a commuter car park fund which will improve access to public transport. I know many members opposite do not support public transport, but particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane it is important that we get people on public transport so we can address traffic congestion.

Importantly, the federal government has funded a royal commission into the disability sector. The Palaszczuk government will not negotiate in good faith when it comes to remote Indigenous housing. This Labor government has not or will not negotiate in good faith to sign the national partnership agreement. We have already seen this government attack the Family Responsibilities Commission in North Queensland and what that has done for remote Indigenous communities. It would not fund the IDEAS van—a great initiative with respect to closing the gap. If we look at the national *Closing the gap* report, Queensland is well and truly behind other state jurisdictions. Those opposite might talk about closing the gap, but when it comes to achieving practical outcomes they need to be open and transparent and accountable. The minister here in Queensland needs to be accountable for that. In relation to health, in the federal coalition government's budget there was \$461 million for youth mental health and suicide prevention, and that is very important. Health funding for Queensland increases by \$1.1 billion between 2019-20 and 2022-23. There are also education funding increases by the federal government.

Alternatively, let us look at the Palaszczuk government. It is heading towards over \$83 billion in debt by 2021-22. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation sitting at 5.7 per cent. We do not have funding in relation to infrastructure from this Labor government, particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane. In terms of health, it is a pleasure to follow the member for Murrumba, the health minister, in this debate. Let us look at the emergency department overcrowding, access block, a lack of beds, rural maternity services in crisis, longer surgical waitlists, and the Halwyn Centre debacle where the health department could not even have proper discussions and notify those residents of the health department's impending closure. There is all of the waste that is going on—the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital, the 'rail fail' debacle, the overtime bill, the \$100,000 for a phone app for fat dogs! It is just unbelievable.

What about the Warrego Highway-Mount Crosby interchange? The Minister for Transport and Main Roads cannot even get a business case together and his federal colleague Shayne Neumann, the federal member for Blair, has called him out in relation to that. Do members remember the Beattie and Bligh years—the \$1.2 million payroll debacle, the child safety debacles and an election in 2004 around that, the fake Tahitian prince's \$16 million funding fraud in the health department and the failed desalination plants that the member for Clayfield mentioned? Imagine if Bill Shorten is elected. We will have industrial relations warfare, the economy will be out of control and his property tax and the negative gearing changes will force property prices down and increase rent. Just think about the failed Rudd-Gillard-Rudd years. We had pink batts, the debacle around school halls and its failed economic management.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.28 pm): Any political party worth its salt that stands up for Queensland would support this motion. The LNP, like lemmings—is supporting a failed revolving door government of Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison and it is not standing up for Queensland.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric in here, so let us get down to brass tacks. What kind of figure has the federal LNP government loaded into the 'four years and beyond' column for Queensland? Is it \$1 billion? Is it \$2 billion? Is it maybe \$3 billion? Let me give members an actual number. The \$6.8 billion in infrastructure money announced by the federal government is in the 'four years and onwards' column of its budget. That is the kind of smoke-and-mirrors trick the federal government is playing on Queensland.

I will refer to some of the actual numbers. For the Cairns Ring Road, which is trumpeted by those opposite, there is \$200 million in the four years and onwards column. Forget about it. We are not going to see that money for two elections. For the Cairns southern access stage 5—all of it—there is \$108 million in the four years and beyond column. For the Cunningham Highway, there is \$114 million in the beyond four years column—off budget. The federal government does not even know what it is spending that money on. The budget papers just say 'future projects'. The federal government has no idea. It has just dolloped that figure in that column. There is the Gateway Motorway extension from Bracken Ridge to Pine Rivers. The vast bulk of it, \$650 million, is in the four years and onwards column. For the funding for the M1, which those opposite have trumpeted, 100 per cent of this new announcement is in the four years and beyond column. That is two elections away. They wonder why people are sceptical about these announcements. One hundred per cent of that funding is two elections away. How could we trust a government that plays those sorts of accounting tricks on people?

The news is even worse for people in regional Queensland. The federal government has been trumpeting a whole lot of projects throughout Queensland. I will go through how many of those are off in the four-year forward estimates. For the road from Tennant Creek to Townsville, there is \$144 million. People should forget about that for four years. For the road from Toowoomba to Ipswich—and the member opposite is interested in the Mount Crosby interchange—there is \$48 million, but most of that is in the four years and beyond column. For the road from Toowoomba to Seymour, there is \$40 million in the four years and beyond column. For the Savannah Way from Cairns to the Northern Territory, there is \$36 million in the four years and beyond column.

One of the most outrageous things is the funding for the Cooktown to Weipa road. The Cape York package that is underway is a fantastic project that develops skills and jobs. It seals one of the wildest roads left in Australia. The federal government has cut that funding by \$25 million per year and, to try to hide the cut, renamed it the Cooktown to Weipa project. The vast bulk of that funding is four years away—\$137 million of \$190 million over seven years instead of five years. There are pathetic amounts for that project for the first three years. The federal government has gutted that project. It is pathetic and the federal government is not even being honest about it. For the Mount Isa to Rockhampton road, there is \$167 million. Forget about that. The vast bulk of that money is off in the 'four years and beyond' column.


The member for Dawson is renowned for spending 11 weeks a year overseas, not doing his job as the federal MP for his area. He has been so unsuccessful that, of the money that has been announced in the federal budget for Shute Harbour Road, \$20 million of that just under \$30 million is allocated in the four years and beyond column. That is a pathetic effort by the federal member for Dawson. He should spend some more time in Australia.

For the road from Townsville to Roma, there is \$72 million in the forward estimates. This one is really fascinating: an allocation of \$100 million for the Linkfield Road overpass. Guess how much is beyond the forward estimates off budget? One hundred per cent of it: \$100 million is in the four years and beyond column. Peter Dutton has not delivered one single dollar for the next four years for Linkfield Road. I think Scott Morrison might have remembered a leadership contest when he allocated that money. I am sure the Prime Minister said, 'Good luck, Peter. Here's the money. It is for the election after next. Good luck with that.' I think Peter Dutton has been shafted by his own side.

The first two stages of the Gold Coast Light Rail happened because of Labor, yet in the federal budget papers we have an allocation of \$62 million and the majority of that is in the four years and beyond column. That is how much the federal government cares about the Gold Coast. It is a pathetic 16 per cent. That is the lowest ever offer. The LNP dumps on the Gold Coast. It talks big, but it never delivers fair funding for infrastructure for the Gold Coast or for Queensland. There is \$250 million for the Beerburrum to Nambour light rail, but that is \$250 million short. The federal government will give billions for rail in Victoria, billions for rail in New South Wales, but we cannot get a measly \$250 million to do the project properly.

This is a weak opposition that does not stand up for Queensland. It is led by the protege of Campbell Newman, the assistant minister to Campbell Newman, who is weak. The members opposite have signed up and supported a divided and dysfunctional federal government. I support the motion and every decent member should do so.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Broadwater, joining us in the chamber today are students from St Joseph's school in Nundah in the electorate of Nudgee. We welcome them to Parliament House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. I do so in the 56th Parliament—the Queensland parliament, a parliament that has fewer sittings than almost any before it, a parliament that sits for shorter hours than any before it. Yet here we are spending an hour and a half debating a motion that means absolutely nothing. We cannot change a thing with this motion. We will debate the motion for in an hour and a half, but nothing will change.

Both sides of this House have different agendas in this place, but it should be a place where we debate those different agendas and we debate them forcefully. Today, for an hour and a half, when we could have spoken about the hospital crisis that is gripping this state, we do not. Today, for an hour and a half, when we could have spoken about the fact that this state has not built a dam for a generation, we are debating a motion that will not bind a parliament that is a long way from this one.

Sadly, the comments from those opposite are dripping with all the political envy that we have heard in recent times and have made people so disenfranchised with the body politic. Across the chamber we have a government that has consistently failed to live within its means, that does not have a plan to pay down debt, yet its members will come in here and seek to tear apart a budget that is balanced. They will come in here and fail to mention that their own Treasurer, within a handful of weeks, has the figures so fundamentally wrong.

An opposition member: It's embarrassing.


Mr CRISAFULLI: It is embarrassing. The Treasurer has the figures so fundamentally wrong that, on budget day, under the cloak of darkness, she had to scurry back in here to somehow try to slip through that she has her predictions so horribly wrong. The Treasurer did not get the predictions wrong; it was always going to be a tax that cruelled the property industry at the worst possible time. Those opposite do not understand economics.

Instead of talking about their own economic agenda, today the members opposite have come in here and sought to portray the politics of envy. Nothing highlights that more than when the members opposite are prepared to talk about a budget that, in their terms, has put allocations for infrastructure on the never-never, yet they will focus on tax cuts that are in the same period for one group of people they do not like, and they have framed a whole economic narrative around that. I can tell the members opposite that the tax cuts for those people they describe as the 'rich' occur a long way after the tax cuts for lower and middle income Australia are delivered—a long way away.

Despite the fact that many of those opposite do not like those people whom they define as rich, they represent a lot of them. At the moment, those people do not feel rich. They have to pay bills that are rising all the time. Each and every day those people make sacrifices. Many of them are probably working between 60 hours to 80 hours a week. They do not feel rich at all.

I want to finish on a comment that was made by the Premier when she referred to the Morrison government. The Premier spoke about a date with destiny. There is another date with destiny and that is when this government finds an economic narrative. If by some chance Mr Shorten becomes Prime Minister of the country, that date with destiny will occur to those across the chamber. The only narrative this government has is to attack Canberra. My goodness, if that disappears, we will have 18 months of silence. We will have 18 months of a government that has to try to find a narrative, that has struggled to even be able to attract the support of its base. That day of destiny might be coming.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Stafford, members, I remind you that, if you are speaking to this motion or any bills, you do not rise to your feet prior to the previous member finishing their time on their feet.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.40 pm): I support the motion moved by the Premier. The federal budget fails to deliver on energy policy. That is no surprise. All it offers is a task force, feasibility studies and infrastructure in New South Wales and Victoria. Where is Queensland's fair share? What Queenslanders and all Australians want from their national government is integrated climate and energy policy. That is something that has been sorely lacking. It is what industry and private sector investors have been crying out for so that they can have certainty to invest. Even the Energy Security Board, handpicked by the LNP government, says that at a time when investment is needed it is not helpful for the Commonwealth to be threatening powers of divestment, price setting and discretionary asset write-downs.

This is a federal government that has abrogated its responsibilities, a federal government that would rather knife a Prime Minister in his back than show any semblance of leadership when it comes to climate and energy policy. We have had Finkel's Clean Energy Target and the National Energy Guarantee. It has simply run out of ideas. It is the Queensland government that is moving ahead with a steady transition to renewable power: 50 per cent renewables by 2030. It will be a safe, sure transition


in safe, sure hands. With this transition comes gas. On many occasions I have written to the Commonwealth for support for gas infrastructure and there has been nothing. It has been up to this government to do the heavy lifting when it comes to gas. Just this week Project Atlas partners broke the ground on the first gas project where gas will be for domestic use only. I congratulate Senex Energy and Jemena.

The Palaszczuk government and the rest of the world knows that gas fuels manufacturing jobs and, as I said before, is the transitional fuel to a renewable future. Why can't the LNP, both state and federally, see this? I will tell members why: because their entire focus is on a big stick energy policy. They still want to privatise our publicly owned electricity assets. We are providing certainty here in Queensland. It is inconsistency and policy uncertainty by the federal LNP and by the state that creates a lack of investment and a lack of supply. Just today the Clean Energy Council released its annual report. Let me quote from it—

Most state governments have worked to fill the void left by the absence of a national climate and energy policy.

The federal government had a chance in this budget to do something about it and nothing was heard. The Clean Energy Council also said that state and territory policies have been crucial in driving new investment. Here in Queensland, as I said before, we have \$50 billion worth of large-scale renewable energy projects that are operational, committed or underway, creating 4,600 jobs. That is what good policy, rather than chaos and confusion, will support. Alternatively, the opposition offered a renewables mandate that lasted 0.6 of a millisecond. As I said earlier in the House, the friends of those opposite in the Morrison LNP government offer nothing but chaos and confusion. There is no better example than the budget backflip. Within hours of the budget, the Morrison government extended its \$75 energy assistance to Newstart recipients. As I said this morning, it was not about compassion. It was not about making sure they had a \$75 carrot for the election. It was simply so they could get the whole budget through parliament.

The federal government is not a compassionate government; it is a cruel government. Let us not forget it axed the clean energy supplement, ripping \$550 a year out of the pockets of pensioners, sole parents, family carers and Newstart recipients. The amount of \$75 six weeks out from an election is not integrated energy and climate policy. The federal government had a chance to have an integrated climate and energy policy. Can I finish by addressing the Prime Minister: Mr Morrison, Kazakhstan has a 50 per cent renewable energy target.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. Before I go into the details, I want to talk about why we are debating this motion. This week there were two bills that I was guillotined from speaking to—bills that affect my community. One was around QCAT—and many people in my electorate would like to have had me speak about the failings of QCAT—and the second was the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, I remind you to come back to the motion being debated, not what has previously occurred in the House.

Mr WATTS: The economic development zone in Toowoomba is critical and forms part of the budget that comes through from the federal government. Inland rail is a project that had money in the forwards. Those on the government side are saying money is in the never-never. Let us go back to 2013-14 when \$25 billion was put in the forwards. What is that money doing now? Well, \$10 million is going into Bruce Highway upgrades. It was not in the never-never; it was planned. They were looking for shovel-ready projects that they can get into and develop. In my region there is a critically fundamental game-changing piece of infrastructure—the inland rail—and we cannot get intergovernmental support to sign the deal on the land.

Mr Brown: You don't even have a corridor! Where is it going?

Mr WATTS: We cannot get the corridor sorted out because the government will not negotiate with the people. The simple fact is that \$9.3 billion was put in the so-called never-never, which is now being spent in Victoria and in New South Wales. It cannot be spent in Queensland because those opposite will not finalise and enter into an intergovernmental agreement. That is fundamentally affecting economic development in Toowoomba. It is fundamentally affecting the lives of people in my electorate.

Let us have a look at what is in this budget for the people of my electorate to move their produce and their goods effectively around the region. There is \$50 million for the Gore Highway; \$320 million for the Warrego Highway between Ipswich and Toowoomba—that will certainly help me get down here quicker and help me get home earlier as well, unfortunately, because parliament evenings are cut short; a new weather radar which is critically important for the farmers and producers in my area; and \$20 million for an export hub—and that will be a big boost. Unfortunately for those businesses in that

export hub, as they are trying to develop their business and work out how to export, do members think they will be able to put their produce on an inland rail system, an efficient, 21st century land transport arrangement? No, because this government will not sign the deal. We will not be seeing double stacked containers heading down to Brisbane because those opposite will not sign the deal. The inefficiency of land transport is costing every exporter on the Darling Downs money. The money for the roads is most welcome. I call on this government to get on with the inland rail project.

The state Labor government talks about spending and says it has to give more. Where does that money come from? It comes straight out of the pockets of Queenslanders. The proteges of Bligh sitting opposite raided money out of the superannuation of public servants. They said it was guaranteed. Yes, it is guaranteed—by my children's tax! The money will come out of my children's pockets when they start earning money.


What other hollow logs did those opposite roll around and kick to get their budget into surplus? They sold off assets and tried to tell everybody that it was the LNP who sold the assets. That is fundamentally not true. Those opposite sold the assets and still we have a budget deficit approaching \$83 billion. Some \$10 million to \$12 million a day is paid in interest. When there is a large debt it is intergenerational theft. It is our children and grandchildren who will be paying back that \$83 billion.

If you cannot live within your means then you have to borrow from the future, and that is what the Labor government in Queensland has done. It is bankrupting our children. It has the hide to come in here and have a go at the federal government that will finally get the budget back into some semblance of surplus. It is a disgrace! You are all proteges of Bligh, who was the one who led us down this path.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, please put your comments through the chair.

Mr WATTS: The AAA rating was lost by the proteges of Bligh who sit on that side of the room.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (12.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Premier's motion. This week's federal LNP budget was a disaster for Queenslanders. It was a disaster for our state, for our neighbours who and for the members of our community who depend on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and have been let down by the federal government.

The member for Broadwater stands up here and says that this motion is not very useful because we cannot change anything, that nothing will change as a result of this motion. Let me inform the House that the thousands of people who marched on the former Campbell Newman LNP government in this state to sign up to the NDIS are ready to go again. When we see \$1.6 billion held back from the NDIS, underspent and then used as a surplus, that is disgusting. There will be change in six weeks when there is an election and those people who depend on the NDIS vote. They will remember this motion and exactly what the Morrison government has done to them. I know that the minister responsible for disability services in Queensland will be certain to remind everybody of what they see in this budget.

This budget has also been an environmental disaster. There were no new initiatives to tackle climate change and no new money for the Great Barrier Reef. That is what Scott Morrison is taking to the federal election. For years our government has consistently called on the federal LNP to step up and provide leadership on climate action. I have been calling on the federal environment minister to show some leadership in this space, and still nothing. On Tuesday night we heard more deafening silence from the federal LNP. They have shown no leadership, they have no new ideas and they continue to turn their backs on the scientific evidence that is compelling us to act now.


The LNP's integrity on the subject of climate change is absolutely shot. When we see reports today from Canberra that the environment minister has announced tens of thousands of dollars in a highly marginal seat before the applications for the program have actually opened, the integrity of the federal LNP in this space is absolutely shot. Clearly this budget is just about sandbagging their seats rather than a future, a vision, for our country.

The recent UN IPCC report on climate change was a clear signal that urgent action is needed. Children are marching in the streets and citizens are calling on their governments to forge a pathway forward that reduces emissions, protects jobs and preserves our environment. A few weeks ago I was in Wujal Wujal, where I heard from traditional owners who had just experienced an incredible flooding event. They had no story for that event. They had no story in the history of their existence in the area that matched the experience they had just had. We know that everybody understands this, but we are

not seeing the leadership from the federal government. As a government here in Queensland we have set some ambitious targets to ensure we do our part to combat climate change, but we know that more action is needed.

Leading up to the budget, the federal government announced funding to reboot the Emissions Reduction Fund, but now we know that less than 10 per cent of that funding has been allocated in forward estimates. The Morrison government is also staunchly holding to its old emissions reduction targets, even in the face of a global call from the UN Secretary-General urging all Paris agreement signatories to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade and to net zero by 2050.

Stakeholders have been expressing their complete dismay with the federal LNP's budget. One from the Climate Council quoted the extreme weather events we are experiencing that are being made worse by climate change, yet this federal budget failed to deliver on climate. Labor accepts the science on climate change—and we say this every time—but from the federal government we see a lack of leadership and a sense of no understanding of where our future is. All they are doing is sandbagging their own seats without any understanding of what we need to put in place right now to ensure the future of our kids and communities. That is why we will always stand up for the people of Queensland.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.54 pm): When those in the Labor Party who have a rust-bucket approach to financial management try to lecture us about financial management, we know that hypocrisy is rife. This morning we heard the Treasurer of this state try to make a virtue out of a \$1.3 billion downturn in the estimated transfer fees because of the property market going into decline in Queensland. She was trying to make a virtue out of the fact that there are mums and dads with houses under mortgage who will have less equity but the same mortgage. Shame on the Premier for thinking that that is good for Queenslanders!

I want to talk about the Premier misleading the House in regard to the \$245 million which yesterday she claimed was owed under the Skilling Australians Fund. The Premier is misleading the House, as she gave the impression that the federal government was not providing those funds when in fact this government refused to take those funds because it did not want accountability.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 46:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 39:

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

KAP, 2—Dametto, Katter.

Ind, 1—Costigan.


Pairs: Boyd, Bates; Power, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Gold Coast, Casino Proposal

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak again about the ongoing situation with Carey Park in my electorate of Southport. At the outset, I would like to again express my frustration with the members opposite—in particular, the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, who still will not rule out the site or provide any clarity on the proposed mega casino.

What I would really like some clarity on is exactly how big this global tourism hub and mega casino is going to be? Will it be five hectares and take in all of Carey Park? Will it be 12 hectares or greater taking up Carey Park, the local tennis club, bowls club and croquet club or is it likely to be 20 to 30 hectares taking up Carey Park, the local tennis club, bowls club, croquet club and most or all of the Broadwater Parklands? I table maps outlining the potential sizes of this land grab.

Tabled paper: Bundle of maps depicting Kerry Park, Southport electorate [546].

Tabled paper: Map, undated, titled 'Number of approved electronic gaming machines (EGMs), by location, Gold Coast and Tweed Shire local government areas' [547].

I simply ask: when will the minister come clean? I ask because if we compare this project to other casino based tourism hubs it is reasonable to expect that this mega casino facility would actually take up much more space than just Carey Park, demolishing important local sporting clubs as well as having devastating effects on local businesses.

Take the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas as an example. It boasts a casino, hotel, aquarium, convention centre, events centre and an extensive entertainment precinct. The Mandalay Bay Casino is built on a 30-hectare site. That is Carey Park, the local tennis club, bowls club, croquet club and most of the Broadwater Parklands gone from the community and locked up for a development the people of Southport do not want or need.


What the people of Southport do want are their local clubs: a bowls club which hosts international teams and where retirees are keeping active and catching up with their friends; a tennis club where we are training our young greats and making them our future tennis stars; local clubs that care about their members and their wellbeing, like the Southport RSL, and not just looking at them like a bag of cash.

I have also tabled a 'heat map' of approved poker machines on the Gold Coast. This map highlights the areas that have the highest number of pokies and let me tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Southport area is red hot. There are 5,950 approved pokies in the Gold Coast City Council area with 1,030 of these in Southport alone. Quite frankly, I just do not think we need any more.

What I think is most concerning—and I have spoken about this before—is that this red area, where the minister's proposed land grab for a mega casino is located, is also where some of the Gold Coast's most disadvantaged are located.

(Time expired)

Ipswich Hospice

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.03 pm): I wish to speak about Ipswich Hospice, its value to our community and thank the Palaszczuk government for their continuing support of Ipswich Hospice and other palliative care services across the state. Last Saturday I had the great pleasure of supporting the Ipswich Hospice at their tea party fundraiser event at Dinmore Cottage Tea House.

Since Ipswich Hospice officially opened its doors 25 years ago it has been a valuable and beloved institution in Ipswich that has provided compassionate end-of-life care for terminally ill people, as well as support for families who are grieving. Ipswich Hospice provides a humane palliative care service which gets by on government funding and donations. Half of their funding comes from Queensland Health and the other half from community fundraisers like the tea party I attended on Saturday. Ipswich Hospice, like other not-for-profit hospices around the state, provides an affordable choice to people who wish to have end-of-life care in a home-like environment.

As members know, Ipswich has the fastest relative population growth of any region in Queensland, with the number of people aged over 70 expected to double by 2026. This strong growth is putting pressure on our health and aged-care services, including our palliative care services. That is why I was so surprised a few weeks ago when the federal health minister, Greg Hunt, announced that he would be giving Gympie Hospice \$750,000 in funding over three years—an amount that is above and beyond what is available to Ipswich Hospice.

I am sure Gympie Hospice is grateful for this windfall and every bit of extra cash helps, but let us not kid ourselves. Gympie is a marginal seat and the LNP is pulling all the tricks out of the bag to shore up support in marginal seats as we lead up to a federal election. I assure members that this is not a matter of sour grapes but a question of fairness and making sure this funding is available to all hospices in Queensland, including in my electorate. Queensland has been fighting for its fair share of health funding from the federal government for a long time, but instead of getting our fair share, Scott Morrison's budget on Tuesday locked in \$316 million in cuts to Queensland hospitals.


Fortunately, the Palaszczuk government has not forgotten our valuable health providers like Ipswich Hospice. I was tremendously pleased to see that as a result of the Queensland Health Palliative Care Services Review undertaken last year Queensland Health has increased its funding for Ipswich Hospice, delivering \$5.8 million over four years. This amount was based on a review of Ipswich Hospice's current services and funding and projected community demand.

I would like to thank the excellent work done by the Queensland Health Palliative Care Services Review and the Queensland health minister, Steven Miles, in developing an informed and strategic approach for future palliative care service arrangements in Queensland. With our growing and ageing population it is crucial that our state is able to continue providing compassionate end-of-life care to those with terminal illness.

The Palaszczuk government will ensure that palliative care services are properly funded in Queensland so that places like Ipswich Hospice can continue to provide compassionate care and support to Queenslanders at the end of their lives. I call on the federal government to also do the same.

(Time expired)

Fishing Industry, Quotas

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.06 pm): Alarm bells are ringing up and down the coast as the government pushes ahead with slashing fishing quotas. It is unfair and destroying small businesses. Coastal LNP members are being inundated with calls from desperate and devastated commercial fishers. Fishers are being left high and dry as a result of Fisheries Queensland's crab and other fisheries quota clawback. Clearly, the proposed draft allocations are designed to shock these family owned businesses and force them out of fishing. Under the proposed changes, crab fishery allocations will receive between 40 to 68 per cent of their average catch, resulting in an average 30 to 60 per cent loss of income.

Hervey Bay's fourth generation fishermen Tony Simpson contacted me in sheer desperation that the department and minister are wilfully ignoring the impact these changes will have on fishing businesses. Under the changes Tony will be left with a completely unviable allocation. It is so unviable that this is likely to be his last year of fishing in Queensland, marking the end of 42 years of fishing.


Countless fishermen like him have had their investments gutted, with crab licences dropping \$40,000 overnight. The industry has been left in the dark about being shown the justification, science and rationale behind the quota changes. Despite the enormous impacts from these changes, the government refuses to conduct an open and transparent regulatory impact statement—just like it refused with the botched VMS rollout. We are seeing a repeat of the spanner crab and coral trout quotas that have devastated commercial fishers.

How many hits do these hardworking family businesses have to take from this government's anti-fishing agenda? Queenslanders have the right to access their share of a public resource in the ocean by either fishing themselves or buying seafood caught by commercial fishers. Not everyone has the time or opportunity to go fishing. That is why we need a viable commercial fishing industry. Queensland's fishery stocks are in great shape according to the 2018 Australian fish stock reports. Where is this anti-fishing agenda coming from? Minister, it is time to put science and transparency into fisheries. Go back to the drawing board with these unfair quota allocations.

It is no secret Queensland's commercial fishing industry has been declining for the past 20 years. Hundreds of commercial fishers have left the industry in that time. For years Labor has not supported the hundreds of family commercial fishing businesses that supply us with some of the finest catch in the world.

The LNP understands and fights for the hardworking men and women in Queensland's fisheries. Only the LNP support seafood labelling laws that will boost local fisheries sales. All Labor offers is more ideologically driven red tape designed to push more and more people out of the industry. It is not good enough.

Jordan Electorate, Small Business

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.09 pm): In my electorate of Jordan we have some well-known and much loved local small businesses, so it was an absolute pleasure to host many of them at a recent event in the electorate with the Queensland Minister for Employment and Small Business, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman. This free event was an opportunity to showcase our small businesses—many

of them family-run enterprises. I would like to thank Minister Fentiman for making time to join us. Many of the small business owners I spoke with were so pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the minister.

It was also good to see representatives from the Office of Small Business there who provided important information on how the Queensland government can support the growth of this important sector. The event was strongly supported by not one but two of my local chambers of commerce—the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Logan Country Chamber of Commerce. I am very fortunate as an MP to have two very active chambers in my electorate that do so much to support local business in our communities. I thank President Neil Coupland from Greater Springfield and President Kerry Menck from Logan Country for their ongoing support.

The recent *State of small business 2018* report showed that the number of small businesses is on the rise in Queensland, with more than 426,000 small businesses contributing around \$113 billion to the state's economy and employing more than 900,000 Queenslanders. We certainly know that small businesses are the engine room of our diverse local economy and that investing in their growth leads to more local jobs.

The report also highlighted that 99.8 per cent of businesses reported increased capability after taking part in one of our Queensland government small business programs. During the event the minister was able to highlight some of these fantastic programs like the Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program and the Small Business Digital Grants Program. In fact, some really great local businesses in the Jordan electorate like Two Butchers, VM Family Law, Aquashield Bathrooms, Rollie A Designs and Happifeet Podiatry were all successful in receiving small business grants in the last year or so.

One program of particular interest to many of the small businesses is the Mentoring for Growth program. This free program offers business owners the chance to spend time with volunteer experts who are available to offer insight and assistance, with opportunities or challenges that these owners may be facing in their business. It is a credit to anyone in our community who has an idea or enterprise and turns it into a small business, because we know that particularly in outer metropolitan areas like Greater Springfield and Greater Flagstone small business is absolutely vital to the economic prosperity of our region.

It would have been good to see some more support for small business in the federal budget because from small things big things grow, and a strong small business sector means a growing economy that delivers even more jobs in the Jordan electorate.

Mirani Electorate, Mount Morgan



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (2.12 pm): I rise to speak about several ongoing events in the Mount Morgan area that reflect badly on a number of federal and state agencies as well as large corporates. The first matter pertains to a black spot mobile tower which Telstra and its contractor Visionstream have been seeking to install within the small rural community of Struck Oil. The community came to me only a few weeks ago looking for assistance to have the 50-metre tower relocated to a more agreeable site on another hill approximately a kilometre down the road.

It would appear after visiting the site, listening to the community group and making further investigations that the truth of the matter can be distilled down to Telstra being under the pump to have this priority black spot mobile tower commissioned by 30 June 2019—the significance being the federal government election and presumably to have the federal member for Flynn to be seen cutting the ribbon and appearing to be a great champion for the community of Struck Oil.

Mr Butcher: He's no champion for anyone.

Mr ANDREW: I will take that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Gladstone, you are not in your correct chair. If you are going to interject, you need to be in your correct chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr ANDREW: Fortunately, I must commend the Rockhampton Regional Council for discharging its rightful duty in denying the development application. As late as yesterday it was still battling to have Telstra, Visionstream and Ergon halt any further construction work without proper approvals. What is especially galling about the matter is that Telstra and Visionstream have treated the local community


and Rockhampton council with complete disrespect and have sought to use every excuse to avoid making changes. Seriously, how disrespectful to the local community to fly in PR people from Brisbane and then claim that they did not have enough money for the changes needed.

On the second matter, it is heartening to hear that, despite various state agencies having naval gazed for seven years, the Rockhampton Regional Council is now seeking to have the necessary safety inspections done with a view to reopening the Fireclay Caverns near Mount Morgan. The Fireclay Caverns are distinct in that they have 200-million-year-old dinosaur footprints embedded in the roof. One may wonder where they came from—it may even be from One Nation preferences!

Mr Stevens: A dinosaur, I'd say.

Mr ANDREW: I thought it was from One Nation preferences! For many decades these caves have been a valuable tourist venue and provided the opportunity for small business to conduct guided tours for visitors who would then provide flow-on trade for many other businesses within Mount Morgan itself. Mount Morgan is a great community, and I am proud and honoured to serve as their local member.

Bancroft Electorate, Federal Budget

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.15 pm): The federal budget will have almost no impact in my electorate. I want to take a view of this budget from street level—in Deception Bay at my local shopping centre, answering questions about this federal budget and what it will bring to the lives of working Queenslanders. The answer is nothing. It brings nothing—more of the same, even less of what we need.

My locals are smart and they understand what the budget will mean to them. The budget's biggest selling point—\$1,000 at tax time—will leave them unmoved. It does not make up for the wage rises they have not got. In fact, it will only remind them that their pay has not gone up for years and years under this federal LNP. They know that this is a government that has been content to see their wages stagnate. This one-off payment does not compare to the wages they have lost or the superannuation they have forgone.

As I said, they are smart and they know that a government should do more than just splash cash at election time. Governments should generate real change, not spare change. They know that this budget will change nothing at Centrelink. No-one will be able to get through on the phone. They know that the federal LNP will keep trying to kick people off their benefits and payments—'But here's a thousand dollars if you can forget that.'


Locals know that they will never get anything from the federal LNP for jobs and training. They have little faith in the job provider network which has mostly left town. If I said that Morrison had delivered \$120 million in cuts to TAFE and training, they would not be at all surprised. Locals also know that they are not going to see the money needed to upgrade the roads that they travel on to work. If I said that the only new road project the LNP funded was the Bracken Ridge stretch of the motorway and that they will not see construction for three years, they would say, 'Typical.'

However, change may well be on the way. Today may well be the very last day in parliament for the current federal LNP member. The episode he created this week with the Deception Bay Little Athletics club illustrates how the LNP have left us with something that is worse than nothing. The Deception Bay Little A's is the biggest and best little A's club in Queensland. They have sent eight locals to international competitions. They want a tartan track and I back them 100 per cent.

The member for Petrie started an online petition a week ago and got the club excited about it. They were told that the money would be in the budget, but on the day before the budget they learnt that the money for the project was not there. The online petition that he started up for projects in Redcliffe and North Lakes has got up, but Deception Bay had missed out again. It was devastating—devastating—to my community. This sums up the impact of the LNP on my community—more of the same, less of what we need.

(Time expired)

Theodore Electorate, Urban Development


 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.18 pm): I rise today to speak about the wonderful electorate of Theodore and express the opinions of many residents in the western regions of the electorate. The rural landscapes of Maudsland, Guanaba, Clagiraba and Wongawallan are nestled in the foothills of Tamborine Mountain, one of the emerald gems in the Gold Coast hinterland and a major attraction for both domestic and international tourists.

During the regular community roadsides that I hold in this area, multiple residents expressed their views on development and urban encroachment. Therefore, it is appropriate to give residents their say on the matter. I wrote to all of the Theodore residents in these rural areas asking them for their opinion. I would like to thank residents for the huge response to my letter. It is the opinion of the majority of residents that they wish to protect this area from urban sprawl. As many residents stated, they regularly see mass land clearing for housing development. Whilst residents do understand that development is important to create jobs and a strong local economy, they also feel that there needs to be a balance.

Though some residents did look favourably on slight changes to the area where appropriate, they were vehemently opposed to the idea of 600-square-metre lots. A handful of residents were in favour of urban development, but they were heavily outnumbered by those against. The majority of residents want to protect their way of life. One resident said that she fell in love with the area for its beauty and peaceful living. Others highlighted the poor infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast, stating, 'The roads around here are already burdened with enough traffic and cannot cope with more.' A resident also mentioned to me the obtuse concept design for exit 57 at Oxenford by the minister's main roads department with no right turns and solar panels where the slip lane needs to go, forcing traffic onto already congested roadways. I will be writing to the Minister for State Development and the Mayor of the Gold Coast to express these residents' opinions and ask for careful consideration for the region to uphold the majority of residents' views.

I finish by speaking about another bomb scare at one of my local schools, Helensvale State School. This is the second time this has happened this year. We need tougher deterrents for individuals who place young children's lives in danger by stupid behaviour in threatening to blow up schools or carrying guns to schools. We need to get tough on these individuals and bring in tougher legislation as a real deterrent, because this is becoming an absolute joke for my electorate. This is the second time this year that it has happened.

Mount Ommaney Electorate


 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.21 pm): Last week I rose in this House to pay tribute to Errol Slingsby, the now former principal of Oxley primary school. I attended his retirement party on the weekend. We said goodbye to our sheriff, our deputy of Oxley, after 10 years service. I am really crushed to be back this week to say goodbye to another Mount Ommaney principal, Meaghan Rodgers. Meaghan, as every Jindalee State School mum and dad knows, is an amazing leader and we are devastated to be losing her. She and her young family are moving home to regional Queensland and we wish them all the best.

One of the last things that Meaghan did was advocate for the expansion of the Jindalee State School zone to increase the school zone size by 100 metres and encapsulate a notorious trouble spot along Wongaburra Street. Jindalee State School is one of the biggest schools in my electorate, which has a wonderful active travel program led by Ben Harm, our wonderful local Adopt-a-Cop. Previously the school zone stopped right at the school gate on Wongaburra Street. However, thanks to representations from Principal Meaghan, the Jindalee P&C and caring and active parents like Tonya Turner, that has all changed and it now extends down past the oval where the Jindalee Jags, the Jindalee netball club and the Centenary Little Athletics play.

To members of this House who have not seen the site with their own eyes, it might not seem like much, but to my Jindalee community this is critical. As we know, our community members are our eyes and ears, and I am truly grateful that when they see an issue they contact me and let me know what is what. I was thrilled last year to hear from the Minister for Main Roads that Jindalee State School was going to get flashing school lights and the school was excited as well. They wanted to make sure that when those school lights were installed the school zone was extended down Wongaburra Street to ensure that entire stretch—that notorious dip in Wongaburra Street—was also included in the new school zone.

Luckily for school students, most parents would drive through this part of the road at 40 kilometres per hour. They would go under the speed limit to ensure the safety of our little school pedestrians, but we have had four near misses in the last few years. I was determined to make sure the minister's office understands that lives could be at stake if we did not see this school zone extended. We worked together as a community, and I am thrilled to announce that today those flashing lights in the new location were turned on for the very first time. I will be popping down tomorrow to visit them. I want to thank the minister's office for listening to me and listening to the school community at Jindalee. This is such a win for people power, for the hard work of the mums and dads of Jindalee, the P&C, the teachers and the principal.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.24 pm): Criminal gangs are back because Labor watered down the former LNP government's laws which kept our residents safe. It is not just me or the LNP saying this; it is community leaders such as Destination Gold Coast chairman and Gold Coast airport executive, Paul Donovan, who said about Labor's approach to bikies—

If you listen to the politicians they have fixed the problem. Well they—

expletive deleted—

haven't fixed the problem if some guy has got shot eight times.

I table that article.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'He said it' [548].

On 17 March Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce president, Martin Hall, pleaded for more police, voicing concerns that our city's reputation is at risk because of gang related violence and drugs. According to Greg Stolz, a journalist at the *Courier-Mail*, people are concerned that an all-out bikie war is on the verge of erupting. In the article, bikie expert Dr Mark Lauchs indicated that 'whereas the Newman government's VLAD laws had been effective in smashing the outlaw gangs, the Palaszczuk Government's anti-consorting laws were not targeting bikies. I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Rebel with a cause' [549].

A *Gold Coast Bulletin* report last month detailed a stabbing incident in Coomera. The victim was associated with the Rebels but the story went nowhere which 'a police insider says pleased upper management. They are trying to keep these incidents out of the media. It's really starting to ramp up between gangs.' I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 9 March 2019, titled 'Young hot-heads pour petrol on simmering bikie feud in Qld' [550].

They did not have to wait too much longer because on 25 March it was reported that a knife-wielding patch member of the Lone Wolf Outlaw Motorcycle Club was arrested after allegedly demanding the mobile phones of two women in Surfers Paradise. Just this week on 1 April, three days ago, more than a dozen people, many of whom were members or associates of outlaw motorcycle gangs, were arrested across the Gold Coast on a total of 52 charges involving antisocial behaviour and drug supply. These are allegedly members of the Bandidos and the Rebels.


It was also in Greg Stolz's article that a tattoo parlour belonging to Rebels member Mick Kosenko in Brendale on Brisbane's northside—so it is spreading—was firebombed. This is a person who Labor preferenced when he was a candidate at the 2017 state election in the seat of Pine Rivers. A police source has said that the chief super and assistant commissioner have openly said that they will not be getting any growth in the next few years because the government is broke. These are the real-life effects of Labor's poor understanding of Gold Coast criminal gang issues.

On 15 October 2013 we saw the now Premier questioning whether the LNP's VLAD laws would withstand a challenge in the High Court. She said—

If we as a community are going to ask our police officers to put themselves on the line in tackling outlaw criminal organisations we have a duty to provide them with the best possible tools, and that includes legislation that is designed to withstand court challenges.

That is what we delivered. Our laws were upheld by the High Court, but Labor's recent consorting laws could not even stand up to a magistrate's scrutiny.

CSI Club Services Ipswich, Rockstar Awards

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.27 pm): On Sunday I was delighted to attend the Rockstar Awards at CSI Club Services Ipswich, also known as the Ipswich RSL Services Club, which has been the centre of social activity in Ipswich since 1979. The club employs over 50 staff with an annual payroll of over \$2.5 million and revenue of over \$10 million. It has over 42,000 club members as well as members of the Ipswich RSL subbranch and the Ipswich Railway RSL subbranch.

The CSI Rockstar Awards are employee awards that are part of the club's staff professional and personal development program. Every month a peer voting process occurs whereby staff are nominated for going above and beyond the call of duty in line with the CSI team core values. The winners of the monthly Rockstar Awards go into the running for the annual Rockstar Awards. These annual awards included teamwork, customer service, performance and culture and innovation awards that were respectively awarded to Amanda, Boris, Gabby, and Chris and Lynsey.

Recognition of service awards were presented to staff who had been working at the club for between two and 25 years, with 30 staff members receiving awards. A special recognition of service award was presented to Kylie Hockings. Born and raised in Ipswich, the current operations and administration manager has worked for the club for over 25 years—her first job out of school.


The Rockstar of the Year, or the CSI employee of the year award, was presented to Tori Goodman, who has worked in the catering department for over seven years.

In recent times CSI Club Services Ipswich has received community and industry acclaim for its efforts as a club. With the Clubs Queensland Awards for Excellence, it received the award for the best RSL services club in Queensland in 2018. With the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, it was a finalist in the customer service award category.

The club has also participated in the Ipswich school work experience program, supporting the vocational pathway hospitality students from Bremer State High School, St Mary's College and Ipswich Special School. About 20 work experience students participated in the program, and three of those students have gone on to work in the CSI team—Hannah, Taylah and Maddy. As well, the club has assisted with the state government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, providing 12 certificate II cookery students with onsite experience in a commercial kitchen. This Get Set for Work program was coordinated by the Ipswich Community Youth Service and Ipswich TAFE.

I would like to congratulate the general manager, Greg Hurley, who oversees the club's day-to-day operations, as well as the club president, Ray Watherston, and the club staff for their contribution to the Ipswich community. As well as their contribution to Ipswich, this is an important business and an important employer. It is a club that all of Ipswich can be very proud of.

Education, Boarding Schools


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.30 pm): What is the value of an education? What is the worth of social interaction, sporting opportunities and the cultural experiences that come with education? These are questions that will soon need to be answered by 1,200 rural and remote families in Queensland who are all part of the ICPA. These are questions they need to answer as they face another year of drought or clean-up of land that was transformed into an inland sea following the devastating monsoonal event earlier this year. Whilst the recovery gets underway, we cannot forget the future, the next generation. In Queensland, there are eight shires without a high school and three shires where schooling is only available to year 10. Families in these districts have few options other than an Australian icon, the School of the Air, or boarding school.

Education is more than what is learnt in a classroom. So many children from these remote areas frequently spend the school term a long way from home. Yes, their educational needs are met, but so are their needs for other important skills, opportunities and experiences. The average tuition fee at non-state boarding schools was just over \$12,500 in 2018—a rise of 87 per cent since 2006. It is a significant cost that families meet because they see it as a worthy investment in their child's future. The cost of a child attending boarding school when they have no physical access to a school is subsidised, and rightly so, but the out-of-pocket expenses still need to be met and they have doubled in the last 12 years—yet an important part of the subsidy scheme, the tuition allowance, has risen by just 50 per cent.

For a large number of these families, their income source is gone or severely limited through no fault of their own. Soon the decision will need to be made as to whether the child will be removed from boarding school and return home to study via distance education. That difficult decision also has implications for the state. In 2016 Queensland contributed over \$15,900 for every child who used the School of Distance Education service. Today we face the prospect of up to 1,335 students being added to that service at a total cost of \$21,238,515. The ICPA, or the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, has requested a \$4,000 increase to the remote area tuition allowance—an allowance that is paid directly to boarding schools that varies depending on individual circumstances. Not only would this provide the same opportunities for students from remote areas of Queensland but also it would save the Queensland government approximately \$11 million.

The families of remote communities are proud, hardworking people. They do not want our sympathy or our pity. What they want is for their children to have the same opportunities that every other Queensland child has. I am calling on the minister here today to fund this amount in the upcoming budget to meet the needs of our rural schoolchildren.

Hamouda, Mr H

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise to give an update to the House in relation to my constituent Hazem Hamouda, a father of six from Kuraby who had been detained in Egypt for 15 months. I am very pleased to advise the House that I have extremely good news. I can confirm that Hazem has recently left Egypt and is on his way back home. He will be back in my local community with his family soon.

I want to acknowledge the Hamouda family who, despite being caught up in an absolute nightmare, continued to make sacrifices and work so tirelessly to bring Hazem home. I want to mention particularly: Hazem's wife, Evelyn; his four daughters—Lamisse, who is here in the gallery today, Jasmine, Saja and Amira; his two sons—Harun and Kareem; and his mother, Zeinab. The Hamouda family have been through so much for so long, and I am just so happy that this ordeal has finally come to an end for them.


It is important to acknowledge the pro bono legal team at Doughty Street Chambers in London that did an outstanding job. I want to specifically mention Jennifer Robinson, who is in the gallery today, and also Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC. They never gave up and continued the fight, despite numerous setbacks that I have previously mentioned in this House. I also want to acknowledge Mr Peter Greste, who is also in the gallery today. Peter has been a huge help to the Hamouda family with support and advice during their traumatic experience, both publicly and privately.

As I mentioned last week in this House, Hazem's lawyers managed to secure his release from the notorious Tora Prison in Cairo but his departure had been prevented by Egyptian authorities. I am pleased to advise the House that Hazem was finally allowed to leave Egypt after obtaining an exemption certificate. He has left Egypt and will be home soon.

This has been a horrific 433-day ordeal for the family that started back in January 2018 when Hazem travelled to Egypt for a holiday with his family. The family were supported by so many fantastic people—family and friends in both Egypt and Australia and of course their lawyer in Cairo. I also want to acknowledge all the community members who supported the campaign to bring Hazem home. The petition gained tens of thousands of signatures and the GoFundMe campaign to bring Hazem home raised thousands of dollars. This is a fantastic outcome. I have to say that there was a lot of joy in my community and so many people had smiles on their faces because they were so happy when they heard the news that Hazem had come out of Egypt and was coming home to his wonderful family.

Finally, I have spoken about the Hamouda family. They have been through an extremely challenging and traumatic experience. I think it is very important for everyone to understand that with Hazem coming home soon they need their privacy so that they can recover from this ordeal and quietly heal.

Bribie Island Road

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.36 pm): The only roadblock in the way of fixing Bribie Island Road is the Palaszczuk Labor government. The obstacle in the way is the Minister for Transport and Main Roads who late last year put out a media release titled 'Federal LNP deserts lonely island roads'. He tried to have people believe that the \$20 million of federal funding to fix Bribie Island Road had dried up. This is a complete and utter mistruth. I table a copy of the media release.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 5 October 2018, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, titled 'Federal LNP deserts lonely island roads' [\[551\]](#).

The Premier also tried to do the same thing on Tuesday this week when she said—

We want to see the full \$20 million of funding for Bribie Island Road promised in the Longman by-election.

Well, it is here. It is clearly stated in the Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook that was released in December last year. It is here in black and white and I table that.

Tabled paper: Statement by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia, Hon. Josh Frydenberg, and the Minister for Finance and Public Service of the Commonwealth of Australia, Senator Hon. Mathias Cormann, dated December 2018, titled 'Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook' [\[552\]](#).

The Premier said she was standing up and backing Queenslanders. The only backing she is doing is backing right off the people of Pumicestone. She has form with this. Just look at the rubble she dished out to the Pumicestone community during their last term in office. Pumicestone will never forget the shameful member the Palaszczuk Labor government imposed upon us.


Yesterday I took the extraordinary measure of writing to Susan Lamb, the current federal Labor member for Longman, calling on her to step up and step in to sort out her Labor state colleagues. I table a letter that I sent to her.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 April 2019, from the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Simone Wilson MP, to the federal member for Longman, Ms Susan Lamb MP, regarding an upgrade to Bribie Island Road [553].

I call on Susan Lamb to use whatever persuasion she has to get them moving on this funding, to get them to do their job—complete the paperwork and get this funding on the ground to fix Bribie Island Road. The member for Longman has been pretty silent on this funding ever since it was announced last July. We have to wonder why. Is it because she knows that an elected Shorten Labor government will not honour the \$20 million funding for Bribie Island Road? Shorten has not committed funds to this. Perhaps this is the real reason behind the state government's delay and the member for Longman's deafening silence.

That \$20 million is nothing to thumb your nose at. It is funding that could be put into immediately fixing the dangerous Old Toorbul Point Road intersection where we have schools or fast-tracking plans to fix the Bribie Island bridge and Bribie Island Road. It is Labor that have deserted the people of Pumicestone, not the LNP, and they have done it with a smug and deliberate smirk on their faces.

Aspley Electorate, Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.39 pm): I am delighted to inform the House that, despite a lacklustre federal budget for the north side this week, the Palaszczuk government has been able to deliver one win for our part of the north side thanks to some strong advocacy by members of the Aspley State High School community to me. I say thanks to Minister Dick and Minister Grace for putting up with my many inquiries. We have had a great win on an issue that would be unknown to many but is important to those who know of it.

We are fixing the pipe crossing at the back of Aspley State High School. For decade after decade students to the north of Aspley State High School have had few options of getting to and from the school. They could take a detour of over a kilometre along Zillmere and Dorville Roads or they could balance across a greasy pipe to get over Cabbage Tree Creek and risk the shopping trollies and God knows what else that lurks within its very murky depths.

I am very pleased to say that we have secured \$1 million in funding for a pedestrian and cycle bridge to be built across Cabbage Tree Creek, providing a direct link between Aspley State High School and the \$6.5 million Carseldine Urban Village sport and recreation precinct, which is currently under construction. I know that many students and residents regularly use the pipe to cross the creek or they walk along the busy Dorville and Zillmere roads. Soon they will be able to walk or cycle across a brand-new footbridge allowing them to move seamlessly between the school, the sports fields and the Carseldine train station. The new bridge will also connect existing cycle infrastructure in the surrounding area.

The proposal includes lighting so that we will have a better and safer integration of the school, the village precinct and the broader community, putting more people on their bikes, using public transport and taking advantage of our community's green space, which is a real win for locals. I sincerely thank Minister Dick and Minister Grace for listening to me bang on and on about a pipe over a creek. This is a small win but a giant leap over Cabbage Tree Creek. The project will be funded through the Palaszczuk government's Growth Area and Regional Infrastructure Investment Fund to the tune of \$900,000, with an additional \$100,000 coming from the Department of Education. Construction is set to commence in late 2019 with the bridge to open in 2020.


This footbridge just adds to what we have started in the area since I became the member, specifically in the Aspley, Zillmere and Carseldine areas. We have a brand-new home for basketball on the north side just over the creek in Zillmere—five new courts in a disused shed which Campbell Newman was trying to sell off. We are consulting with sporting groups and organisations to determine the best future community use for the \$6.5 million sporting precinct and we have a minimum of \$10 million for Aspley State High School for new and refurbished facilities that were announced at the election. This is a great school that was crying out for investment. We are in discussions with the community about traffic congestion, too, with a feasibility study for the current Beams Road level crossing out for consultation. All levels of government need to step up regarding traffic in the area.

In closing, it was very disappointing to see that after a year or so of hearing the members for Dickson and Petrie banging on about this, there was no money in the budget for Linkfield Road. They have had billboards up about it and petitions about it, but there were zero dollars for the north side.

A government member: They've abandoned them.

Mr MELLISH: They have abandoned their communities and it is very sad to see.

Ninderry Electorate, Road Infrastructure


 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise today to reflect on the federal budget and the direct relevance to major road infrastructure projects in my electorate. This year's federal budget represents a stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Labor government, whose failure to plan is failing Queenslanders and whose lack of economic credibility is also failing the next generation of Queenslanders. In stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is spiralling towards a state debt of \$83 billion, the coalition government has a plan to pay down debt while guaranteeing investment in infrastructure in our regions. In stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Labor government, which has left the heavy lifting to the federal coalition government when it comes to investing in our regional transport infrastructure, the federal government has announced \$4 billion in new infrastructure across the state. That is funding that will benefit my electorate, with \$241 million to majority fund stage 1 of the Bruce Highway-Maroochydore Road upgrade.

That brings me to another issue in my electorate where the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to plan and failure to manage our state's economy is impacting daily on thousands of motorists. Its failure to commit funding to upgrade critical road infrastructure like the Coolum roundabout is failing my whole community. I appreciate the minister visiting Coolum recently to inspect this intersection and taking the time to view footage of the intersection at peak times. The footage shows traffic backing up onto the motorway, like it was that fateful day in August last year when a motorist was killed in a head-on collision caused by the congestion. The footage also shows that the congested roundabout restricts the ability of local emergency services to access the motorway, delaying their response times to critical incidents that are unfortunately becoming more frequent on our roads due to the coast's booming population. That congestion will only get worse with future approved developments and their proximity to the new Sunshine Coast international airport.

The roundabout, which was built 25 years ago when the local population was less than half what it is now, is the only entry point to the Coolum primary school, which is accessed by more than a thousand schoolkids every day. To its credit, in 2008 the then state Labor government identified that this intersection needed upgrading and undertook a planning study, which proposed a new interchange that would alleviate these issues. Unfortunately, there is no money and there is no longer any plan.

I am grateful that the minister has indicated he will look at local solutions to help alleviate these congestion and safety issues. Anything we can do in the short term to improve the situation is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, until then we will continue to keep our fingers crossed that there are no more serious accidents as a result of this failing intersection.

Fitzroy River Barra Bash


 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.45 pm): During the first week of March I had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Tourism Industry Development, Hon. Kate Jones. The Queensland government via Tourism and Events Queensland was able to provide \$10,000 in funding to support the 2019 Fitzroy River Barra Bash.

Almost four years ago the state government ended net fishing in the Fitzroy River with the aim of increasing recreational fishing opportunities and thereby supporting tourism and economic growth. This event aligns with our strategy to build visitation and economic growth via tourism for Central Queensland. I met with the Frenchville Sports Club General Manager, Damien Massingham, and the Chair, Graeme Brady, to unveil a Polycraft 410 Challenger, which will be won at the family fun day in May.

Sporting a new name for its second year, the Frenchville Sports Club is proud to bring a bigger and better Fitzroy River Barra Bash, which will run from 23 to 26 May and is worth \$20,000 in cash and prizes. As well as the two-day barra tournament, this year's event has three new attractions: a family fishing competition, family fun day at the club and an exclusive lunch. The family fun day will include a free competition on the Fitzroy River on Sunday, 26 May including prizes for the biggest and mystery length barra. After the free family fun day there will be a festival at Ryan Park, also with free entry, between 2 pm and 8 pm, which will include casting competitions, live entertainment and prize presentations. Everyone attending the family fun day has the chance to win a new boat, a Polycraft 410 Challenger valued at over \$24,000, by purchasing a raffle ticket.

The Fitzroy River has become a mecca for fishing, especially for barramundi and threadfin salmon. I am pleased that there are now nine charter boats operating from five businesses on the Fitzroy, namely Hooked Fishing, Big Fella Sport Fishing, Reel Fishing, Guided Fishing DownUnder and Rise Guardian, which has just started operations. Today I stand here in awe at how successful the recreational fishing industry has become as a result of the net-free zones and the businesses who have helped shape us into an iconic fishing destination. I would encourage people to come to Central Queensland, enjoy the Fitzroy River and have a great time.

Palliative Care, Hummingbird House

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.48 pm): James Simpson from Redland Bay was in grade 9 at Calvary Christian College when he developed a cough that he just could not clear. Sick with worry, his mum, Julie, took him to the Children's Hospital. After some further investigations it was discovered James had acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a form of childhood cancer. Although this form of cancer is often very curable, unfortunately for James, despite treatment, his cancer continued to be prolific. He had many complications and this led to him needing help with his breathing and he was paralysed from his neck downwards. After four months James became palliative.

Having spent most of his four months in the intensive care unit and his care being very complex, being transferred home to die was not an option and James was transferred to Hummingbird House for end-of-life care. He spent his last few weeks surrounded by his siblings and his much loved cat. His friends visited him as well as his favourite teacher from school, who was living in London at the time. He flew back to Brisbane to surprise him.


Hummingbird House provided space for them all to eat home-cooked meals together, watch movies and swim—to just be together as a family. After James passed away very peacefully surrounded by his family, Hummingbird House provided a peaceful space for the family to grieve and supported them in preparing for a beautiful personal funeral at his school, where his schoolmates provided him with a guard of honour.

Stories like that of James Simpson of the Redlands coast are incredibly sad, and they serve to highlight the critical need that children and families have for the support and services that Hummingbird House provides. Hummingbird House is Queensland's only children's hospice, specialising in providing care for children who are likely to die with hours, days, weeks, months, or a few years. Their service provides short stays, family support, creative therapies and care at the end of life for children aged from newborn to 18 years.

Hummingbird House is fully accredited under the national healthcare quality standard AS/NZS ISO 9001, making Hummingbird House the only privately licensed paediatric palliative care facility in Australia. The team now includes nurses, personal care workers, social workers, nurse practitioners, doctors, family support workers, housekeepers, occupational therapists, cooks and an art therapist. Since operations commenced, Hummingbird House has received over 200 referrals and is actively involved in supporting around 18 families. Hummingbird House is very well respected and leads the way nationally in many aspects of care.

The challenge Hummingbird House faces today is a shortfall of some millions of dollars. This is very important, and I appeal to governments to increase their funding and for corporates and individuals to make regular donations.

Maryborough Electorate; Federal Budget, Hinkler Regional Deal

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.51 pm): Earlier this week in parliament we passed lemon laws, but that was not good enough to protect the Maryborough electorate from two lemons: the federal budget and the Hinkler deal. We have been served lemons! First of all, let me talk about the federal budget. It is still \$11.5 million for the WBHHS, so let's try and understand this. The state government has paid for the services conducted by the WBHHS. We have sent the invoices over to the federal government and it put them on the backburner. It has been nearly 30 months now since the state government paid the invoices. That is \$11.5 million out of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. Those are services that are being cut to ordinary people in the Maryborough electorate.


When we look at the Hinkler deal, this is the first deal that does not go on geographical area: it goes on electorate. We have heard about *Saving Private Ryan* but this is about saving Keith Pitt, because he is gone. I was lectured the other day about how good it is and what we are missing out in the Maryborough electorate. The member for Burnett took us for a tour. I do not know if he knows

anything about the Maryborough electorate, but he took me for a tour. He did not understand that this is not good for the Maryborough electorate. Once again, this is the LNP putting public money into private pockets and looking after its mates. There is nothing for ordinary people in the electorate.

What about the \$44 million upgrade at the intersection of Maryborough Road and Pialba-Burrum Heads Road? There is not a dollar for that. What about the waterworks at Howard and Torbanlea? There is not a dollar for that. Then we have Oregon Creek on Pialba-Burrum Heads Road, which the member forgot to mention, that floods. It is going to cost \$24 million to raise the road. There is not one dollar for that. Once again, public money is going into private pockets. That is all they are doing. They are looking after their mates. This is about saving Keith Pitt. This is all about Keith Pitt.

When I spoke to the Assistant Minister for Treasury months ago I said that I would not be part of this deal. It should include the whole of the Wide Bay. It is ironic. When you get the mayor of the North Burnett—who, by the way, is not a Labor person—saying that the deal stinks, you know it pongs to high heaven. You know there is trouble with this deal when you have one of their own saying it is not fair dinkum. How can they stand there and say that this deal is great for the Maryborough electorate? We know when we are served lemons.

Hummingbird House; Clayfield Electorate, Windsor Development

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.54 pm): I would like to associate myself with the comments of the member for Oodgeroo about Hummingbird House. It is a tremendous operation. I was privileged to be at the opening of Hummingbird House and I have constantly supported it. I think it has the support of all sides of politics for the great work it does in some of the most awful and difficult of circumstances for families.

Windsor is a wonderful residential neighbourhood in the Clayfield electorate that was recently included in my electorate as a result of the boundary redistribution. It faces challenges. It is close to the city. It is bounded by Enoggera Creek, the Ferny Grove railway line, Lutwyche Road and Bowen Bridge Road. It is serviced by many facilities including the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and others, but it faces challenges from growth.

On the corner of Le Geyt Street and Gennon Street in Windsor is a block of land that has remained vacant and overgrown with grass. The North Brisbane Bikeway runs along the eastern side with the Ferny Grove train line to the east. Located next to Enoggera Creek, this land is prone to flooding and was last flooded in 2011. Today I want to bring the attention of the House to this vacant land because it is owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I want to speak about this because, with no community consultation, it appears that the department has gone and marked this block with survey pegs. The land is already subdivided.


After hearing from concerned residents of this tight-knit community, particularly around Enoggera Creek and Le Geyt Street, Councillor David McLachlan from the Hamilton ward and I have been investigating. Residents fear that the minister is planning an asset sale. On 25 March I sent a letter to the minister asking him to come clean about the government's plans for this land. Windsor residents do not want to see housing on this site. The community has had enough of it. I conducted a local survey, and the community has been loud and clear on what they want and what they deserve, and that is for this land to be transferred to the Brisbane City Council for the purposes of green space and parkland. They do not want to see more housing development in this area. They want to see the environment preserved and this area transformed into a recreational space that can be utilised by the whole community—whether that is a kids' playground, a dog off-leash area or green space with public gym activities.

In 2017 Councillor McLachlan reached out to Minister Grace Grace, the then state member for this area, as it was in her electorate. Councillor McLachlan suggested at that time that the land be transferred to the council so a park could be delivered to the Windsor community. Unfortunately, Minister Grace Grace never responded. The land has remained vacant until recently marked with the survey pegs, as I have indicated.

The minister and the department must come clean with local residents. They are concerned that this land will be sold off. They are concerned that, without consulting with them, it will be turned into more high-density residential housing in what is a low-density residential area. The land floods. It is bounded by the bikeway and the Ferny Grove line. The minister should explain to residents what is required—

(Time expired)

Redlands, Federal Budget

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.57 pm): This federal budget is a cruel hoax for the people of Redlands. It is only slightly better than last year's. Last year there was no extra funding for health or education, just an asset sale. Birkdale bushland was sold off for 400 small housing lots. We have a new idea from the member for Bowman: we are going to bring a zoo to the Birkdale bushland. For 15 years he has been touting that the Birkdale bushland is going to be turned into a university, but in his press release he said there is now a one-in-a-million chance it will be for a university. He said, 'Now I'm proposing a zoo, but it's not my decision. It's the council's decision.' So the council has to buy the land off the federal government using ratepayers' money and then pay a peppercorn lease to the Alma Park Zoo to run the zoo. Guess what, Mr Deputy Speaker? I reckon there is a one-in-a-million chance of that happening as well.


Let's look at some other things in the federal budget. Andrew Laming has had multiple positions on the Redland Hospital car park: he is in, then he is out, then he is in, then he might give it over to private developers to knock over a heap of koala trees to put in a private car park. Sixteen million dollars is supposedly in the budget, but is it in the first year? No. Is it in the second year? No. Is it in the third year? No. Maybe we will get the money from Andrew Laming and the federal government in seven years time after three elections. Then he has the hide to say to us, 'We're going to give you a deadline.' Give me a break!

Let's look at road funding in the area. Wellington Street gets \$15 million. Wellington Street is a council road. It has not been a priority for the council. It has not ever been a priority road, yet it got \$15 million. It is in their urban congestion fund. What does that mean? It means that council has to cough up 50 per cent of the funding to obtain this funding.

I want to put that into perspective. The Redland City Council budget for roads last year was \$22 million, so it is expected to put in a quarter of its budget over the next three years to get this funding for one road in two council divisions. Good luck getting that over the line in the council budget when there are eight other divisions! The councillors are already spewing about it. But we can afford it. The member for Redlands has already indicated that we are ready. If Cleveland-Redland Bay Road has been a priority for Andrew Laming, we have the capacity to pay 50-50. That is where the funding should be going. Andrew Laming should not be playing politics with roads and hospitals all the time. It is a complete disgrace. He needs to stop playing games with the people of the Redlands and look after Redlands, no strings attached. Let's get the hospital car park and Cleveland-Redland Bay Road done. Let's make sure we work together.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.00 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report No. 23 titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry* tabled 28 February 2019.

It is with great pleasure that I move that the House note the report on the inquiry conducted into the space industry. All who were involved in compiling this report and those who have read it have discovered a great deal. We have discovered that the new space industry is a natural fit with Queensland. The new space industry is about getting up small, low-orbit satellites—10 centimetres by 10 centimetres by 10 centimetres. We need to get thousands of those satellites up over the next many years. The data that flows down from these satellites is the new economic gold.

The committee prepared two papers. One looked at what is the space industry. As I said, it is about private providers putting satellites up into space. The other looked at what the space industry needs. We found that it needs geography—eastward-facing launch sites over the ocean and wide open spaces with a lot of radio silence to get the information that is beamed down from the satellites; a skilled workforce in manufacturing and technology—that includes robotics and mining; and research institutions and expertise. It is good to see that Queensland ticks every one of those boxes. In terms of expertise, we have institutions at our universities that are already leaders in the space field. We have

Amberley air base. Boeing is based here. We also have skilled workforces in manufacturing. The largest heavy vehicle manufacturer in Australia is based in South-East Queensland. Obviously, we have geographic advantages to be part of a new space industry, with wide open spaces and radio silence.

There is a huge economic opportunity for Queensland with the new space industry. We have so many advantages. I say to Queensland businesses: we can do this. You have the skills and expertise; we have the advantages. Mining companies along the eastern seaboard have expertise in building very durable vehicles and items that can translate to the space industry.

The real value in the space industry is the data that comes down from these satellites. I was told by Dr Sean Tuttle from Nova Systems that we are using only about 10 per cent of the information that is beamed down from these satellites. There is literal gold waiting for those businesses that can find out what to do with all of that information—turning it into apps, programs and services that the world will buy. The Queensland government is already a large user of that information. We buy literally hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of information that comes from satellites each year. Opportunities lie at the end of the supply chain—the download stations and the information that is downloaded. That is where we can build real value.


This is a great opportunity for regionally based businesses as well. There is no reason many of these companies cannot base themselves somewhere like the Sunshine Coast, where the huge submarine cable is coming in, or Toowoomba. There are great opportunities for businesses to be based in regional centres throughout Queensland.

We found that Advance Queensland is a natural fit for the new space industry. It focuses on supporting innovative entrepreneurs and building start-ups and new businesses in this space. Advance Queensland is one of our natural strengths when it comes to the space industry.

The federal government has got on board with the Australian Space Agency. Regional Queensland needs internet connectivity. If we can get internet connectivity out to our regional area, there is no reason we cannot—

A government member: The NBN.

Mr WHITING: The NBN is absolutely right. There is no reason we cannot be the leader in the space industry.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.05 pm): I rise to speak to the report titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry* as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

I remember that as a young lad I went to school but when I arrived the headmaster came out, turned the bus around and sent us all home because man was to land on the moon that day. We got the day off school. I am probably showing my age! I remember that when I got home I sat down in the lounge room in front of the little black-and-white television that we had. It was all pretty slow going. After a while I got very disinterested and thought I could be doing a lot of other things with my time! My father had come home to watch the event, which signifies what an event it was because he did not leave the fields very often. I remember sitting there and watching that very scratchy picture as Neil Armstrong came down the ladder and walked on the moon. On 21 July this year that will have happened 50 years ago. What has happened since then? Some may say 'a lot' and some may say 'not much'. It depends on how you look at it. The satellite industry is one that we have all come to rely on very heavily. That was probably the focus of a fair part of this report.


The committee ended up making 15 recommendations. The committee held a number of hearings—here in Parliament House and at the University of Queensland. We also went to Canberra, to the Australian National University. We went out to the deep space centre and the Mount Stromlo Observatory. While in Canberra we saw the very small cube satellites the private companies are sending up for use in observation, be that by Defence personnel or by other industries. Obviously, agriculture is a large user of those satellites in this day and age. A lot more work can be done in that regard. The defence industry is also a very large user of satellites, ranging from very small satellites to rather large satellites.

We also had an opportunity to go out to Westmar, which sounds like a strange place to go and watch a rocket being launched but that is what we did. Blake Nokolic and Black Sky launched a rocket that went up to the edge of space, came back and landed in two parts not far from where it set off. We also visited Gilmour Space Technologies at Pimpama, where they are also building rockets.

Just before we started this inquiry the Australian Space Agency was formed. You cannot help but wonder whether, with the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, people suddenly think they have to get involved in the space industry.

The chair made comment about data and Toowoomba, and that is because there is a large data storage at Toowoomba built by the Gardner family—FK Gardner—which is the first tier 3 data centre in regional Australia. If this technology were to increase—and it will; we all know it is going to increase when looking at driverless cars, driverless trucks and driverless tractors—that is going to create a lot more data than we have capacity to store at this moment, so that can be used in other areas. We looked at launch sites but the committee did not recommend any actual site. That would be something that the industry will have to establish itself. It needs to be away from air traffic and densely populated areas. Obviously, it also needs to have internet and other connectivity.

There is no doubt that there is a lot of flow-on benefit with space technology, whether that be manufacturing, whether it is in data storage or whether that be for those who use it. I want to thank the committee for all of the work that it put into this report. It is a very comprehensive report. I thank all other committee members who were involved in putting this report together.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution concerning the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Development Committee's report into the job opportunities and opportunities for Queensland business by the establishment of an Australian space industry.

Before I do so, I want to say a few words as to why I am wearing a UQ Gatton past students' tie this week. Like the member for Buderim, I am a proud past student of UQ's Gatton campus and I am wearing this tie to celebrate the life of fellow UQ Gatton graduate Jason Blackwood—Jase Blackwood as he was known to his friends—of Regency Downs in the Lockyer Valley, who sadly passed away on 18 March far too young, at the age of 45 years. Jase was laid to rest on 25 March.

There are a number of existing Queensland companies that are poised to benefit from the establishment of an Australian space industry. They include Gilmour Space Technologies based at Jacobs Well and TAE Aerospace based at the Amberley RAAF base in my electorate of Ipswich West. Other aerospace companies based at Amberley include Boeing and Northrop Grumman. TAE Aerospace started as a small local business, which managed to secure a Defence contract and based itself at Amberley RAAF base. The company started with a Defence sustainment contract in 2000, having won a major F111 aircraft maintenance contract with the Royal Australian Air Force. TAE Aerospace has a long and proud history in aviation. When it commenced operation it was known as Tasman Aviation Enterprises. Since then it has grown from six employees to 320 across a wide range of services and activities delivered from sites all over the world.


In March 2015 TAE Aerospace became a 100 per cent Australian owned company after a management buyout from Air New Zealand. Under the guidance of CEO and Managing Director Andrew Sanderson, TAE Aerospace has had well managed growth resulting from both organic expansion and targeted acquisition. Now the Australian aerospace giant is a major global Defence player and about to invest in a \$50 million headquarters to maintain engines for the world's most high-profile jet fighters. It is now the largest Australian owned aerospace company with the broadest range of aerospace products and services.

In June 2017 it changed its name from TAE to TAE Aerospace to better reflect its core business and expand its range of aerospace products, services and technologies. TAE Aerospace is the largest Australian owned aerospace company. It has become a top contender for major military contracts and leads the way in the international supply chain among companies in the export sector. It recently purchased the former Masters warehouse site at Bundamba in Ipswich where it will invest \$50 million for upgrades and equipment. The facility will be used for maintenance and engineering on the Pratt & Whitney F135 engines of the Joint Strike Fighter program. The company is currently based at Amberley and will continue its operations there.

The Australian Air Force has purchased 72 Joint Strike Fighter jets, with the first planes having arrived in 2018. The Bundamba plant will also service engines for Joint Strike Fighters for Korea, Japan and the US forces in the Australia Pacific region. TAE Aerospace will transfer maintenance work for the Hornet and Super Hornet engine fleet as well as the Army's Abrams tanks from Amberley to Bundamba. The company is also building a brand-new manufacturing facility on the existing site. TAE's engineering and test cells will be taken to Bundamba, but the engine test facilities will stay at Amberley due to noise

factors. There will be about 140 jobs created on site and an additional 80 to 100 jobs created over the next five to 10 years. The company plans to become a world-class maintenance, repair and overhaul provider for the F135 engine right across the Southern Hemisphere.

Ipswich has become a major Defence and aerospace enclave. It is an ideal location for Defence and aerospace companies in the supply chain. It has good distribution points for anywhere in Australia and the Asia-Pacific industry. The Defence industry is worth about \$800 million in sales to the Ipswich region and \$600 million in exports and accounts. With their expertise in the industry, TEA Aerospace and Gilmour Space Technologies are poised to benefit from this new space industry.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.15 pm): Assessing soil moisture remotely from space. Monitoring traffic flows on the Bruce Highway between Buderim and Caboolture remotely from space. Identifying PFAS contamination in a town water reservoir remotely from space. Predicting the yield of a wheat crop remotely from space. There is little doubt that the space age is going to change the way that Queenslanders interact with the world. Technological advancements will most certainly result in efficiencies and productivity gains. Many of these advancements will, however, mean that tasks that are currently performed manually will no longer be necessary. That is why I found it a little puzzling when the terms of reference for this inquiry were framed around the number of jobs that will be created rather than what capabilities could be developed. It talks to a superficiality in the conversation whereby the government feels the need to frame everything to suit its narrative of jobs, jobs, jobs. Another example is the government's decision to change the name of Defence Industries Queensland to Defence Jobs Queensland—something which will have zero effect on the outcome but which aligns with the government's carefully cultivated political narrative.

While we all want more jobs for Queenslanders, by making that the focus of a developing space industry the government has excluded consideration of all of the ways that efficiencies may reduce costs and provide a public benefit for all Queenslanders. Rather than focusing on a political narrative, the government should focus on how it can develop industry from a capability perspective and then the natural consequence will be more jobs for Queenslanders. The question is: what are Queensland's strengths and how is Queensland best placed to capitalise on the wave of space based and digital technological advancements, which are quickly evolving? Where is our competitive advantage and what will that mean for Queenslanders? What quickly became clear during the inquiry is the fact that Queensland has some world-leading experience in the earth observation area and there is considerable scope for us to leverage this experience for commercial gain and for the public good. Each of the examples that I outlined at the start of my contribution are tangible applications of earth observation techniques and technologies.

In Professor Stuart Phinn of the University of Queensland we have one of the world experts in this area. If the government is looking for tangible results, it should consider supporting the proposed earth observation CRC. Commercial application of this same technology already exists in Queensland, with Queensland based company Ozius already running a successful business. One aspect that quickly became evident was the significant role that Defence will play in the development of any space industry. It is pretty clear that the ADF is one of the main consumers of space based products currently and it is likely that that will remain the case in the future. Consequently, there is an opportunity to leverage the existing skills that reside within our serving Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans.

The committee heard that Defence personnel possess unique expertise in geographic information systems, remote sensing, image analysis and autonomous vehicles. Professor Stuart Phinn, whom I mentioned earlier, spoke about serving ADF personnel who undergo training within UQ's postgraduate program in relation to geospatial information systems and earth observation. When I questioned him about pathways for Defence personnel into Queensland government and other civilian roles, Professor Phinn said—


At the moment probably the biggest barrier is having a clear path through to industry for them.

...

We have not had any go through to state government, but they do have quite a unique set of skills ...

The committee report's recommendation 11 seeks to remediate this issue by recommending that the Queensland Space Industry Reference Group examine pathways for ex-Defence personnel to transition into employment in the Queensland space industry. That is a good first step, but words without action are meaningless. I look forward to seeing the tangible actions that have been implemented when the government's progress against all of the report's recommendations are provided to the committee in November this year.

Tremendous opportunities exist for Queensland if we get on board with the technological revolution that is happening right now. If Queensland is to make the most of this opportunity, it will require tangible support from this government to ensure that opportunities are commercialised in a timely manner. I ask the government to put aside the political narrative and do what needs to be done to grow Queensland's space industry.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.20 pm): We know that space is the future. That is why, as a member of the committee, in making recommendations in the report on the inquiry into a space industry I felt that it was imperative to include recommendations relating to education. We know that our school students should and will benefit the most from this inquiry. I think everybody should know that female students are terribly under-represented in the STEM subjects that lead to careers in the space industry. I will touch on that later, because that situation simply needs to change. We know that our amazing teachers have a lot on their plate, but I believe that teachers, parents and the community as a whole have a role to play in addressing this issue.


As I said, space is the future, but it is also the past. The member for Condamine alluded to that special day when he went home from school to watch the landing on the moon. As a member of the committee, I was surprised to learn that, when that landing occurred 50-odd years ago, Australia was at the cutting edge of the space race but that, since that time, we have dropped away. This report and its recommendations should go some way to addressing that situation—certainly for Queensland because, as other members of the committee have mentioned, we have some competitive advantages that uniquely position us to once again get at the cutting edge of the space race. There are jobs to be had from the space industry—in agriculture, in defence, in education and in manufacturing—and Queensland is uniquely positioned to capitalise on all of them.

As I said, we need to make sure that our students are educated for the jobs of the future and, in particular, ensure that young women are fairly represented in the space industry in the future. I would like to thank the schools in my area, particularly Corinda State High School. Members of the committee may remember that that school was repeatedly brought up as a school of excellence by various witnesses who appeared at the committee's inquiry. That school is doing a wonderful job in STEM subjects. It has a science excellence program. More than one witness independently mentioned Corinda State High School, which made me feel very proud. It is a great local high school.

I would like to thank Allan Yates, who is a teacher at Springfield. He is also married to my electorate officer. He is the head of STEM at his junior high school. Allan can very proudly boast rates double the national average of female students in all three of his science classes—in biology, chemistry and physics. That is a massive achievement. Allan has a real passion, a real skill for getting young girls engaged in STEM. I thank Allan for answering a lot of my questions about how we can better engage young women in STEM subjects.

I also want to thank the staff and students of Corinda State High School for their expertise through their science excellence program. I want to share the experience of Ms Lam, who last year graduated as dux of Corinda State High School. I am talking about the smartest person in the school last year. Ms Lam is now doing a science degree. She studied chemistry, biology and physics. I wanted to get her experience of what it was like being a very intelligent young woman studying those subjects. She said to me that she felt a really strong pressure to succeed in those classes, because she was very aware that she was not just viewed as a student; she was viewed as a female student and that there would be possibly a perception that she was not up to scratch and that her gender might be a reason for that. Ms Lam also wanted to reassure me that this pressure did not come from her male peers; she felt that it was internal. This young woman, who is incredibly bright, the dux of the school, had no reason to feel that way. It concerned me how many non-dux level females we might be losing because they feel that pressure.

I also want to thank Dhruv Singh, who was also an OP 1 graduate of Corinda State High School. Last year, he was a UQ science ambassador. He accompanied me on several excursions the committee made. His advice was absolutely invaluable. His enthusiasm for space was infectious. On that note, I also thank Nick Green and Meg from PFi, two Mount Ommaney locals who were also wonderful witnesses at the committee's inquiry.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.25 pm): When discussing a subject, we often hear the words, 'It's not rocket science'. For the past six months, my committee has been discussing, reviewing and learning about just that—rocket science. The committee even had the opportunity to meet rocket scientists and delve into their life and work in space. I rise to speak to the committee's report, titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry*. In the five minutes I have in which to speak, I want to discuss three things: the process

the committee went through to complete the inquiry, Queensland's strengths for making a positive contribution to the Australian space industry and, lastly, two of the 15 recommendations made by the committee.

The inquiry was referred to the committee for consideration. I would like to thank the secretariat staff, Dr Jacqui Dewar and Natasha Mitchenson, for the tremendous amount of work they did over the length of this inquiry. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for the way in which the inquiry was completed.

The committee received 26 submissions to the inquiry and held public hearings at both the University of Queensland and here at Parliament House. The committee also conducted three site visits. The committee witnessed the Black Sky Aerospace suborbital rocket launch near Goondiwindi, which was the first suborbital launch in Australia. The committee visited the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision, which is located at QUT's Garden Point campus. The committee also visited Gilmour Space Technologies in Pimpama to review the company's ground control station, mobile rocket launcher and the One Vision rocket. In November last year, the committee also met with the ACT government, academics, scientists and other stakeholders in Canberra. The committee released two information papers and, throughout the inquiry, learned that, when it comes to making a significant contribution to the Australian space industry, Queensland has a number of strengths.


Queensland companies are already developing launch vehicles and propulsion systems. Queensland's geographic position makes it well suited for the development of launch sites and associated space industry hubs. Queensland offers ideal locations for ground stations and satellite parks. Queensland has a natural cluster of earth observation activities. Queensland has a significant number of companies that are already active in the space supply chain. Queensland is home to strong research institutions that produce talented graduates in space related fields. Queensland students are actively involved in STEM education.

A common theme among the evidence was that, for Queensland to play a role in the Australian space industry, our state needs to focus on niche areas of competitive advantage. I would like to discuss two of the committee report's recommendations that relate to niche areas that will benefit regional Queensland. Recommendation 2 is that the government develop siting options for a launch facility in regional Queensland. The committee considered Queensland's geographic conditions to be a great advantage when considering the development of a launch site. The committee also acknowledges the industry evidence that a launch site would benefit multiple industries along the space supply chain. In particular, Queensland has a number of companies that develop launch vehicles, so a launch site would encourage those companies to remain and potentially expand as the industry develops.

A Queensland launch site would provide opportunities for companies to launch their vehicles from Queensland, but the site would also promote the development of a co-located commercial ecosystem around the site to incubate and accelerate businesses in the space industry. That could also attract businesses, such as satellite manufacturers, to Queensland. A launch site and a co-located commercial ecosystem has the potential to create significant employment opportunities, which is particularly beneficial for regional Queensland, where unemployment rates tend to be high.

The other recommendation that I would like to discuss is recommendation 3, which relates to the development of additional ground stations. Throughout the inquiry, the committee heard that additional ground stations in Australia would provide for faster downlinking of data from satellites and ultimately increased benefits for end users in the application and commercialisation of that data. Queensland offers multiple locations for ground stations, particularly in our regional areas. The development of ground stations in Queensland would add to Australia's sovereign capabilities. However, this development in regional Queensland must be supported by the provision of better internet and telecommunications services in regional Queensland.

In conclusion, I am proud to be a member of the LNP—a party that is all about reducing red tape and giving small business a go. I am excited by the prospect of what the space industry can and will do into the future. I know that, under a Deb Frecklington LNP government, the sky will not be the limit for Queenslanders; we will be shooting for the stars.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to speak to the report on the inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry. With space as a new frontier, the committee looked at opportunities to create jobs and promote existing supply chain capability from the establishment of a space industry in Queensland. Among the 15 recommendations is developing site options in regional Queensland for a launch facility. I am excited that Gympie, or more specifically the Cooloola coast, was highlighted by experts as an ideal place to

situate a launch site. In fact, General Manager, Defence and Aerospace, Special Projects, Products For Industry, Nick Green, said that it was harder to find a better spot anywhere else in Australia. He said—

The preference for the Gympie type of area is primarily based on my experience In looking at the entire of Australia, that is pretty much the golden point. It is the location, the location, the location. Being so close to industry, being downrange is perfect. You have a large clear area. It is a bit hard to find anything else like it.

If the government were serious about progressing a space industry I could think of no better place than Gympie. Experts identified that Gympie can provide a wide variety of orbital inclinations as it has a similar latitude to Florida, which makes it the perfect spot. It is suitable for a wide variety of types of launches because it offers a clear and safe easterly flight path over an open ocean. It is south of the Great Barrier Reef. The airspace is easily controlled as it is already under Department of Defence jurisdiction because Defence airspace is within 10 kilometres off the coast. Gympie is also close enough to Amberley to be able to leverage off its sophisticated radar facilities. Amberley's microwave radar tracking stations have scope and reach over the Gympie region. This means that, as rocket tracking systems would not have to be installed, it makes it a significantly cheaper start-up cost. It also opens the possibility to launching hypersonic technology.

Clear access over the ocean is very important for a site, according to Professor Michael Smart, who is Chair of Hypersonic Propulsion at Queensland University's School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering. He said that almost all sites launch over the ocean—


because it is a much more easily controlled space for safety ... there is a thing called a safety template, where you have to look at the possibilities of problems and how big an area you need to clear out.

Nick Green identified a 30-kilometre clear space saying—

The Gympie area, through the Great Sandy National Park, has the potential to have about 30 kilometres clear, full circle, to be able to launch. That is quite unique sitting on the coast of Australia, let alone somewhere close that makes it economically viable for industry to be doing these sorts of things ... there is a landing strip on Rainbow Beach ... That is perfect for things like drone technology or landing rockets from hypersonic technology ...

I am enthusiastic about Gympie's potential because it would not only provide a launch site but also generate significant economic and employment opportunities on the back of the proposal. It would be a great addition to the mix of industries we have in Gympie and help create new employment opportunities with spin-offs from associated support industries, research and tourism.

Nick Green advised the committee that a Gympie Regional Council jobs growth analysis based on building a launch facility for \$10 million, identified a \$7 million return in jobs growth alone in the first year. That did not include analysis on its impact on tourism, the supply chain and other spin-off logistical industries. Similar sites elsewhere have found that an increase in tourism was not only about watching a rocket launch but also included renewed interest in stargazing events and museum and science exhibitions. Our affordable lifestyle and easy access to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane makes the Gympie region an ideal and attractive place for launch site staff and their families to live.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.34 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate on the committee's report into job creation opportunities arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry. I have been a member of the Southern Astronomical Society for a while now.

Mr Krause: Stars in your eyes!


Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection. When the committee attended the premises of Gilmour Space Technologies recently it certainly piqued the interest of the local society. They were keen to find out what was going on and what technologies are available in Australia. On reading through the report I found it interesting that Australia was the third country in the world behind Russia and the United States in building, designing and launching its own satellite two years before astronauts walked on the moon. It is quite interesting that we have such an achievement that is not widely known.

In July 2017 the Australian government announced a review into the space industry to work out what opportunities are available in this industry moving forward. In 2018-19 the Australian government allocated funds to this industry, providing \$300 million in space related measures to grow the Australian domestic space industry, including \$41 million towards establishing its own space agency in Australia and \$15 million to support international engagement. That brings me to one of my local businesses—technically not in the Theodore electorate; it is in the Coomera electorate—and that is Gilmour Space Technologies. As I would drive down the highway I would notice them and when speaking to members of the Southern Astronomical Society they said they used to hold their meetings there. They found it interesting seeing the rocket technology and how it was progressing. They felt that Australia should be getting involved in the space industry.

Back in the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era when I was a young whippersnapper I remember reading about the proposed spaceport at Cape York. Even though half a million dollars worth of seed funding was allocated towards it, it did not progress because of differences between the USSR and the United States. I believe we wanted to use rockets that were Russian made. There were also issues around land rights. In 1990 the then Goss government hit it on the head with legislation it brought into parliament.

Mr Krause: It never took off!

Mr BOOTHMAN: It never took off, which is a shame. The closer a launch pad is to the equator the more momentum the earth has on a rocket and therefore it flings it into space a lot easier with less fuel. It is interesting that we do not go closer to the equator because, in the long run, you can launch a rocket with less fuel and get to a higher altitude. In concluding my contribution I give a big shout-out to my local Southern Astronomical Society and its president, Brendan Junge, who does a fantastic job, and its members, who are very, very passionate.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.39 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I beg your indulgence for one moment to acknowledge in the public gallery my father, Stephen Powell. Before members point it out, yes, he often gets mistaken as my older brother—and even sometimes my younger brother! It is great to have Dad in the gallery today.

I, too, rise to address the report titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry*. Like the member for Theodore, I have a bit of a personal connection here. A lot of people still associate the space industry with efforts to get to the moon or even to Mars, but the reality is that for many decades now the focus has been on satellite technology. When I went to university back in the early 1990s, I was in one of the first classes that studied remote sensing and the use of satellite imagery to do a wide range of things. Also, it picked up a bit of astrophysics on the side. I guess I could have ended up in a career as an astrophysicist but instead ended up as a politician—


Mr Whiting: What a waste!

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Bancroft. Even back then, the technology was quite astounding. For us as a state to be looking at opportunities to get in on that market is very important. To be blunt, we probably let the ball drop a bit and let some of the other jurisdictions in Australia grab it and run with it. As the member for Theodore mentioned, the Australian government launched a review into this and established the Australian Space Agency. It headed off to Adelaide. A lot of people might wonder why the Australian Space Agency ended up in Adelaide. It is not because they have a lot of space—it is partly British aerospace—but, as the committee rightly pointed out in its report, there are two options when it comes to launch facilities. As a number of speakers have already mentioned, and where Queensland is positioned extremely well, one is around the equatorial launch option, but Adelaide and South Australia in particular—there is a company down there by the name of Southern Launch—look at that polar orbit. It is important to have both bases covered.

The real opportunity that exists for Queensland is in that equatorial launch. As other speakers said, our proximity to the equator allows us to get those payloads into space far easier. On that basis, I note the committee's recommendation that the Queensland government develop siting options in regional Queensland for a launch facility to provide the launch component of the space industry supply chain. Equally important—and where constituents in my part of the world, in Moreton Bay and in the Sunshine Coast will really possibly benefit—is some of the supply chain work, where we can support the capability in the space industry. We can develop launch vehicles and develop the satellites themselves.

In the same way, consecutive governments in this state have increasingly pushed opportunities with the defence industry, which culminated in Rheinmetall being awarded the Land 400 contract and bidding for future contracts. Again, I acknowledge the work of 'Team Queensland', led by Ted O'Brien from the Sunshine Coast, in securing that. There are opportunities to build that supply chain across the whole length of the space industry—to ensure that we have the satellite capabilities in this state, that we use the advanced manufacturing that we are increasingly developing as a state, that we put them onto Queensland built launch vehicles and that, ultimately, we send them from a Queensland based launch site.

I commend the committee for its work and this report. I trust that the current Palaszczuk Labor government picks up the recommendations of this report and runs with them. If it does not, be sure that a future LNP government will. We will make sure that, in the same way that this state is now kicking goals when it comes to defence industries, we will start kicking some major goals when it comes to the space industry, too.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise to say a few words about the report before the House. My colleague the member for Glass House made comment that in years gone by the race was to get to the moon. Things have now changed; I certainly accept that. It is important to look at the impact of those moon challenges way back in 1961, 1962 and 1963 to 1969. In 1961 Yuri Gagarin, a cosmonaut from the USSR, first went into space in *Vostok 1*. In 1962 the Kennedy administration in the United States made it quite clear that it would put a man on the moon by the end of that decade—a very important step in relation to space exploration.

President Kennedy claimed that Houston would become the heart of a large scientific and engineering community and that in those next five years NASA would double the number of scientists and engineers in the area, increase outlays in the salaries and expenses to \$60 million a year, and invest some \$200 million in plant and facilities to direct or contract for new space efforts worth over \$1 billion from that city. We are talking about 1962. Even by today's standards, the amount of money poured into the space race in 1962 was enormous. In fact, the space budget for the US in 1962 was \$5.4 billion. It has grown out of all proportion to that figure with the efflux of time.

It is also important to understand that we do not just get jobs from space and exploration; we get the transition of technology, from how it was used in the space race and in space to how we do things today. For example, enriched baby formula derived from developing life support systems. An algae based DHA was derived from that process. That particular product is integral to learning ability, mental development, visual activity and the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease. It is used today in 90 per cent of infant formulas in the US. Directly from the involvement back in 1962, we now have a product that is used daily by American mothers. NASA also developed the search and rescue satellite aided tracking system, EPIRBs, that issued today.


In many cases, what we see in space technology has a common daily impact upon what we do. It also developed technology that in part now sits in a cardiac pump used for patients awaiting heart transplant. Again, NASA and that technology now relate to things that keep us alive today. Of course, the GPS we use every single day in our motor vehicles or on our phones derived from that sort of technology being developed all those years ago.

As I said before, the investment was \$5.4 billion back in 1962. Add the efflux of time and add Europe, China, India, the UK and all the other satellite industries floating because of that initial outlay in America back in 1962 and through to 1969. We are talking about hundreds of billions of dollars, if not indeed trillions of dollars, being poured into what is a very important base for getting us into space but also translating that technology into things that we use day by day. Technology, AI, physics, astrophysics, mathematics and many other disciplines are used in relation to space technology, investing in space and how we can achieve the best for our society. Indeed, there is now talk about mining meteorites floating in space. This is an astronomical concept but is something that we as a nation and we here in Queensland need to look at and be aware of the fact that we can draw significant dollars and social benefit from this report.

Motion agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.49 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report No. 25 titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 9: 2018-19—Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits* tabled 28 March 2019.

This report on our energy entities is one that we get annually from the Queensland Audit Office. I start by noting that the QAO report rightly touched on the Powering Queensland Plan. I always like to talk about the Powering Queensland Plan because it is a \$2 billion integrated energy plan for our state. It will ensure we have an affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply for our state. The plan will support the transition to a cleaner energy sector, create new investment and jobs and guide the state through the challenges that are facing Australia's energy market.

One part of the plan I am particularly excited about is the establishment of CleanCo. The third state owned generator is now up and running. This is a landmark Queensland company that will one day have a fleet of clean energy generators throughout Queensland generating clean energy for the whole nation. It is ours. It belongs to all of us.


As part of the Powering Queensland Plan we have set a target for one million solar rooftops, or 3,000 megawatts of solar photovoltaic from rooftops, in Queensland by 2020. As I have said previously in the House, we are over halfway there. We have over 592,000 rooftops with solar. Queensland has the highest number of installations in Australia. The biggest power station in Queensland is our solar rooftops. They are generating over 2,000 megawatts of solar PV capacity.

Under our plan, in the past two years 18 large-scale renewable energy projects have commenced operations in Queensland, bringing more than 17 megawatts into the national grid. There are another 14 large-scale projects worth around \$2.8 billion under construction in regional Queensland. I pay tribute to the minister responsible in the previous government, the now Minister for Main Roads, and also the current Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy for their great work in this field. It is highlighted in this report that the Powering Queensland Plan is delivering affordable energy to Queenslanders.

The Queensland Competition Authority has found that power prices have continued to remain stable or fall for four consecutive quarters. There has been a 1.3 per cent decrease in power prices for residents in regional Queensland. We are currently delivering two annual rebates worth \$50 to each of those households in Queensland. That is something that the Morrison government could only dream about.

There are also \$13 million worth of rebates for energy-efficient appliances and interest-free loans for solar panels. We can do this because we own the assets—the generators, the distributors. The QAO highlights that this a massive multibillion dollar industry. In Queensland the industry has: \$3.7 billion in generation assets; \$7.9 billion in transmission assets; a whopping \$23.4 billion in distribution assets, including 200,000 kilometres of powerlines; racks up \$1.6 billion in debt servicing costs; \$1.5 billion in fuel, raw materials and service costs each year; 3.94 million customers; and employs 9,000 Queenslanders. We must never forget that it is a huge employer. I acknowledge the member for Kurwongbah who represents that industry quite ably in this place.

This industry returned \$1.1 billion to Queensland. That includes half a billion dollars paid through Energy Queensland to regional customers to make their electricity cheaper. That is a very good statistic. Let us not forget that that includes nearly \$200 million in rebates and concessions for Queenslanders. I commend this report to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.54 pm): Energy is a major interest for residents right across Queensland, including in my electorate of Bundaberg. As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, I rise today to talk about our consideration of the Auditor-General's most recent report regarding the results of the 2017-18 energy financial audit, or report. We could say that I am reporting on a report about a report.

This report was tabled on 22 November 2018 and was referred to our committee for consideration. The Auditor-General's role is to provide parliament with independent assurance of public sector accountability and performance. This is achieved through reporting financial and performance results to the parliament. The audit in question assessed whether the information contained in the financial statements of public sector entities is accurate, reliable and prepared in accordance with the Australian accounting standards and legislative requirements.

On 25 February this year our committee held a public hearing and heard from officers of the Queensland Audit Office, whom I would like to thank for their assistance with the examination. As a committee our role was to consider the Auditor-General's findings in relation to its financial audits of the government's energy entities Stanwell, CS Energy, Powerlink, Energy Queensland, Ergon Energy Queensland and the regulatory notices to the Australian Energy Regulator for Energex and Ergon. As a committee we had one recommendation: that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

While I am on the feet today, I will outline the key audit conclusions and discuss the array of issues raised at the public hearing, particularly the high cost of electricity in regional Queensland, which is a major concern for my constituents in Bundaberg. The QAO provided audit opinions on the financial statements for the 2017-18 year for all energy sector entities. The QAO also provided assurance over the regulatory information notices that Energex and Ergon provide to the AER.

The QAO stated that most entities have implemented year-end closed processes that have allowed them to produce quality financial statements in a generally timely manner. They also advised that all audits were completed within the appropriate deadlines, though the timeliness and quality of the financial statements in 2017-18 across the sector was lower than the previous year. Throughout the analysis QAO also examined the effectiveness of the internal controls of energy entities to ensure they were suitably designed to prevent or detect and correct material misstatements in the financial reports.

The QAO identified no significant high-risk matters, but eight control deficiencies across the sector were discovered, which have now been addressed or are currently being addressed. As part of its analysis of financial statements, the Auditor-General's report set out a financial snapshot of the Queensland energy sector. Income is stable at \$10.7 billion. Expenses and net assets have increased, but total assets, liabilities and overall profit has decreased. The QAO advised that the nine per cent decrease in profits was mostly due to the reduced profits in transmission and distribution, which were collectively down \$256 million in the year, resulting from lower determinations from the AER.


At the public hearing we discussed the following issues: the debt to equity ratio of the Queensland energy sector; the timeliness and quality of the financial statements from previous years; the opportunities and challenges presented by renewable energy sources; the inception of a new renewable energy entity; and the higher cost of electricity in regional Queensland.

Electricity prices are a major concern for residents in not only my electorate of Bundaberg but also many other regional communities. Electricity costs in regional Queensland are skyrocketing, particularly in the agricultural sector. As a committee we were interested in the methods identified in the audit to assist with reducing the price of electricity. The QAO informed the committee about the community service obligations that the state provides to distributors to equalise electricity in regional Queensland, noting that it is a substantial amount of money. The committee is satisfied with the Auditor-General's report and requests that the contents are noted by the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Batt, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.58 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determination made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Transport and Public Works Committee report on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill by 23 May 2019.

EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF TEACHERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 3 April (see p. 1098), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.59 pm), continuing: As we were discussing yesterday, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill sets up the certification process for the Queensland College of Teachers to certify two new accreditations—highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. As I indicated yesterday, the Liberal National Party opposition will be supporting those particular amendments in the bill because we believe in education. We believe that the best education our children and our students can get is when we have the very best of the best teaching our students.

As I said yesterday, the Liberal National Party has a history of supporting these sorts of reforms in that we were the party that introduced master teachers when we were last in government. Master teachers were well received right across the state schools because they saw it as an opportunity for the master teachers not only to have extra abilities but also to be mentors for other teachers, particularly young teachers coming into the system. We very much believe in the fundamentals of having the brightest teachers teaching our students.

It is concerning that we see standards slipping in NAPLAN. I have to put on record my concerns about the state of education in Queensland at the moment under the Palaszczuk Labor government. We see standards slipping. We see the NAPLAN results slipping. We saw at estimates last year with respect to particularly Indigenous communities the unacceptable levels in terms of their inability to read and write. We have seen nothing in the last 12 months from this Labor government to stop that occurring and to stop the slippage happening.

I have concerns that over the last 12 months particularly, as we have seen results in standards slipping, we have seen campaigns by unions in schools. We have seen campaigns for activism of our young students in our schools. The Queensland Council of Unions hide it under the guise of the Young

Workers Hub. We know that the only reason the unions wanted to introduce that program was—and we recall the union head herself saying this—to activate students in our union political process, and that is unacceptable.

We are yet to hear if that program is being rolled out. The member for Currumbin and the member for Pumicestone prosecuted the issue of the Queensland Council of Unions and the Young Workers Hub in other inquiries of this parliament. We should know whether that program has been rolled out and which schools it has been rolled out to. I can say that the Liberal National Party will ensure, after October 2020, that we will not have the Young Workers Hub program in schools across Queensland. We will not allow unions to activate students. We will not allow unions to fly their flags on school fences and in the schoolyard.

We will not allow the unions to undertake such political activity, as we have clearly seen in the last few weeks, at schools right across Queensland, particularly Redcliffe State High School posting flyers about the union campaign incidentally weeks before a federal election. They say it is not a political campaign. When some of the Fair Funding Now! campaign material was distributed in the students' homework folders to take home, the Queensland Teachers' Union was on record saying that that was a mistake and it should not happen. Yet last week when we found these flyers and signs on the fences and on the Facebook sites of state schools the union had a different view: 'The schools are able to do what they please.' The minister and the Premier even said that the Liberal National Party should be supporting them because that particular school was an independent public school. When we talk about autonomy for principals, there is a big difference between what we think giving autonomy to teachers, principals and students is and the Labor Party.

Ms Grace: Relevance.

Mr BLEIJIE: This is about having the best of the best teachers teach our students. The only way we are going to get the best of the best teaching our students is to ensure that they are a hundred per cent focused on educating, not on running union campaigns in our schools. I say again that the Liberal National Party does not support those sorts of Queensland Teachers' Union campaigns within our school environments. I have concerns that we have seen more recently under this government kids now not standing for the national anthem and kids going out on strike. I like to think that I was not at high school that long ago.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think we can allow some tolerance, but can we bring the member back to the long title of the bill? This is about HAT and lead teachers. I think relevance is a particular issue here at the moment. Could I seek your ruling please?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Kawana, I bring you back to the long title of the bill, unless you can explain the relevance through the explanatory notes or the report.

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed. When we look to the long title—an act to amend the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005—this whole bill is about education standards and it is about the certification of lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers. I am making the point that it is no use having highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers if they cannot get on and do that particular job if there are external influences like the Queensland Teachers' Union and union campaigns being run in our schools.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I would say that you have made that point. Move on to other matters.

Mr BLEIJIE: We saw two weeks ago statistics released by the Labor government with respect to assaults on our teachers, our highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. Assaults are going up. We have to ask ourselves why? Why are students attacking teachers? Why are we allowing students not to stand for the national anthem? Why are we allowing our students to walk off school premises? It is no use having lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers if the kids are not even at school. We are now allowing students to strike. The Minister for Education, also a former union official herself—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am a very patient person and I think we can allow some leeway. Please can I get your ruling on relevance to the bill? This is about changing the Queensland College of Teachers to become assessors for HAT and lead teachers. It has nothing to do with the issues that the member for Kawana is speaking about. Please can I get your ruling on relevance?

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

Ms Grace: A point of order on yourself?

Mr BLEIJIE: No. The standing orders allow a point of order to be taken to address a point of order by another member. Mr Deputy Speaker, the essence of the bill is the certification process for lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers. The point I was making and the relevance of it is that, if you do not have students in the school and they are not there because they are striking, it is no use having lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you have been allowed a little bit of leeway. I ask you to come back to the subject matter of the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: The other concern I have with respect to having highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers is how the teachers discipline students. We have seen a slide in the discipline standards across education in Queensland as well.

Mr Perrett: They don't like what they're hearing.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection because the member for Gympie knows all too well that the Liberal National Party supports students, schools, teachers and autonomy in our schools, and we are supporting the bill. We believe that, as I made the point, we have to have the best of the best teaching our students. We have seen the NAPLAN results and the sliding scales of NAPLAN. This is why we support the bill so much. We want the very best teachers teaching our kids to fix the issues that are happening in education under the Labor government at the moment.

I have fantastic schools in my electorate, as all members would have in their electorates. There is Meridan State College, Talara Primary College, Currimundi State School, Pacific Lutheran College, Kawana Waters State College and Buddina State School. These schools are doing amazing things in the Kawana electorate.

As I made the point yesterday, when the Liberal National Party introduced master teachers under the Great Results Guarantee, many of those schools took up that opportunity and had master teachers. I make the point that what is good for one school might not necessarily be good for another school. That is why we do not believe in the centralist policies of Education Queensland doing everything from central office, because what might be good for the minister's school in her electorate might not necessarily be needed or good for a school in my electorate because each school has individual needs. Across Queensland, as the minister knows, there might be schools with more of a multicultural focus depending on their geographical location in Queensland.

We have to allow schools to adjust to those different demands and opportunities. I know that when schools have the freedom and autonomy to be able to do that they take it by the reigns and it benefits the students, because if you apply the same rules across all schools in Queensland it does not work. The principals, the school community, the P&Cs, the P&Fs know what is in the best interests of their school students, not necessarily the bureaucrats in Brisbane. I will always trust the school leaders, the principals and the community to be able to work out what is in the best interests of the school, the school community and what ultimately is going to be in the best interests of the students because this is what this is all about.

We have seen many reforms over the last few years supported by both sides of politics. We have seen the introduction of prep—prep to year 12 colleges now—and the middle schooling program that was introduced years ago. There is opportunity for bipartisanship in the education space. As I said yesterday, we will give that when it is well deserved, but we will point out when there are failings of the Labor government with respect to their priorities and when we believe their priorities are wrong, and I have mentioned a few before.

There are other issues in the education space at the moment with respect to occupational therapists. Occupational therapists who work in our school environments are not paid the same amount as occupational therapists in the health system and I believe they should be. Ultimately, I think that having lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers is good. As I said to the minister last night in the chamber, the committee noted in its report that there were some 500 expressions of interest for lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers. I was worried when the pilot program was originally introduced that everyone would get the participation stamp or the registration for highly accomplished teacher, which was not the case. I think that is good because if we did that it would not be rewarding the best of the best.

As the committee report notes, 184 applied. By the end of 2018 at the conclusion of the pilot program, 44 teachers were successfully certified as highly accomplished teachers and three were successfully certified as lead teachers. We must ensure now that the pilot program is finished that the certification process takes place. The Queensland College of Teachers will be the certification authority. In terms of independent schools, I know that Independent Schools Queensland, ISQ, is already a registered certification authority. I have no concerns with respect to that.

When all these new highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers are employed, we need to ensure that is not at the expense of schools. In the committee report I note that the department pays for teachers' salaries. We want to ensure that the department does not change policies with respect to that; that the department pays additional salaries and they are not taken out of existing school budgets.

I would love to see a day where these highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers can teach in air-conditioned state classrooms, but the only way they will be able to have that learning and work environment is by electing a Liberal National Party government in 2020, because our policy is to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland no matter where you live. In talking about workplaces, I think it is vitally important because I do think it impacts on the ability to work particularly in the hot summer. That is why parliament is air-conditioned, our offices are air-conditioned, minister's offices are air-conditioned—

Ms LINARD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that you bring the member back to the bill. It is quite clear in the long title that it is the Queensland College of Teachers amendment bill. He is straying again. I ask for your ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! We are talking about the College of Teachers so I bring you back to the bill at hand.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The whole bill introduces lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers. It is hard not to talk about highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers if you do not talk about their workplaces.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, if you cannot identify it in the green or in the committee report then I would ask that you come back to the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Ms Grace: You are struggling.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister. For a bill that has bipartisan support, I know why they have taken so many interjections. They do not believe in air-conditioning state school classrooms. They do not believe in stopping kids striking. We support the bill. We support highly accomplished teachers. We want to air-condition our classrooms. We want to make sure the very brightest of the brightest teach our children, and the only way they can do that is to have cool classrooms. Elect the LNP government in 2020.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I would ask the member for McConnel to cease her interjections. They are not helping.

Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (4.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. This was a really lovely bill and inquiry to chair. The opportunity to talk not only about teachers but particularly those who are distinguished for excellence within their profession was a wonderful one. We all know that quality teachers are at the very heart of maintaining a high-quality education system in this state. I take the opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution teachers make each and every day across our great state, particularly those fabulous teachers living and working in my electorate of Nudgee. I thank them for their service to our young people and to education in this state.

Teachers are second only to parents in regard to the significant influence they exert in a young person's life. I have seen this firsthand over the past three years as I have had to as a mother watch my two gorgeous boys, Jordan and Ollie, leave the family home and start kindy and prep. There is a great trust we place as parents in teachers to encourage, guide and shape our young children, and it can be a great burden they carry in doing so.

My husband and I take every opportunity as parents to thank and support our children's teachers and we expect our children to show respect in the classroom and do likewise. Teachers deserve our community's respect, and I take this opportunity to make the point that abuse, whether in the classroom or online, from students or parents must always be called out and stamped out.

This bill presents an opportunity to not only recognise high-performing schoolteachers across Queensland but also to encourage them to continue their role in the classroom, because they should not have to leave the classroom if their passion is teaching to seek advancement in leadership or central office positions. Because some teachers, whether they have been teaching for five or 25 years, want to remain in the classroom because that is where they feel called and where they feel they can make the greatest difference, and we want them to do just that.

In 2015 our government made a commitment to transform and modernise the teaching profession under the letting teachers teach initiative and established two new voluntary classifications. This bill is giving effect to that commitment, and I acknowledge warmly the leadership of our education minister, Grace Grace, in bringing these changes before the parliament for debate.

The bill establishes a new function for the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of a certifying authority for highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers in accordance with the Australian professional standards for teachers. It allows fully registered teachers who are employed in prescribed schools to be able to apply to the college for certification and renewal of certification at highly accomplished teacher and lead teacher career stages.

The bill provides for an internal review process for Queensland College of Teachers' decisions, with a further option of an external review by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The bill prescribes the fees of \$1,500 to be paid by applicants to the College of Teachers for two stages of assessment—\$850 for stage 1 and, if successful, \$650 for stage 2.

Certification has three primary purposes: to recognise and promote quality teaching, to provide an opportunity for teachers to reflect on their practice, and to provide a reliable indication of quality teaching that can be used to identify, recognise and/or reward highly accomplished teachers and lead teacher certified teachers. These are aspirational career stages, providing a step teachers can take, as certification is voluntary, that may lead to new levels of remuneration and challenges while remaining a classroom teacher.

The pilot showed that the bar is high. Highly accomplished teachers are highly effective and knowledgeable classroom teachers. They are advocates of the profession who contribute to the professional learning of peers through a range of activities that includes supporting, working with and assisting their colleagues. Lead teachers are exemplary classroom teachers—the highest professional teacher stage. They are committed to quality teaching and learning, and their leadership impacts students and their colleagues across and beyond the school. To be certified as a lead teacher, an applicant must also have led a lead initiative within their school or across schools designed to build the capacity of colleagues. As I said, the bar is high and those who attain this aspirational certification are certainly very worthy of the formal recognition.

As I mentioned earlier, a key tenet of the bill and of certification is to keep expert teachers in the classroom. The formal recognition and reward of Queensland's best teachers will be an important tool in continuing to provide quality education for Queenslanders, but it is also a just and deserved opportunity for those who distinguish themselves through their expertise.

Submitters were united in their support of the bill, of the introduction of certification for highly accomplished and lead teachers, and for the Queensland College of Teachers to be assigned the role of certifying authority—a role they performed during the trial period. As certifying authority, the College of Teachers will: assess and grant certification of teachers at highly accomplished and lead teacher career stages against the national standards; conduct assessor training programs; maintain records of teachers who have applied for certification and those who are certified and at which career stage; participate in quality assurance and review processes; and report to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, AITSL, on implementation of the nationally consistent processes for certification.

The QCT is Queensland's teacher registration authority, and submitters advised the committee that the QCT is ideally placed to perform this important role and is highly respected for the way it carries out its role currently. I also note that the teacher registration authorities in New South Wales, the ACT and the Northern Territory undertake this important certification role.

With respect to the Catholic sector, highly accomplished and lead teacher certification has been available to teachers in Queensland Catholic schools since July 2018. Dr Lee-Anne Perry, executive director of QCEC, advised the committee that, although no Catholic school teachers have undertaken certification to date, those who are currently preparing and planning to do so will benefit from the QCT

being the certifying authority. In addition to the Queensland College of Teachers being certifying authority for state and Catholic schools, Independent Schools Queensland is a certifying authority for teachers engaged in the independent school sector and has been performing this role for some time.


Key issues raised during the committee's hearing went to the cost of the fees to applicants and to the certifying authority of carrying out the fairly intensive process and to remuneration. The department stated in regard to fees that it is intended that the fees would—

significantly contribute to the costs of the certifying authority, while not representing a significant impediment or disincentive to applicants.

Further, that 'should it be deemed necessary' fees can be changed in the future to reflect the costs of certification to employing authorities.

In respect of remuneration, the bill does not require a Queensland school employing authority to recognise certification or to provide additional remuneration. This is essentially a matter for each education sector. The issue is settled in relation to state school teachers, however, with schools not required to find additional funding to pay allocated teachers who are successfully certified at lead or highly accomplished levels. These costs will be met centrally by the department. Provision has been made for state school teachers who are certified to be remunerated at a commensurate higher salary level as negotiated with the Queensland Teachers Union as part of the 2019 teachers' enterprise bargaining agreement. It will be for teachers in the independent and Catholic sector to seek similar and much deserved recognition in this regard as part of their respective enterprise agreements. The minister has addressed in detail the other issue raised by the QCEC—revocation of certification—and the issues raised by the Independent Education Union. I thank the minister for providing that detailed information.

Again, submitters were united in their support of the bill and I thank them for making written submissions and appearing before the committee to assist us with our inquiry. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission, the Queensland Teachers' Union, Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland College of Teachers and Independent Education Union Queensland Branch all made submissions and, as always, brought significant expertise and value to our deliberations. I would also like to acknowledge my fellow committee members—the deputy chair and member for Currumbin, my colleagues the members for Maryborough and Cairns, and the members for Hinchinbrook and Pumicestone for their contributions—as well as our committee secretariat, Hansard and the Department of Education. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.24 pm): On 12 February 2019 the Minister for Education introduced the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019 into the Queensland parliament. The bill was subsequently referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for detailed consideration and a reporting date of 28 March. I would like to thank my fellow committee members and thank the chair for her kind words. I would also like to thank the departmental staff and our hardworking secretariat. It is nice to have an education bill, especially one that attracted bipartisan support. There was only one recommendation and that was that the bill be passed.

The committee received a public briefing from the department on 25 February and held a public hearing here in Brisbane on 13 March. There were five submissions, and they were from the Queensland Teachers' Union, the Queensland College of Teachers, Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Independent Education Union of Australia—Queensland and Northern Territory Branch. These same five submitters were also witnesses at our public hearing, and I thank them for their time and valuable input. The explanatory notes state that the objectives of the bill are to—

- create a certification process in Queensland, consistent with a national framework, that recognises high performing teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher;
- enable the Queensland College of Teachers ... to perform the role of certifying authority for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers; and
- provide for an effective, transparent certification process, with decisions subject to appropriate review.

Importantly, this bill presents a national approach towards the recognition of high performing teachers in an attempt to encourage them to continue as classroom teachers. Developed over several years through councils of education ministers and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, this framework was endorsed in April 2012. The approach to certification is informed by principles such as being standards based, having a student improvement focus and being development driven, and assessments are credible and evidence based.

Queensland's teacher registration authority—the Queensland College of Teachers, the QCT—is already responsible for registration and discipline of teachers and other related functions. It is to be given a new function of certifying teachers as highly accomplished or lead teachers. The purposes of certification were described as follows—

- to recognise and promote quality teaching;
- to provide an opportunity for teachers to reflect on their practice; and
- to provide a reliable indication of quality teaching that can be used to identify, recognise and/or reward HAT and LT certified teachers.

It is a known fact that teachers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate, and the opportunity for teachers to obtain a higher qualification yet stay in the classroom rather than move into a more administrative role requires the adoption of measures that will assist in retaining high performing teachers through enhanced qualifications with corresponding salaries.

In 2017 the Department of Education ran a pilot program in Far North Queensland and north coast regions which attracted 500 expressions of interest resulting in 184 applications for this new certification. Of those, 44 teachers received a HAT certification and three were successful as lead teachers. To be eligible for certification, teachers must be fully registered Australian citizens or persons who hold a visa that enables permanent residency and are assessed in two stages. The first stage, which costs \$850, is a preliminary assessment of the application. The second, which costs \$650, assesses their teaching practice. Renewal fees are \$100 and due every five years. In addition, assessors will be required to be trained for this process and to keep records.

Given that these fees are quite substantial, I asked the department what happens if a teacher is unsuccessful after stage 1. Do they lose their \$850 or the additional \$650 should they pass stage 1 but fail stage 2? The department answered that they do not get any refund as it is a sunk fund that goes towards processing costs incurred, but it was thought that if a teacher got through stage 1 they would in all probability get through stage 2. It is quite a complex procedure where applications are assessed against 30 elements of standards, which is why workshops are being held around the state to show teachers considering applying what is required.

There is still some degree of uncertainty as to whether the fees collected will meet the costs to the certifying authority, the Queensland College of Teachers. During the public hearing on 13 March it was stated by QCT that if there is a gap, it will be met by employers. The department confirmed that the 'government will cover any shortfall in costs not covered by application fees'. However, the cost to the college for the implementation and ongoing conduct of HAT and LT certification will vary over time as certification is voluntary and demand driven.

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission expressed concerns about the full cost of certification services and how they would be met and also the fact the bill does not contain provision to enable the college to revoke certification of HAT and lead teachers should they bring themselves or the teaching profession into disrepute. The department noted this was beyond the scope of the current national framework. Perhaps the minister will be kind enough to address this in her reply.

A decision was handed down by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission in August and followed submissions made by the QTU and the Department of Education and aligns with an agreement negotiated with the government. It also sets remuneration for highly accomplished and lead teachers amongst the highest in the country. Commencing on 1 July 2018, salaries for HAT teachers are \$111,725 and lead teachers, \$121,795. Witnesses at the committee hearing acknowledged that the teacher retention rate is a concern, so it is to be hoped this initiative will stem the flow away from the profession.

I cannot let the opportunity pass to recognise the fantastic schools in the Currumbin electorate. They are all different and unique in their own way, some very small and others with over a thousand and even 2,000 students, but all have the same admirable dedication to provide quality learning in a safe and happy environment. Primary schools in the Currumbin electorate include St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, situated in Currumbin Waters. It is always a delight to visit. Then there is Coolangatta, almost on the New South Wales border, which just celebrated its centenary in fine style. Coming north there is Currumbin State School followed by Elanora with Tallebudgera out to the west. They are all fantastic centres of learning. Further still and deep into the lush valleys are Currumbin Valley and Ingleside schools in Tallebudgera Valley. I often marvel at how well these teachers at little schools prepare their charges for life in schools that are massive by comparison.

There are two high schools: Palm Beach-Currumbin and Elanora high. Both these high schools are proudly independent public schools. In fact, PBC was one of the first schools in Queensland to become an independent school under the initiative established under the LNP's term of government. The philosophy behind this is to encourage innovation and inclusiveness in decisions that are in the best interests of the school community. Both of these great schools applied for a school based police officer, which the LNP committed to but Labor refused. PBC sits just outside my electorate boundaries now, but about two-thirds of the students live in the Currumbin electorate. Both these high schools have flourished under the IPS initiative but, sadly, due to union pressure the Palaszczuk government intends to abolish them.

In her introductory speech, the Minister for Education stated—

The bill provides for a high-level framework without prescribing processes in detail. This ensures flexibility in the way certification is administered over time, to allow the college to be able to adapt to changes in national certification processes without needing significant legislative change.

If the minister thinks flexibility and being adaptable to changes without prescribing processes in detail is a good thing, why is she so determined to get rid of Queensland's thriving independent public school initiative? It is yet another example of how beholden the Labor government is to their union masters. On the one hand we have a terrific project being introduced in this bill that allows teachers who excel and want to perform at a high level to do so and on the other we have a government wanting to tear down schools that are making some of their own decisions based on what is best for them.

The member for Maryborough raised the issue on page 8 of the departmental briefing, despite fishing for comments of a negative nature, stating—


We know there has been a problem with the transfer system in terms of IPS schools.

The assistant director-general of HR said that IPS schools will be the same as any other school in the state with the advent of HAT and lead teachers.

I enjoy a close relationship with all of my schools and value being able to communicate freely with each of them and have enormous respect for the role teachers and principals play. The LNP have a plan to provide better education results for Queensland kids because we want them to be the smartest. That means they need to be able to think clearly. Our plan would air-condition every state school classroom over two parliamentary terms.

To this day I have fond memories of my teachers in primary school and in secondary school. Teachers play a critical role in the development of our kids that extends way past school hours—

(Time expired)

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.34 pm): I have only been in this chamber for a short period of time, but I must say there are times when I am often reminded of the words of the great American president—what was his name again? The guy who got shot—what was his name? I think he might have said something along the lines of—

Government members interjected.

Mr HEALY: It is always very important. It must have been a reflection of my education. I think it could have been Abraham Lincoln. I was waiting for a comment from the other side, but that could take hours. He made the comment, 'It is better to keep your mouth shut and be thought of as a fool rather than open it and remove all doubt.'

It is an absolute pleasure to rise to talk about this very important bill, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill. It is very, very reassuring to see that even though there is a little dysfunctional presentation in some areas, everybody understandably is in agreement but finds it difficult to articulate.

There is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that teaching is an important and a fundamental profession and it is essential that we give every single child in this state the best that we can. This bill is part of establishing a new function for the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of certifying highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers in accordance with the Australian professional standards for teachers, including being able to engage and deliver training to other entities, which is absolutely important. It also enables fully registered teachers who are employed in prescribed schools to be able to apply to QCT for certification and renewal of certification as highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. It is absolutely essential that we are creating this criteria and expanding it. It enables QCT to engage prescribed third parties to assist in delivering certification functions. It also allows QCT to maintain a record of certified teachers, which is important. It provides for an internal review process for QCT decisions with a further option of external review by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

This is key in retaining good teachers in the classroom. It is a key step to ensuring good education outcomes in Queensland. In 2015 the Queensland government made a commitment to transform and modernise the teaching profession under the Letting Teachers Teach initiative and establish two voluntary classifications—as I have said, highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers—endorsed by the Australian education ministers through the Education Council.

The primary purpose of this initiative is to allow teachers to be recognised for their work within the classroom and inspire them to stay and continue to improve their practice as opposed to them seeking career progression into school leadership roles or leaving the profession altogether. Like every member in this parliament, I have some wonderful schools and wonderful teachers. I have Chris Zilm at the Cairns State High School, an executive principal who does an outstanding job administering this school. He had to make a decision whether to teach or go on and become an administrator. At 'T Bay' there is Martin Woodcock. That school is the recipient of significant funding to see an enhancement and new buildings, and I thank the minister for that. We have discussed this at length. These are men who have made decisions to go into the administrative role, but no doubt they are also enormously talented teachers. This legislation is fundamental to ensure that we retain those good teachers. I am confident that is why there is support across the chamber. As I said, as opposed to some of these teachers seeking career progression in other areas, we need to attempt to secure more generous remuneration packages and statuses.

This also supports promoting the teaching profession as an attractive career option by creating new career options for potentially higher remuneration. It stated that teachers would be able to apply for certification of HAT or LT in 2019. A framework for that certification will allow teachers to seek higher career levels, if they wish, while continuing to be a teacher in the classroom. As part of this framework, a certifying authority is required in accordance with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership's *Guide to the certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers in Australia*. QCT is a most appropriate and viable body to act as the certifying authority as it is an existing independent external statutory body with an in-depth knowledge of these processes.

For the QCT to perform the role of certifying authority on an ongoing basis, legislative amendment is necessary to extend its functions under the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 and, more importantly, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016 to provide appropriate authority for this.


What sort of teachers are we talking about and what sort of standards do we expect? These highly accomplished teachers are highly effective, skilled classroom practitioners who work independently and collaboratively to plan, evaluate and modify teaching programs to improve student learning and take on roles that guide, advise or lead others to improve the educational outcomes for students. This provides for a mentoring role, which is essential in this area. The more experienced teachers can help the younger teachers. It is a fantastic inclusion.

Highly accomplished teachers also maximise learning opportunities for students, understanding their backgrounds and characteristics that impact their learning; have in-depth knowledge of subject and curriculum content and keep abreast of the latest developments in their specialist content area—going above and beyond; and are skilled in analysing student assessment data and use it to improve teaching and learning. These days, where we have identified so many learning challenges, this is essential. Teachers need to be able to cut their leather to their measure. Highly accomplished teachers also monitor their own professional learning needs and align them to the learning needs of students. That goes without saying. Most importantly, they behave ethically at all times and possess highly developed interpersonal presentation skills and communicate effectively and respectfully with students, colleagues, parents, carers and community members.

Who is eligible for this certification? The bill provides that a teacher is eligible to apply to the college for certification if: they are an Australian citizen who holds a permanent visa under the Commonwealth Migration Act, which includes New Zealanders; holds full registration; and are employed in a Queensland school by a participating employing authority prescribed by regulation. At this point that is the state system and the Catholic system. Independent schools have a different certifying authority.

The national professional standards also require that an eligible teacher have an authentic teaching role—that is, work in the classroom or equivalent teaching students—and have been assessed as satisfactory in their two most recent annual performance reviews for those applying for highly accomplished teachers or three for lead teachers.

I would like to acknowledge my learned colleagues who participated in the committee and thank each and every one of them for their contribution, as unique as it may have been at times. I would also like to thank everybody who turned up before the committee and made their contribution. This is a good piece of legislation, it is essential for our kids and I strongly support it.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to contribute to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. As my colleagues before me have said, the LNP will support this bill. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the secretariat, Hansard reporters and the department and other organisations who made written submissions on the bill and appeared at the committee's public hearings.

Most importantly, I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank our very hardworking teaching cohort across Queensland. As the daughter of two extremely hardworking, now retired, teachers and a former teacher aide myself, I know firsthand that for teachers it is not a job: it is a calling. It is these people who have dedicated their careers to inspiring young minds to grab hold of a passion and grow it for a brighter future. In my view, teachers are our unsung heroes and they do not get the accolades they deserve.

I recently met with a group of incredibly passionate teachers from my electorate who came to talk to me about the EB9 and their hopes and aspirations for their profession. We talked about how in years gone by teachers were revered in society, held in the highest esteem. Today there exists a societal perception that teachers work short hours and have long holidays. Nothing is further from the truth. Working as a teacher aide gave me the opportunity to understand just how hard teachers work. I know the hours they put into their jobs and how much of what they do takes place in their own leisure time. What teachers really do and how they really go about their work is virtually unseen in the broader community, and any negative perception needs to change.

On a slightly different note, I am very keen to hear from the minister about the abandonment of the Teacher Education Centre of Excellence program that was established to prepare teachers for working in state schools in low socio-economic areas. This was very successfully operating in Morayfield, but I have recently been told it no longer exists and I am keen to know why. Perhaps the minister can shed some light on this.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Pumicestone, I would ask you to come back to the long title of the bill, please.

Mrs WILSON: This bill is about guaranteeing the calibre of our teachers and ensuring that high-performance teachers remain in the classroom. This is vital to our children's educational outcomes and future aspirations. Highly accomplished teacher and lead teacher positions provide teachers with an opportunity for additional career and financial advancements within the teaching profession without having to leave the classroom to take on administrative roles. These new classifications will provide opportunities for teachers who have worked within the teaching profession for a minimum of five years and can demonstrate their teaching ability. It will enable them to earn a higher pay rate.

In 2017 the Department of Education, in consultation with the Queensland College of Teachers, commenced a pilot program to certify HAT and lead teachers. The certification trial process was to include Far North Queensland and north coast regions only. The department informed our committee that 500 teachers expressed interest in applying for certification during the pilot; however, only 184 applied to be part of this pilot. By the conclusion of the pilot, 44 teachers were successfully certified as HAT teachers and only three teachers were successfully certified as lead teachers. Since the completion of the pilot program in 2018, approximately 750 teachers statewide have expressed interest in the 2019 round, which is very encouraging.

For teachers to be considered for this program they must have completed five years of teaching within the classroom and be able to demonstrate their teaching pedagogy. Applicants must pay a fee of \$850 for stage 1 and a further \$650 for stage 2 to gain certification. These fees further highlight a teacher's own willingness to personally invest in their own learning and personal development, which goes in hand in hand with the lifelong learning mantra that dedicated teachers live by.

The LNP wholeheartedly supports advancement opportunities for teachers not only because of the benefit to the individual teacher but for the benefit it will bring across the entire cohort. And of course it benefits our children, who benefit from learning from the best.

With the end of the term commencing this Friday, our kids will be off enjoying their Easter break but, as I mentioned earlier, it will not be a time for teachers to down their tools, put up their feet and relax. The teachers I know will use this break to get cracking on planning for next term's lessons. They

will be preparing assessment tasks, marking assessments and completing reports. Some will attend workshops and training seminars. Before they even know it they will be back in front of the classroom delivering their skills to our young minds.

I am very proud of the schools we have in the Pumicestone electorate. As I mentioned, before entering parliament I worked in one of these schools and I am grateful for that opportunity. Pumicestone State School is the newest school in the electorate, and it is truly kicking goals. I believe our schools are the nucleus of our communities, and Pumicestone State School has quickly become just that. Beachmere State School embodies a wonderful sense of community, and it works proactively with the Beachmere Disaster Management Group and Beachmere Area Network Group to ensure our community at large is safe in times of need. They also act as an evacuation centre. There are some great things come out of this school. Bribie Island State School is another terrific school that has so many dedicated teachers dedicating their own time after work hours to assist with local sporting teams in coaching and managing roles. This school reminds me so much of my primary school.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I might bring you back to the long title of the bill, please.

Mrs WILSON: I am talking about schools in my electorate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, back to the long title of the bill, please.

Mr Watts: Do they have lead teachers in them?

Mrs WILSON: Yes. Banksia Beach State School is an independent public school known for its outstanding concert bands and its academic and sporting achievements. My son attended this great school. I know just how hard the school community works together in the best interests of its students. It has outstanding teachers. I know that there are teachers at this school who are putting their names forward. Another awesome IPS school in my electorate—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, member. I am afraid I am going to have to ask you to come back to the long title of the bill or finish your contribution.

Mrs WILSON: I am discussing some teachers who will be—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, member.

Mr MILLAR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member is speaking on the long title of the bill. She is speaking about schools that are looking at this program.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. I bring the member back to the long title of the bill. This is not an opportunity to tell us all the great things about every school in your electorate. I am sure they are very good. There are plenty of other opportunities to do that. You need to talk about the long title of the bill.

Mrs WILSON: I will finish with this: there are truly outstanding schools under the leadership of great principals and leadership teams within the Pumicestone electorate that will ensure teachers have the opportunity to take up the charge and apply for HAT and lead teacher roles.

Our teachers are our greatest asset, and the LNP will always stand up for them and support them as they support our future generations. They are the true champions, and they need a government that is prepared to take on the negative perceptions, truly promote the work they do for our kids and never stop trumpeting their worth.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. I thank the committee chair, deputy chair and members from the LNP, Labor and the crossbench. This is a great bill. I congratulate the minister for bringing it forward to the House. The explanatory notes state—

The policy and objectives of the Bill are to:

- create a certification process in Queensland, consistent with a national framework, that recognises high performing teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher;
- enable the Queensland College of Teachers (the College) to perform the role of certifying authority for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers; and
- provide for an effective, transparent certification process, with decisions subject to appropriate review.

Ensuring high teaching standards is a priority for the Queensland Government. Retaining quality teachers in the classroom is essential to ensuring an effective education system. It is therefore important to develop a framework to identify high performing teachers and give them the appropriate career opportunities without leaving the classroom.

A lot of my personal friends are teachers. A lot of those teachers do not want to work in the regional office or become principals. They are dedicated teachers; that is what they do. When you get to know teachers as well as I have, you realise that they are a different breed of people. They are caring people. A few weeks ago I was talking to one of my great friends about this bill in the main street of

Maryborough. She said that one of the highlights of being a teacher is when she runs into former students in the street and they tell her how good they are going: 'I am doing this and doing that and moving forward.' It is important to have teachers like that and remunerate them to stay in the classroom.

As we know, our economy is changing. We are experiencing digital disruption, and we need high-quality teachers in the classroom. We do not want them sitting in offices or doing other things. We need them to be getting our students ready for their careers.

At one of our committee hearings I asked the education department about rural and country schools. Coming from the regions, I like to ensure consistent education standards across the state. I know that the member for Gregory would agree that kids from Longreach or Barcaldine should have the same opportunities that children on the coast have—children in Rockhampton, in Maryborough or on the Sunshine Coast. It is very important that students from the regional and country areas get the same education as their urban counterparts.

It was pleasing to hear from the department that this process will apply throughout Queensland—to regional Queensland and country schools. This will enable teachers to stay in these communities. We want children in these regional areas and country towns to be able to go on to university or TAFE if they want to, so that they have better job prospects. We cannot do that if we do not have good quality teachers. This bill ensures that good quality teachers stay in the classroom and do what they are trained to do. I congratulate the minister, because this is all about making sure our children are educated. That is what we on this side of the House do. I am proud to be part of a Labor government that believes wholly and solely in education.

I will talk about my electorate for a moment. It is important to have highly skilled teachers. In low socio-economic areas, education makes a difference. It is education that will lift my area up. These teachers are so important to areas like mine. Some of my schools do it tough. Having teachers in these schools will give every student in the Maryborough electorate the opportunity to further their education.

Highly skilled teachers in classrooms need to be backed up by appropriate facilities—buildings and so on. Before last year's budget I spoke extensively to the minister about some of the small schools in my electorate and how their classrooms needed to be upgraded. If we are to attract high-quality teachers to these schools, we need to give them good classrooms and other resources. The schools at Brooweena, Tiaro, Mungar and Howard have all had upgrades. That will help retain existing teachers and attract good teachers to these schools. These schools are not big, but their children deserve the same opportunity and the same standard of education that children in bigger schools in the Maryborough electorate have—Torbanlea State School, Sunbury State School or Maryborough Central State School. Having adequate facilities will keep these teachers at the schools.

Mr Perrett: Air conditioning, too.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Gympie. The member for Currumbin let the cat out of the bag in relation to the air-conditioning of schools. She said it is over two parliamentary terms.

Mr MILLAR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the long title of the bill.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am taking some advice. That is not an opportunity to debate across the chamber. Member for Maryborough, even though you took the interjection, the interjection in and of itself is irrelevant to the debate so I will bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will be guided by your advice.

We hear stories about the unions and the member for Kawana spoke about the unions. I can honestly say that I have had great discussions about this bill with the QTU and the independent teachers union. They are very supportive of what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing for education across this state. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.58 pm): I rise to add a brief contribution to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. Today many members have spoken about how we manage to get the best education for our kids. As members would be aware, there was the Great Results Guarantee and a masters teachers program that were good programs. Lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers getting recognition through this program will also be good. Turning briefly to the objectives of the bill as stated in the explanatory notes, they state—

create a certification process in Queensland, consistent with a national framework, that recognises high performing teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher;

There are other objectives which people can read, but the reason that is important is we all know that great classroom teachers will have an impact on our lives. I am sure all of us here can look back on our education and give an example of a teacher who impacted our lives. There are some fantastic schools in my electorate. I would love to list them all but, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I know you are going to pull me up if I try, but I am going to give it a crack. At each of these schools it would be great to have some lead teachers and teachers who are highly accomplished because at some of these schools there are hardworking teachers. They need the recognition and they need the pay because we do not want to lose them from the classroom. We want to keep them there.

A teacher who worked at Highfields State School some years ago taught one of my sons. Mr Mathewson is an absolutely brilliant teacher. He gave up enormous amounts of his time before and after school for kids whom he had not taught for three and four years to make sure they got through their program, and he never got the financial recognition that he deserved. A program like this is a great program to aim at someone just like that. If we want to keep hold of our teachers, it is really important—and it has been mentioned by others—in terms of facilities to ensure that the classrooms are up to a standard that they require and ensure that they have the resources they need. I know members have spoken about air conditioning, and it is important. If we want highly paid professionals to do a professional job in many circumstances—

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

Mr WATTS: No, it is absolutely relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please. What is your point of order?

Ms McMILLAN: Air conditioning has nothing to do with the College of Teachers bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member?

Ms McMILLAN: Relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will just take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am taking advice. Minister, that is not an opportunity to debate across the chamber. We will give you some advice when we are ready. I call the member and bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr WATTS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This bill is talking about highly accomplished teachers and they deserve to have conditions that meet the standards that a professional would expect. Someone who is earning over \$100,000 a year and putting a lot of time, energy and effort into planning their classes and delivering the best education they can does not deserve to be assaulted and they do not deserve to be in hot classrooms. There are hot classrooms here in Queensland and the number of assaults is growing in Queensland.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member. Pause the clock. What is your point of order, member for Lytton? Can you make a point of order from there?

Ms PEASE: No, I cannot.

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

Mr WATTS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I have another point of order.

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order on relevance. We cannot have the member for Gregory—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not an opportunity to make a speech, Minister. I have your point of order.

Ms GRACE:—raise a point of order about relevance and then have the member for Gympie's interjection not being allowed to be taken—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I understood the point of order on relevance. I do not need the speech, thanks very much. Member, I give you the call but I ask you to remain relevant to the long title of the bill.

Mr WATTS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is disappointing to me that members in this chamber think that it is not relevant to have a highly accomplished teacher and a lead teacher in conditions that we ourselves do not have to work in.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I am taking some advice. Member, I warn you formally. Can you come back to the long title of the bill, please.

Mr WATTS: I seek your guidance. I am talking about the bill itself. I am talking about lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers, their ability to get recognised and to have conditions that they deserve to work in. I find it difficult how the members opposite could find that not relevant at all.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, resume your seat and I will give you that guidance. Thank you for seeking it. Member, this is a bill for an act to amend the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 and the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016 for particular purposes. Those particular purposes, as you yourself have outlined, are in the explanatory notes and I would ask you to be relevant to those particular purposes which do not involve the matters that you are attempting to bring into this debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been listening to the debate and the objections raised by the government. The committee report indicates that under the policy objectives of the bill it creates a certification process—yes, it does—and then it also says that it ‘encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher’. It is directly speaking of their role as a classroom teacher.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order. It is not relevant to this.

Mr WATTS: I will talk about my wife, and I will explain why she is relevant to the bill. She is a teacher and she puts in a lot of hours after work and a lot of time giving guidance to students outside of her normal classroom role. This program is exactly the sort of program that she would have aspired to, but she has taken on a more administrative role in her teaching career because after 25-odd years the ability to progress her career means that administrative roles come into play. This certification is a good thing and it is very important.

At Wilsonton State High—one of the newest state highs in my area—a program like this will lead to it being able to retain good-quality teachers, and it needs those teachers. I want to divert for a moment because I do need to recognise that the minister has provided some additional funding for a Beyond the Broncos program at a couple of the schools in my electorate. That is a wonderful program that will feed directly into the capacity of teachers to be able to do their jobs.

It is very important that we do not narrow this debate down to exactly just the certification process of these teachers. This is about the schools of Queensland. This is about making sure that those schools have the best quality teachers we can and that our children can receive the best education that they deserve, and a certification process is very important to that. The whole point of that certification process is to retain teachers in the schools. That means that it is more than just a rubber stamp from a college saying that they have passed a few exams and a process.

The simple fact is that what we are trying to achieve here is good-quality teachers in our classrooms and keeping them there so that they do not feel the pang of the dollar pulling them towards administrative roles. I have seen a lot of good teachers who have done a fabulous job in the classroom who are not great administrators, and I am sure there are great administrators who are not fantastic teachers.

This program recognises the skills set that is required for a teacher to be able to deliver the education that we all want for the next generation in Queensland. Those teachers do not deserve to be assaulted in their classrooms, and it is unfortunate to see that assaults have grown by 63 per cent since the Labor government came to office. Those teachers do not deserve to be mistreated in any way. Rather, they do deserve to have the facilities and to have the recognition that this bill provides.

This year Toowoomba State High will celebrate its centenary year, and it is a really big moment for Toowoomba State High School. I am sure over many years there would have been fantastic teachers who have either chosen a different career or they have chosen to go into administration and left the classroom, and that is a great loss to the generations of Toowoomba students who have come through since. However, those teachers would have done that because of a lack of ability to progress their careers.

I think this certification process is a great step forward, but I do not think it should be the only step forward. I implore each and every one of us to consider different ways in which we can make sure that we get the very best educational results in Queensland. That will mean not only retaining people in the jobs that they are most suited to doing but also providing the facilities and services that professionals who are chasing a career path, who are passionate about that career path, deserve and want in order to stay on that career path. That is what we want from them. As the people who manage the taxpayers' dollars of Queensland, they need from us a process that is fair, equitable, recognised and well-administered that allows them to get the recognition they deserve.

I am disappointed that I have not been able to mention all of the schools in my electorate. I am sure that they, too, will be. I have 23 schools in my electorate. The reason that is significant to me is that, when teachers are not being treated fairly and well, a large number of my constituents are at my door talking to me about what is going on in the education system, whether that be the independent, Catholic, or the state education system. All of the teachers in my area are interested in this process. All of them are interested in trying to work out ways in which they can retain their expertise in the classroom. I think decluttering the curriculum, making sure that we remove any propaganda from our campuses of any political nature—it is not the right place for it—and making sure that we provide the modern facilities that people would expect is the way to go.

I will make a brief comment about air-conditioning classrooms. I think that should be brought in across Queensland to make sure that these professionals who desperately want to stay in the classroom have the conditions that a modern office, a modern administration block, a modern parliament—


Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. When the interjection was taken by the member for Gregory in regard to air conditioning—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms GRACE: My point of order is relevance. You have ruled in that way. I ask that you rule again. Do not do it next time, member for Toowoomba North.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I will provide the directions in this chamber. I was providing advice to the Manager of Opposition Business. I was not paying as close attention as I could have. The acting Clerk has advised me that there is an issue around relevance. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr WATTS: The title of the bill is Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill. It is about making sure that we recognise these professionals and have their abilities recognised financially. I am saying—and every member opposite thinks this is not relevant—that we should make sure that we have modern, up-to-date facilities for them. I implore the minister to air-condition their classrooms.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.12 pm): That required some patience. Education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. It is with great pleasure that I contribute to the debate on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. In 2003, the federal government released an issues paper on the establishment of a national institute for quality teaching and school leadership. In 2009, work commenced on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. On 1 January 2010, as a result of the Commonwealth review of teaching in Australia and decisions made in 2009 by the then Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs, known as MCEECDYA, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, known as AITSL, was established. In December 2010, MCEECDYA agreed to endorse and use the standards throughout this country. At that time, the Queensland representative on MCEECDYA was a wonderful colleague, the Hon. Geoff Wilson MP, the then minister for education.

The AITSL board of directors has a membership nominated by jurisdictions, the Australian government, the Catholic and independent school sectors, teacher unions, professional associations, principal associations and the deans of education from each of the major universities across the country. AITSL's primary purpose is to provide national leadership for the Commonwealth, state and territory governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership.

During 2011 and 2012, while I was the principal of Glenala State High School, it was my pleasure to also represent the Australian Education Union on the advisory council of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership. That advisory council was charged with the responsibility of developing the professional standards for teachers and school leaders. Out of that process emerged

the teacher standards, of which I am incredibly proud, and the notion of graduate, proficient, highly accomplished teacher—known as HAT—and lead teacher, as well as the published professional standards for school leaders.

A teacher's role is to grow and develop the minds of the children in their classroom. The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers describe what teachers should be aiming to achieve at every stage of their career. Those standards assist our teachers to reflect on and improve their practice inside and outside the classroom.

It is abundantly clear in educational research that the most significant impact on student achievement is the quality of teaching. Sadly, when the Newman government was closing schools and failing to allocate adequate teacher numbers to growing schools, it may be concluded that there was a lack of recognition of the importance of quality teaching. At another time in this House I will further share some of my experiences as a school leader under an LNP government.

There is now considerable international and national evidence that the major in-school influence on student achievement is the quality of classroom teaching. That is supported by research from the OECD in 2005 and 2013, by Dinham, Ingvarson and Kleinhenz in 2008, and by Jensen in 2010. Effective teaching lifts student performance and improves school completion rates—something Labor has always been committed to.

There are substantial social and economic benefits realised by improving students' achievement and raising the quality of teaching is a key strategy for achieving those benefits. The most important lesson from countries that have been successful in achieving high scores in international testing is their investment in the preparation and development of high-quality teachers while at the same time elevating the status of the entire profession, as is the case in Singapore, Finland and Estonia. I have had the opportunity to visit those countries and witness the successful strategies that they have in place.

In 2007, Fullan argued—

'In the successful countries it is clear that there is an absolute belief that quality education for all is crucial to their future... These countries then approach the task with the knowledge that everyone must be part of the solution. They know that teachers are the key to improvement and can only work effectively when they are supported. They make major, coordinated efforts to improve the quality of teachers through various forms of support.

The McKinsey Group drew the same conclusion by stating, 'It's a system thing, not a single thing.' Certainly, air-conditioned schools are not mentioned. Retaining our talented teachers in our classrooms is a key step to ensuring strong educational outcomes in Queensland schools. In 2015, the Queensland government made a commitment to transform and modernise the teaching profession under the Letting Teachers Teach initiative and established two new voluntary classifications, HAT and lead teacher, which are aligned with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, endorsed by the Australian education ministers through the Education Council.

Many members who have come before me have described the purpose of the bill. We know that some of those purposes are to establish a new function for the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of certifying these HAT and lead teachers in our schools. It is also being able to engage and deliver training to other entities. Further, it enables fully registered teachers who are employed in prescribed schools to apply to the Queensland College of Teachers for certification and renewal of certification of HAT and lead teacher career stages.

There are many other objectives of the bill, but the primary purpose of this initiative is to allow teachers to be recognised for their precision within the classroom and inspire them to stay and continue to improve and to share their practise amongst their colleagues as opposed to pursuing, as I had done, school leadership roles or leaving the profession altogether, which would be a tragedy. It also supports promoting the teaching profession as an attractive career option by creating new career options with potentially higher remuneration. Teachers are able to apply for certification as a HAT or lead teacher during 2019.

Many of the outstanding teachers that I had the honour to lead will prove ideal candidates for these positions. Precise teaching should be acknowledged and rewarded. A framework for HAT and lead teacher certification will allow teachers to seek higher career levels if they wish while continuing to be a teacher in our great Queensland classrooms.

As part of this framework, a certifying authority is required in accordance with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership's guide to the certification of highly accomplished and lead teachers in Australia. QCT is the most appropriate organisation to act as this certifying authority as it is an existing independent external statutory body with an in-depth knowledge of APST. It currently has the function of registering Queensland teachers across the state and non-state sectors against the first two career levels of the APST. QCT has demonstrated an ability to perform this role over two years,

establishing processes and procedures and recruiting and allocating staff to support this process. I acknowledge the Queensland Teachers' Union, which will offer an introductory one-and-a-half-hour program and a four-hour intensive program to support QTU members working towards HAT or lead teacher certification.

In 2018, 3,800 teachers have already completed this program with the Queensland Teachers' Union. This process is presented by experienced assessors and provides a range of tips and tools to help participants develop their skills and understanding of the standards. Whilst the Palaszczuk government values our teachers and understands the transformative role of education, the 2019-20 federal budget was a spectacular failure in regard to education.


Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I fail to see how the federal coalition budget is relevant to the debate.

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

Ms McMILLAN: I thank the Queensland Teachers' Union for its ongoing commitment to supporting our teachers and, of course, the education profession as we embark on this change process. For QCT to perform the role of certifying authority on an ongoing basis, legislative amendment is necessary to extend its functions under the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 and the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, for a debate on a bill where apparently we are all in agreement there seems to be quite a bit of disagreement. It would be nice if we could stick to the long title of the bill. This is not directed at you member, it is a direction to everybody. This is not an opportunity to wander off down every rabbit hole that you want to talk about in relation to education, it is an opportunity to debate this particular bill.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill. I think it is a good bill. I learnt a bit about this issue not so much through my parliamentary exposure but when I was visited by a delegation of teachers from the Queensland Teachers' Union some weeks back. The local delegate, Chris Smith, gave me an indication of what the implications will be for the teaching profession and I was quite impressed. The bill is intended to create a certification process in Queensland consistent with a national framework that recognises high performing teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher and to enable the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of certifying authority for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers and to provide for an effective, transparent certification process with decisions subject to appropriate reviews.

What we are looking at here is a scheme that will enable those teachers who have the necessary skills and qualifications to qualify as lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers so that they may stay in a hands-on teaching role and still progress professionally without having to necessarily leave the classroom as so many do. Talking to the teachers in my electorate, particularly ones from the very small schools, those who are teaching principals, progression comes at a cost because many of them miss their exposure to the children, they have to take time away from the kids to do the leadership and administration duties that are their job.

This scheme rings a bell. When I was an officer in the Air Force we had what was known as spec aircrew. That was a scheme where officers who wished to remain as pilots and navigators and progress in rank but not end up in a desk job as they progressed through their career were able to do so. They could progress, within reason, in rank, be paid more and concentrate purely on aircraft operations and flying. That was a successful scheme. I can see strong parallels with this purpose here and I think that is a good thing.

I would like to compliment the minister on one particular passage of her introductory speech. She said—

We know that Queensland teachers are empowering minds, creating opportunities and supporting student development each and every day. Excellent teachers who feel valued and motivated are essential to our world-class education system in Queensland.

The minister is spot on there. In my own electorate I see teachers doing those very things. They are empowering minds and creating opportunities. As our kids progress through school we develop a strong relationship with the teachers. I talked about small schools. My own children go to a very small school south of Stanthorpe with about 50 kids. There are some schools with fewer pupils than that. Having an autistic son, I have been extremely happy with the standard of teaching.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from the minister. I know that the teachers aspire to professional excellence. That is absolutely abundantly clear. As I travelled around the country in the Air Force my son had been to a number of schools and settling in a small state school in my electorate where teachers embody those things that the minister mentioned in her introductory speech has been very important to me. I particularly acknowledge the principal, Alun Roberts, and teachers, Natalie Siddons, Cheriee Forbes, Belinda Jamieson and Lydia Wullems and all the staff there. That sort of excellence needs to have a focus point. This bill gives excellent teachers, teachers who want to remain in a hands-on role, the opportunity to excel and to have a formal recognition that they can be proud of.

My understanding is that this will not be a walk in the park. The standard will be extremely high and rightly so. I believe that is necessary because we want to make sure that the qualification is, indeed, something to be aspired to and that it has value. I support the bill. I look forward to seeing some of these lead teachers and highly accomplished teachers in my own electorate. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise today to speak on the bill.

Ms Grace: What a great principal you were!

Mr STEWART: Thank you. I take that interjection from minister. I rise today to speak in the debate on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill before the House. When I started in the profession there were not lead teachers or highly accomplished teachers, but there certainly were some great teachers. I think I heard someone say it was when the cane was around. It absolutely was. I wielded it a couple of times and I received it a couple of times, let me tell members just quietly.

Great teachers have impacted our lives. I bet each and every member in this House today can think of a great teacher who impacted their lives and led them down a pathway that led them here today.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr STEWART: Yes, we are hearing some names already. Mine was Tony Parsons. I acknowledge that Tony Parsons was the man who helped shape me, my life and my teaching. From Kelvin Grove High he went to Harristown State High School and continued being a head of department there. The reason I talk about Tony Parsons is because back in those days when we were teaching there was no framework for what made a good teacher. I kept thinking to myself when I started my teaching career—and I know it is hard to believe that I was a phys. ed. teacher, as you can tell by my sleek greyhound physique—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr STEWART: Age shall not weary us.

An opposition member: I can just see you in tennis shorts.

Mr STEWART: Please! I will not take that interjection! What I found myself doing in my teaching moments was using Tony Parsons and saying, 'What would he do at this particular time? What would be Tony's expectations? What would Tony do with this particular student?' When the AITSL national professional standards for teachers were introduced, I still used that Tony Parsons' lens and thought about where I would fit him under that criteria. In my several decades of teaching, Tony was my guiding light.

Under this bill we have a set of standards to which people can aspire. Why do we do this? There is some great research out there by a fellow by the name of Mike Schmoker—what a great name that is! Mike Schmoker said that 50 per cent of what impacts on a student's learning is their family—their attitudes towards education, where they come from, their environment, their home environment, those sorts of things. Ten per cent of the impact on a student's learning is their peers and another 10 per cent is the school they go to, but the biggest single factor that any school can control is the quality of teaching. Some 30 per cent of what contributes to students' learning outcomes is the teacher. We can manage and shape that, and that is exactly what this is about.

Everyone in this House has already talked about keeping great teachers in our classroom—those great teachers that we all think about, and we are doing it right now. We are thinking about one of those great teachers that impacted on our life. Keep them in our classrooms, because they will impact not only students in our classrooms right now but also students in years to come. This will impact on the students when they grow up and when they go into their professional lives. The impact of those teachers shapes us as professionals. It shapes us in this House right now. They will shape future teachers. At this stage I have not heard anyone stand up and say that having great teachers in our classrooms

builds the capacity of our future teachers because they will nurture them through. I can remember many times—and I am sure you, Madam Deputy Speaker, did the same as a beginning teacher as well—going to the old heads, the wise ones, the ones who had that teaching experience, and asking them, ‘What would you do here?’

This is about keeping those great teachers in our classrooms, working with our new young teachers and guiding them down that road so that in years to come we can have even better teachers. Essentially, this is what the bill is about. It is about rewarding those great teachers by keeping them in the classroom. I acknowledge and accept exactly what the member for Toowoomba North said. He said that his wife was teaching for 25 years but that her only pathway was into admin. We took a great teacher out of a classroom and put her into admin so she could get remunerated. It is a sad day when we do not have those career paths for outstanding teachers to continue to influence those kids, to continue to build our future. This is about making sure we get this right.


We in this great state have evolved over our 200 years of education and heard from those opposite about what they did along the road. I am reluctant to use the word ‘journey’ because I think it is overused. As we continue down the path of education, this is about evolving into a great system of education that recognises high quality, high performing—as the member for Kawana says—and the best of the best. It is about keeping our great teachers in our classrooms, working with our great teachers and not having to rely on promoting them into administration roles. It is about not forcing them out of the classrooms so that they can continue to work up the ladder. More importantly, lead and highly accomplished teachers will mentor and build the capacity of our future teachers, and I think that is essential.

This time tomorrow afternoon, our teachers will start their two weeks of holidays. They will probably kick it off with a nice refreshing beverage of some description, and they deserve it. However, I can guarantee that these great teachers, these lead and highly accomplished teachers, will not hang up their boots for the two weeks. They will continue to create resources for their classroom, continue to plan the next term’s worth of work, continue to write pieces of assessment, continue to write reports, continue to mark the pieces of work from their students and provide some great feedback so that those students can continue to become great students because they have high-quality feedback from those teachers. They will continue to do that over the next two weeks.

For those out there who think teachers will have two weeks off and, ‘Wouldn’t it be a great life as a teacher?’, think again, because highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers will continue to work during these holidays, the next holidays, those after that, over Christmas and for the rest of their career. They continue to focus solely on what is best for those kids. Let us remunerate our great teachers by keeping them in the classroom and working with the clay of the future, our students. This is what this bill is about.

Having said that they will work over the next four days, I strongly encourage teachers to make sure they spend a bit of time tipping back into the family bucket. Maybe those four days of Easter are a great time to spend time with family. Teachers work exceptionally long hours. Those of us married to teachers or who have teachers as parents or kids know exactly what I am talking about. Everyone in this House recognises great teachers. Everyone recognises that this bill is about rewarding and remunerating great teachers to keep them in the classroom, because of the impact they have on our lives. Again, I encourage members right now, right this minute—and everyone listening to this—to think about one of those great teachers who impacted their life. Let us keep them in the classroom.

For me, this is about making sure that the Tony Parsons of this world who impacted on my life, shaped me into the teacher I am and shaped me into the politician standing here today delivering this speech, are kept in the classrooms. They impact upon our kids to ensure that we provide the best learning outcomes for each and every one of our kids and that those outcomes are not based on NAPLAN results. This is not based on NAPLAN results; it is based on a set of agreed criteria at the national level to ensure that we get, as the member for Kawana says, the best of the best. I thank each and every one of our teachers for their work in our classrooms, for shaping our future kids and for shaping more great teachers to become lead and highly accomplished teachers.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this bill which allows the skills of our high-performing teachers to be recognised. Everyone in this House would agree that one of the most honourable and important professions is teaching. Teachers provide the absolute framework and ability for our next generation to become either teachers or tomorrow’s doctors, accountants or farmers. It is important that we continue to recognise that teachers play an important role.

It is hoped that the recognition of their special accomplishments will encourage them to continue as classroom teachers. One of the biggest issues we have in rural and remote areas is keeping teachers in those areas and having those teachers recognised for their great efforts so they stay in rural and remote areas.

I know that the previous speaker, the member for Townsville, was a teacher at Springsure State School—a fantastic school. We need to continue to reward teachers with these sorts of programs so they stay in the teaching profession. If they marry a local and they cannot move and their next step is to go in to administration to get extra pay I think we need to do what we can to keep them in the classroom. We need to have great teachers.

Being the member for Gregory has given me a knowledge of and a sense of duty towards virtually every model of education on offer in Queensland. I have 58 schools in my electorate encompassing state schools, private schools, large schools, small schools, urban schools, rural schools, special education hubs and, very importantly, schools of distance education. If there is something good happening in education I will see that reflected in Gregory. If there is a problem in education I will see that in the electorate as well.

A unique feature of Gregory's schools is that many teachers are also parents, and all teachers care deeply about their school and their community. This has not been properly recognised. In order to progress their careers many teachers in regional areas feel forced to relocate. I have seen this time and time again. If they do not relocate to get a better understanding of their worth they move into administration.

Some teachers who come out to country areas stay in those areas, which is fantastic. They marry local people—local graziers, local farmers. They bring with them excellent teaching skills, but we need to recognise them. We need to make sure that they are recognised in this program.

There is also a significant body of teachers who cannot take up a promotion that involves relocation because of their family's business or personal commitments in their regional community or town. In many ways, this means we find the most amazing teachers across schools in regional Queensland, and particularly in Gregory. Those teachers are not being recognised professionally or financially for their accomplishments.

It is also short-sighted. Gregory is a proving ground for many young graduate teachers every year. Our children benefit so much from their enthusiasm, but they come to us at a time when they are still gaining the hours of practical experience they need to fully develop. Classroom contact hours will help develop professional judgement and self-confidence.

In my observation, what is absolutely vital for them is good classroom mentoring by an accomplished classroom teacher. I must congratulate the minister for the attention she has given to improving the access of all teachers to continuing professional development, right up to mentoring for new principals. I can tell her, I can already see and hear the benefits across Gregory's campuses.

For all these formal initiatives, there is still the need for one-on-one mentoring for new teachers by experienced teachers and for that valuable one-on-one modelling of classroom management methods and teaching technology. Unfortunately, the system has been geared to strip classrooms of the most talented teachers so not only do our students lose out but so does every cohort of graduate teachers.

They lose those classroom mentors and models because the only way to recognise these great teachers is to promote them out of their classrooms. It is hard in rural and regional areas. When we have good teachers in Bedourie or Birdsville—those small communities—we have to keep those good teachers in those towns.

I have seen it firsthand. In a small community—and, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan, you will understand this being a teacher yourself—not only are they a teacher but they are a community leader. They provide mentoring not only for other teachers but for students as well. They play an active role in formulating a child's foundations to be a successful person in the future. We need to reward our rural and remote teachers because they play a significant role. We need our accomplished teachers spread across our classrooms in Queensland. Every parent knows it. Every teacher knows it.

From time to time, often on World Teachers' Day, we will hear radio programs ask callers about a special teacher who changed their life. For me it was the deputy headmaster at Toowoomba Grammar School at the time, Ron Bourne, and the late, great William Dent, the then headmaster at Toowoomba Grammar School. They taught me one thing. They taught me to back myself. They taught me that you have to back yourself in every situation. I thank those gentlemen for doing that. I guess for them it was

a situation where they had all these country kids coming down to the school and living away from their parents. Theirs was not only a teaching performance but also a parent performance in the classroom. One thing they taught me was to back yourself. Ever since then I have backed myself.

The final thing I want to stress is the importance of retaining teachers in rural and remote areas through this program. I encourage the minister to come out to Bedourie, Birdsville and the one-teacher schools. I know the member for Burdekin faces the same challenges I face. He now has in his electorate a school which I am very close to—Mistake Creek State School. It is one of the most fantastic schools anyone will come across. We need to keep teachers there. I certainly commend this bill to the House.

Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.45 pm): This bill is about letting excellent teachers teach. It is keeping them in the classroom. We know that our excellent teachers do not always stay in the classroom. Sometimes they end up in parliament like the member for Mansfield or the member for Townsville. I know we have quite a few teachers on this side of the House. We want to make sure we keep as many high-quality teachers who offer high-quality teaching in our classrooms. That is why the Queensland government's commitment in this bill is so important.

The government's 2015 commitment was to transform and modernise the teaching profession. We want to see high-quality state school teachers recognised for their work inside the classroom. We want to create a pathway to keep them in the classroom. That means establishing the two new classifications of highly accomplished teacher and lead teacher—the HATs and the LTs. I notice there is a lot of cross-chamber chatter. I hope it is about members' favourite teachers.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Thank you, member for Mount Ommaney. You raise an important point. Let us keep the cross-chamber chatter to a minimum and pay respect to the member on their feet.

Ms PUGH: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I thank Minister Grace for coming out to my electorate and making the very exciting announcement about this bill in my beautiful electorate of Mount Ommaney. She came to my largest school—Jindalee State School. We made the announcement about this exciting piece of legislation there alongside principal, Meaghan Rodgers, who, as I mentioned earlier today, is sadly leaving us. We are all devastated to lose her.

I acknowledge that there is bipartisan support for this bill, although we might not know it from the back and forth we have had in the chamber today. Member for Townsville, I have reflected on several of my MVP teachers. I have to give a shout-out to my year 12 leader Gary O'Brien who tried desperately to teach us all maths and told us it was the universal language. That really stayed with me. I do not know how much he improved my maths grades but I did not fail, so that is something. Well done, Mr O'Brien. We all have an MVP story, I am sure.

As the member for Mount Ommaney I know that approximately three per cent of my local constituents are teachers or work in schools in teacher aide roles or similar. That is a large chunk. That is about 1,000 people in my local community who are actually working in schools, and I have countless more parents.

As a parent I can attest firsthand to the amazing dedication of our local state schools. I am a proud Middle Park mum. Two days ago I did my parent-teacher conference over the phone with my children's teachers. Shortly after that I actually received a little report card about where they were up to not just with their schoolwork but with a number of other things. If it was not clear before, it is apparent now that our teachers are managing not just our children's learning but their emotional development, their social development, their friendships and their precious self-esteem at a really tender age.


As I said, my son's teacher did not just tell me how his year 1 maths is developing but also how he is very self-assured, he is very inclusive of all of the kids in his class and he really goes out of his way to include the kids who are socially isolated. Teachers do so much more than grade kids in the classroom. This bill goes such a long way to recognising the full-scale approach that they take to managing our children's education and their overall welfare. I think that that is so important to do.

When we get an exceptional teacher like I think my kids have, we need to do everything we possibly can to keep those teachers in the classroom. That means that they continue to play a direct role in shaping the hearts and the minds of our littlest Queenslanders right there in the classroom because, as I have noted, we do often lose them higher up the chain to office roles, to admin roles and to parliament. If you are serving with distinction in your community, one of the highest compliments you can get is, 'You're doing a really good job. You'll do wonderfully well in regional office.' We need our good teachers right where we can see them—teaching our littlest Queenslanders. This bill recognises and remunerates the excellent work that our teachers do and ensures that we have quality teaching happening in our classrooms.

As a parent, I can never thank our teachers enough for the work that they do. As I have said, I was really quite amazed with this interim report that I got, covering off on a vast spectrum of things that a lot of people would say are essentially unrelated to teaching. It is not about maths and it is not about science; it is actually about my children's emotional and social development. We know that, if those factors and criteria are not being met in the classroom, the kids will not be doing their best learning because they will not be empowered to put their best foot forward in the classroom.

As a parent, I can never thank our teachers enough. My children's teachers have worked through a number of difficult issues with me over the years, and we have done that side by side with constant communication. It has happened a lot outside working hours, and I really do commend them for that. As a parliamentarian, I am really excited to vote for this legislation to ensure that we do keep our top teachers in the classroom and that they do get the remuneration they deserve. It is worth noting that in the past, and I think to this day, teaching has been a profession with a high number of women. It is really important that we do the right thing and ensure that these wonderful school leaders get the remuneration they deserve.

I want to finish by noting a couple of things that I have observed in the classrooms I have been in over the years. The teaching profession has such a profound and lifelong impact on all of our young people. I commend this bill to the House because I simply cannot think of a profession more worthy of this recognition than our wonderful and hardworking teachers.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.52 pm): It is my pleasure to rise in the House tonight to speak in support of this bill, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill. I want to quote from the chair's foreword in the committee report where the chair, the member for Nudgee, sums up the intent of this bill fairly well. She states—

This Bill presents an opportunity to recognise high performing school teachers across Queensland and encourage them to continue their role in the classroom. Quality teachers are at the very heart of maintaining a high quality education system in this state. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution that teachers make each and every day and thank them for their continued service in this regard.

I also note the comments of the member for Townsville. He summed it up quite simply when he said, 'This is about keeping great teachers in our classrooms,' and he is absolutely right. It would be remiss of me in the context of that comment to not recognise some incredibly outstanding teachers in my own electorate. I have 18 schools in my electorate. It is not quite the 58 that the member for Gregory has, but nonetheless it does keep me quite busy at the end of the year with school graduations and end-of-year functions.

I am incredibly proud of the local schools in the Southport electorate. I have to acknowledge some outstanding people—people like Nigel Hughes, the principal at Southport State High School, who is an exemplary leader and so committed to leading a school that just a few years ago was a school of 900 and now is rapidly approaching 2,000. To lead that school as he has and to achieve the OP results that we have seen from that school in the last couple of years, along with its growth and managing new classrooms and all the other challenges that come with growth, he is an incredible leader.

I also want to acknowledge Taylor Haley at Southport State School. This school is a particular passion of mine. It is the school I went to as a child. Every year since I have been an elected member of parliament it has been my great honour to speak at the badge presentation ceremony at the start of the year and then again at the end of the year when the year 6 students—or the year 7 students as they were in the past—graduate. Every year it is one of those moments where the principal always says, 'By the way, parents, I should let you know that the member for Southport actually went to this school as a child.'

There are some other great teachers like Rachel Cutajar, who has just this year taken over the reins at Bellevue Park State School. She is indeed a great example of the sorts of teachers that this bill is referring to. She has come out of a deputy's position at Southport State High School. She has now moved into her own school, albeit she has gone from high school to primary school. She is doing an absolutely outstanding job at the primary school this year but has previously been an amazing leader. She has so much empathy and passion to make a difference in the lives of young people.

The list goes on. I am concerned about the time because there are other things I want to address. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge Mark Rickard, the principal at Benowa State High School—another outstanding school both in terms of its immersion programs, its arts and its academia—and Michael Josey, the principal at Benowa State School. It was such a thrill to be there with one of the classes a couple of weeks ago for a mock parliament. I was invited by the class to observe their mock

parliament. They had appointed a Speaker, a premier and an opposition leader. To talk to the kids about how parliament operates was such a special occasion. I should acknowledge Jess Whitworth, the teacher who invited me. She is a very good friend but also a very committed teacher.

I have to mention Keebra Park State High School. Adam Brandis, the principal, has been there three years now. Sadly we had a succession of different principals through the school after Fran Jones left after an absolutely stellar year, winning eisteddfods and leading one of the best sporting schools in the nation. Adam has come in and taken a very strong position with that school, and the turnaround at Keebra Park State High School has been absolutely outstanding. I know he would not forgive me if I did not mention particularly just how well the school is now doing in cultural and science programs, as well as its prowess on the field in both Rugby Union and Rugby League and not just on the Gold Coast. The teams have won national championships on many occasions.

The school has a great football heritage, as I know well because, as the first student to enrol at Keebra Park in 1973, I had the privilege of being led by a remarkable principal Garfield Prowse. At his funeral a few years ago—and I was honoured to be invited to speak on behalf of the students of the school many years later—one of his former colleagues spoke about his time as a principal, and it was then that I found out that he was considered an absolute innovator in his day. He was considered somewhat controversial as a principal in his day, but the legacy that he achieved in the way that he led that school from its opening day to then over the first 20 years of its life was remarkable. Some great people have come out of that school. Our current deputy police commissioner for the southern region, Brian Wilkins, was one of my school mates at Keebra Park, and the current Chief of the Australian Navy is also a former student from Keebra Park.


I am worried I am running out of time here. I want to acknowledge Susan Christensen, the Principal of Southport Special School. What a special person she is and what an incredible team of people they are. Julie-Anne McGuinness is the Principal of Musgrave Hill. She has been there a few years now. That is the school where my boys and I sang the school song at graduation nights for 17 consecutive years, because each of my four boys went through that school. What an amazing little school that has been.

I want to acknowledge Karen Brown, the Principal of Ashmore State School. This is now I think her second year in the role. She has been like a breath of fresh air. She is very committed and very passionate about the work there and very committed to student outcomes. It gets overlooked but the Queensland Academies school is also tucked away in the back of my electorate, and I want to acknowledge Principal Vanessa Rebgetz.

Debate, on motion of Mr Molhoek, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Policy

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.01 pm): For 15 years I have had regular discussions with Main Roads staff in my office about issues that directly affect my electorate. As the elected representative for Currumbin, like other honourable members, I have a duty to keep residents informed, respond to their questions and concerns, and provide them with up-to-date information. My staff felt confident they were up to speed on matters that constituents contact them about, but all that changed a couple of weeks ago.


A meeting was booked several weeks earlier and, as per normal protocol, topics we wanted to discuss were sent to Main Roads. They emailed back to say who was attending the meeting. The meeting time arrived but Mr Noonan, the regional director of the south coast, was a last-minute cancellation and a woman was sent in his place. There was no prior warning, which would have been polite, just a no-show. As I sat down with the two staff, one of their mobiles rang and they said, 'It's the minister's office.' Thinking it was a private call I said, 'You're welcome to take the call in a side room,' but, no, it was Felix from the minister's office calling in to listen in on our meeting. There was no warning; no asking whether it was okay—nothing—so I terminated the meeting.

When I asked these guests in my office what was going on, I was told it was a change in policy from the minister's office four to six weeks earlier and that ministerial staff could listen in if they wanted to. What arrogance! Why were MPs not told about it beforehand? Is a memo going out or is this yet another sneaky tactic from this government to control information? Why the sudden change of policy? Why is a staffer from the minister's office, not the department, and most probably a card-carrying member of the Labor Party listening in on conversations between an MP and Main Roads senior staff? It is sneaky and it is underhand.

This is a minister who has presided over an appalling mess with ongoing rail fail, lack of train drivers and a massive cost to taxpayers of over \$170 million. This is a minister who takes a cheap shot whenever he can even in question on notice replies and blames everyone but himself and his cronies for delays and cost blowouts. This is a minister whose multimodal study into key southern Gold Coast transport routes was not finished on time last year, the excuse being there are more investigations to be done. Meanwhile residents agitating about house resumptions are forced to wait.

This is a minister who uses standover, bullying tactics that even intimidate departmental staff. Well, he does not scare me and I shall be telling the good people of Currumbin exactly how this Palaszczuk government operates and how Minister Bailey is deliberately trying to prevent me from accessing information that residents of Currumbin have a right to know. Labor do not know how to play fair. They and their union comrades think they can infiltrate, brainwash and bully all who do not agree with them. As I have said before, the questions on notice are not being fully answered and they are even being sent to the media before the MP who asks them. I will not tolerate it.

Braking the Cycle


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.04 pm): There is an everyday activity many of us take for granted, though I suspect we all have many and varied recollections of how we started out, and I speak of driving a car. Those early, tentative outings on the road with mum or dad or a driving instructor sitting in the passenger seat could be very nerve wracking, but that was nothing compared to the big test—the day we took our first, and hopefully last, driving test. It is such an important moment in our lives. A driver's licence provides freedom of movement but also importantly plays a vital role in employment prospects.

The reality is, though, there are members of our community who struggle to get a licence and the reason is this: it is often because they do not have access to a car to learn to drive in. There is a program called Braking the Cycle. It is a program run by the Police-Citizens Youth Club. It is about giving people access to a car so they can get a licence. It is about providing people with the opportunity to complete the 100 hours of supervised driving they need to complete before they can go for a licence.

Last week my local community celebrated the launch of Braking the Cycle at Caboolture and Deception Bay. The PCYC provides a car and a mentor to help financially disadvantaged learners log the 100 hours and get a step closer to getting their licence, and it is making a difference. I met a young woman named Bianca at last week's launch. Bianca walked into the Pine Rivers PCYC looking for activities for her young son. A conversation with the PCYC branch manager revealed that Bianca did not have a driver's licence, making her life as a single mum very difficult indeed. The branch manager convinced Bianca to take part in their Braking the Cycle program. Bianca's mentor, Trevor, worked alongside her to gain the 100 hours and then get her licence. The freedom, convenience and confidence of having a driver's licence has helped lead Bianca to securing a job and also starting uni.

I have seen the good work Braking the Cycle is doing in places like Ipswich and Toowoomba and right across our state. Now I can announce a significant development in the Braking the Cycle program at Dalby on the Darling Downs. In partnership with the Dalby PCYC, Arrow Energy has invested in providing a second learner vehicle for the Dalby program. Arrow Energy has partnered with the PCYC since 2013 and during that time more than 160 younger learner drivers have obtained their licence. Braking the Cycle is making a difference for young Queenslanders. Well done to the PCYC for supporting this program.

Southern Downs Electorate, Animal Activists

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise to speak about an important matter in my electorate of Southern Downs. Most people would be aware that about a week ago there was an invasion of a feedlot at Lemontree owned by the McNamee family who are great constituents of mine. About 100 protesters forced their way onto the property, trespassing, harassing and intimidating the owners, their family and their staff. They came on to the site with no regard whatsoever for biosecurity or for the property rights of the individuals who run and own the site.


I have spoken with the McNamee family and naturally they are very distressed about what happened. It was quite disgraceful, in fact, that so many protesters could come onto their property and wander off and face no action whatsoever. I did hear the Premier this morning in question time say that she has sympathy for the operators of the feedlot and that she believes it is inappropriate that protesters should do such things, and I take her comments on that at face value.

I would like to see the minister for agriculture and the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services come up with a plan now because we need something done. We hear noise about future attacks occurring in my electorate of Southern Downs and in other electorates, and I want to know that everything is being done.

I urge the Police Commissioner to undertake some sort of operational response to this, to monitor and gather intelligence on these protesters, these law breakers, so that they are better able to respond and to hold them to account. We need to make sure that not only are the laws strong but also the police have the resources they need to go to these properties when required and hold protesters to account, arrest them if necessary and make sure the message is clearly sent that our society does not tolerate this kind of terrorism and intimidation on our hardworking farmers.

I am talking about operators of feedlots. These are family operations of piggeries and feedlots who work very hard. They are primary producers in the literal sense; they create something from nothing. In doing so, they employ people, they grow wealth and they pay taxes to pay for people like us, politicians, as well as nurses, doctors and police. We need to look after them and we need to make sure their rights are respected because they pay a great deal to be compliant with biosecurity. It is a great affront to them financially as well as to their pride when protesters come on to their properties, and I want to see something done about it.

Ferny Grove Railway Station, Car Parking


 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.09 pm): In July 2018 Peter Dutton commenced his desperate fight for re-election by suggesting additional car parks for railway commuters in Ferny Grove. I understand that his desire is to build a commuter car park on land in Thomsett Park across Samford Road on top of Kedron Brook—a flood plain and wetland situated in the federal seat of Ryan. This is Queensland state land.

Late in 2018 billboards appeared in Keperra and Samford claiming he was starting a campaign to fix parking at Ferny Grove. At the same time, he took out full-page newspaper advertisements. I am informed that in November last year his office was provided with overlay drawings of two options—for 132 car parks or for 167 car parks. The options were provided along with the advice that the car parks could not be permanent and were not advisable because site access was limited and difficult, which is why traffic engineers had ruled them out.

In early 2019 billboards appeared after Scott Morrison's phantom bus tour of Queensland, where Peter Dutton claimed to have delivered 350 car parks for Ferny Grove at a cost of \$11 million. He has since clarified that this has nothing to do with the Queensland government's Ferny Grove TOD project. This week's federal budget has one line on this—'Commuter car park upgrades, Mango Hill, Ferny Grove'. It is a federal budget bottom line delivered over the next four years—four years too late, four years after the state government has committed to hundreds of extra car parks at the Ferny Grove Railway Station. The Palaszczuk government delivered \$9.1 million to build hundreds of additional car parks at Ferny Grove Railway Station two budgets ago.

We have to ask if there is any depth of trickery to which Mr Dutton will not stoop in a desperate bid to save himself. Mr Dutton has sold locals down the river because he wants them to park their cars in the creek. It is not a viable location. It is not a properly costed plan. There was no consultation with the state government. Mr Dutton's Venice style car park for gondolas will be at odds with that vital safety advice of 'if it's flooded, forget it'. It is about time he dropped this ridiculous plan for a car park so flooded that every car would have waterfront views. Mr Dutton has forgotten about the people of Dickson for the last eight years and he should forget about this ridiculous underwater car park plan.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Legacy; Gold Coast Youth Foyer

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.12 pm): Tonight I am going to talk about a few empty blocks of land—blocks that should be driving jobs growth for my part of the Gold Coast and helping people in my community. Instead, these are just patches of dirt. The only thing they are producing is dust. We have heard about how it is one year on from the Commonwealth Games, and today I had a look through the GC2018 post games report. It talks about the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct—how it will provide 26,000 jobs for our area. The fine print says it has a 10- to 15-year delivery time frame. This is over promising and under delivering. We need this much sooner.

The report talks about Trade 2018, with 3,200 international delegates from tens of countries and about how the precinct was pitched to them. There is only one building confirmed for the nine hectares of state land in the precinct—only one. Clearly, they needed a better sales pitch. Which country could

it possibly have come from? We had delegations from 26 countries during the games. Could it have been Canada or India or Singapore? Well, it is from Griffith University—not from the other side of the world but from the other side of the road. I have a degree in biomedical science so I know how difficult the job market is. We certainly do not want to have to see biomed graduates get elected to parliament just to get employed.

On a smaller scale, it is a similar story with the Gold Coast Youth Foyer in Southport. This is a fantastic project that will provide 40 rooms for young people doing it tough. The whole idea is about helping these 16- to 25-year-olds get their lives back on track. It was funded in last year's budget and announced in August, with construction due to start in the next few months. At the time I could not even get an answer out of the minister's office about the address. It turns out no-one else could either. There was no community consultation, not even with the school next door, and that is pretty extraordinary because they would likely have to take on some of these students. It has now been delayed by 18 months until the end of this year, and that is just for construction to start.

Youth homelessness is a huge issue on the Gold Coast. Just a couple of weeks ago I was on the barbecue for Coombabah State High School's Movies Under the Stars event. A young woman came over to have a chat with me. She was living out of her car, a little Suzuki Swift. Every night she would drive from car park to car park, finding the darkest and least conspicuous place to pull up before curling up on her back seat. I took her a bag full of sausages, bread and popcorn from the stall and the \$20 I had in my wallet. She was scared and frightened and desperately wanted to get out of the situation she was in. The youth foyer offers a chance for this, and young people like her cannot afford to wait.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am standing.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am now standing for a second time. May I remind you about the rules about the debate going through the chair.

Mr O'CONNOR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member's comments personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DICK: Which comments? It was 10 minutes ago. I apologise to the honourable member.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you withdraw?

Mr DICK: I apologise to the member and withdraw unreservedly.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I have already made requests about the debate going through the chair.

Mackay Electorate, Pioneer Tennis; Active Ageing Program


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.16 pm): Being healthy and fit and being into sport is becoming a way of life in Mackay. Just last weekend I joined with Councillor Ayril Paton, Col a regional representative from Tennis Queensland and Jenny the president of the Pioneer Tennis centre to officially open two brand-new international federation level tennis courts. The project has been built with a \$78,000 contribution through the state government's round 6 of Get Playing Places and Spaces, combined with Mackay Regional Council's \$90,000 contribution and \$20,000 each from Tennis Australia and Pioneer Tennis. This makes up the first stage of a four-stage redevelopment at the site, with a further six more ITF courts planned to be built along with junior courts to develop our youngest budding players. Mackay will be able to put its hands up to bid for second-tier world events, such as Challenger and Pro Tour events.

Get Playing Places and Spaces supports participation in sport and active recreation at the grassroots level by developing infrastructure to meet the needs of local communities like mine. It also creates places and spaces that address current and future sport and recreation participation needs so that all people in Mackay can reach for the stars, especially our young people in the tennis world who are playing on these international level courts. Up-and-coming tennis stars like young Lilly, aged 11, may very well be the next Ash Barty. Lilly is aiming to represent Mackay and see how far she can take her tennis. She was so excited to be able to have her first hit on the new tennis courts.

Queensland's seniors have contributed to making our state the thriving and vibrant place it is today. That is why the Palaszczuk government is ensuring that we have an ageing friendly community, where our seniors can enjoy and participate in social and economic wellbeing through a range of services, grants and projects.

The Central Queensland University was a successful recipient of \$58,000 towards an active ageing program through a partnership between Central Queensland University and Mackay Regional Council. The active ageing program supports the greater health and physical activity for seniors and caters to different skill levels with a broad range of activities. The programs help to keep our seniors active, independent and facilitate a broad range of challenges that focus on balance, stretching, mobility, weight, strength and group activity. The project has the potential for ongoing application and can be scaled to be applied anywhere.

Animal Cruelty Laws


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.19 pm): Nala was a five-month-old puppy when she was tragically killed. Nala was not just a puppy; Nala was a much loved member of a local family who was playing with the young kids in the front yard of their suburban home when she was viciously attacked and killed by a declared dangerous dog loose on the streets as the family watched on powerless and horrified. The potential for the situation to have been much worse with the young kids present is too horrible to imagine. This tragedy has been difficult for the family involved and they will miss Nala every day. This family came to my office to see if I could fight for some changes to the law in Nala's memory to better protect other families from this ever happening again. They asked it to be called 'Nala's law'.

Today I want to outline the two things that could have saved Nala's life: signage and neighbourhood notifications. The dog that killed Nala was owned by a nearby resident and had been declared a dangerous dog. This declaration imposes conditions on the owner in relation to signage and security under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008. Although the owner did not comply with the security aspects of the act, the signage to notify nearby residents did strictly comply with the act but was not visible from the street.

Nala's family had no real way of knowing that a dangerous dog lived very close to their home. Drew, the father of the family, told me that, had he been aware, he would not have had Nala in the front yard of the house playing with the children and Nala may still be alive today. The suggested changes to the act include that signage must be visible from the road and that notification be made to homes in the area that a dangerous dog has been declared or moved into an area and its location. These simple changes provide young families like Nala's with the knowledge of the danger and the ability to take action to protect themselves and their pets.

I have written to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries about these suggestions and he has passed them on to his department for consideration in any new amendments. I am calling on the minister to please oversee these sensible amendments and ensure they progress. There can be no happy ending to a story where a family is devastated in this most horrific way, but the memory of Nala can protect other pets in the future if we enact Nala's law.

Defence Industry, Jobs

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.22 pm): I am delighted to rise in the House tonight both as the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning and also as the proud member for Woodridge to voice my support for more defence industry jobs for Queensland. Earlier this week the Premier and I were delighted to host the first ever Invested in Defence showcase here at the Queensland parliament. The event provided an opportunity for small and medium sized Queensland businesses like EM Solutions, EPE, Praesidium Global, Insitu Pacific, Steyr Motors, Craig International Ballistics, Simjet, PFI and RF Design to not only showcase their products before members of the House but to network with defence industry leaders.

The government was also delighted to welcome to the event Queensland representatives from some of the biggest defence and manufacturing companies in the world including Boeing Defence, Boeing Phantom Works, Airbus, Varley Group, Rheinmetall, Northrop Grumman, Volvo, Raytheon, Sikorsky and Thales. Our goal as a government is for a prosperous and thriving Queensland and there are a number of actions we are initiating to support local defence industry businesses. Our government has established an advisory council on defence industry and jobs supported by North and South


Queensland advisory boards. We support Queensland businesses through our \$105 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, our \$40 million Made in Queensland initiative and our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund.

We have developed 10-year road maps and action plans in defence industries, aerospace and advanced manufacturing. Later this year we will announce two defence hubs to guide and support small to medium sized businesses, to enhance market preparedness and to allow businesses to access national and global defence market opportunities. Working together, we are growing jobs and growing and diversifying Queensland's industrial base.

When I first campaigned for election as the state member for Woodridge I made a pledge to the community that I would work as hard as I could to deliver better public health care, improved schools and more jobs for our local community. In my community there are some amazing and talented young people in particular who can aspire to a career in defence and aerospace industries and also in manufacturing. I want to recognise the great work of local schools in supporting vocational education and training as well as supporting the delivery of science, technology, engineering and maths curriculum. I speak of schools such as Marsden State High School, Mabel Park State High School and Woodridge State High School to name just a few. We have an emerging array of industrial job offerings in my community, including some located at the Crestmead industrial estate.

There is always more work to be done, but we are heading in the right direction. Growing advanced manufacturing and defence industries is just another way I am working to deliver more jobs and more opportunity for the people of Woodridge.

Whitsundays, Cyclone Recovery

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—Ind) (6.25 pm): Tonight I would like to talk about cyclone recovery in my beloved Whitsundays more than two years on from category 4 Cyclone Debbie. Before I do so, I want to acknowledge today being the 30th anniversary of Cyclone Aivu, which impacted the lower Burdekin and communities to the north of Bowen in April 1989. I remember it quite well as a young baby-faced reporter with News Corp covering the destruction in communities such as Guthalungra, Gumlu, Inkerman and Molongle Creek where, sadly, an elderly gentleman by the name of Joe Popic passed away as a result of the storm surge. It was a cyclone that many people do not talk about today, but locals have certainly not forgotten.


More than two years on from Debbie more and more people from the Whitsundays tell me they believe that three levels of government have failed them in the reconstruction efforts in our community. In relation to our public buildings, we are still waiting to see the reopening of the Proserpine Entertainment Centre. It is amazing that it took two years to see the Palaszczuk Labor government cough up some money—\$5 million. We saw another delay in the reconstruction of the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce; we are waiting for the state and federal governments to cough up some money so we can get on with it and get our community going again.

If we are talking about cyclone recovery, we can go back to Cyclone Marcia. I remember going around the Capricorn Coast in 2015 and seeing what happened there. I say well done to Bill Ludwig, the mayor of Livingstone shire, because he was able to extract close to \$30 million for the Yeppoon foreshore revitalisation on the back of Cyclone Marcia. However, fast forward two years in the Whitsundays after Cyclone Debbie and the best that Andrew Wilcox—the Bowen mayor—and his council could manage out of the Palaszczuk Labor government was less than \$5 million. It is quite amazing when we think about it. That is before we talk about things like the Wilson Beach swimming enclosure, which I have been campaigning to get fixed. I thank all those people who joined with me in signing that petition.

I have to say that the efforts of the Bowen mayor have fallen flat. He is nothing more than a lapdog for the former two-time failed Labor candidate Mike Brunner, who is the de facto mayor. I am sorry, but Andrew Wilcox may as well enjoy his last 12 months because it is only going to be a lap of honour in local government for the mayor of Bowen, as I call him.

This is a bitter pill to swallow because the federal budget was just delivered. A lot of people say well done to Josh Frydenberg for tax cuts, supporting small business and getting the budget back into surplus. Honourable members can look in today's edition of the *Australian*. Where is the infrastructure spending in Dawson? There was nothing at all. It was interesting to see the comments today attributed to the Mayor of Mackay, Greg Williamson, a former Liberal candidate for Dawson, basically pooh-poohing the budget and its impact on infrastructure or lack thereof in Dawson. I think the people of Dawson need to think carefully about this vote at the next election. That is why I am backing the KAP candidate in the seat of Dawson.

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.28 pm): We are days out from a federal election being called. The federal Labor candidate for Petrie has been doing an incredible job getting out there and talking one on one to so many voters and engaging with the community and our local schools. I want to acknowledge that already Corinne Mulholland, our Labor candidate, has committed along with Bill Shorten around \$4 million for our local schools on the Redcliffe Peninsula alone. Federal Labor has also committed funding for stage 2 of the Moreton Bay university project. An amount of \$50 million will be invested in building a state-of-the-art living lab and it will support 1,500 jobs during construction.

This is critical to give the people of Redcliffe an opportunity to go to university in their own local area, which is great. Corinne has done an amazing job of putting pressure on the current federal member and the federal government to issue an MRI licence for the Redcliffe Hospital. It was Corinne's campaign that got that going, despite the claims of the federal member. They have also committed \$10 million to the emergency department to ensure paediatric patients are treated in their own dedicated area separate to adult patients. This is on top of the \$75 million that the Palaszczuk government is investing in the Redcliffe Hospital. I have the former health minister next to me who made the commitment with me about the multistorey car park. This is a huge benefit to our local community. It is long overdue and I want to thank him and the current health minister, Minister Miles, for that commitment.

I also want to mention and congratulate the students at Woody Point Special School. They had their first ever election for leadership positions. I was invited as a returning officer with Ric Day, the principal. They set up a little voting booth and ballot box. When they came up to me they had to tell me their teacher's name and their name. We marked them off and gave them the ballot paper, and at their assembly they announced the winners. Congratulations to Blade, the Captain of Learning; Ezyah, the Captain of Belonging; Harwera, the Captain of Respecting; and Thomas, the Captain of Celebrating. Well done to Woody Point Special School!

In our community there are amazing kids and adults with disabilities and families who support them. I am shocked and appalled at the Morrison LNP government's announcement that \$1.6 billion is coming out of the NDIS and caps on other disability services to go to the bottom line in their budget. They say it is an underspend, but that is because they are not delivering the NDIS the way they should. Families are not getting the money and packages they need, and service providers are not getting the support they need to get out there and do the job.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, 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