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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 2 May 2019

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S RULING	1401
Misconduct in Chamber; Disruption of Proceedings.....	1401
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	1401
School Group Tour.....	1401
TABLED PAPERS	1401
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	1402
Trade Mission.....	1402
Jobs	1402
SportAccord World Sport and Business Summit.....	1402
West End, Fire	1403
Housing, Build-to Rent Pilot.....	1403
Costco; Guthalungra Aquaculture Project	1403
Minjerribah, Whale Interpretive Centre and Mount Vane Walking Trail; Quandamooka Festival.....	1404
Logan City Council.....	1404
Resources Industry.....	1405
Flu Season.....	1405
Solar Farms, Code of Practice and Regulations	1406
Transport Infrastructure, Investment.....	1407
Youth Justice	1408
Agriculture and Food Industry, Trade Mission.....	1409
Police and Corrective Services, Recruitment.....	1409
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	1410

Table of Contents – Thursday, 2 May 2019

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	1410
Report	1410
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, Report No. 29, 56th Parliament, May 2019—Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 8: 2018-19 Water: 2017-18 results of financial audits.	1410
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1410
Youth Detention Centres	1410
Youth Detention Centres	1411
Gold Coast, Screen Industry	1411
Youth Justice	1412
Federal-State Funding Agreements, Infrastructure	1412
Townsville, Police Resources	1413
Regional Queensland, Investment	1414
Domestic Violence Officers	1415
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, undated, from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Di Farmer, titled 'Budget fulfils commitment to tackle domestic violence'.	1415
Wangetti Trail	1415
Police Service, Evidence Handling	1416
Public Transport, Investment	1417
Police Service, Resources	1417
Electricity Prices	1418
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, Industrial Action	1418
Sport, Women's Participation	1419
Racing Queensland, Integrity	1420
National Disability Insurance Scheme, Transition	1420
Drought Support, Report	1421
Fire and Emergency Services, Resources	1421
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 12 March 2019, from the shadow minister for fire, emergency services and volunteers, Mr Lachlan Millar MP, titled 'Labor strips control from rural fire brigades'.	1422
Gold Coast, Casino Proposal	1422
PRIVILEGE	1422
Misconduct in Chamber, Apology; Disruption of Proceedings, Apology	1422
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	1422
Youth Justice Reforms	1422
HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL	1423
Second Reading	1423
MOTION	1440
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders	1440
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	1441
Photographs in Chamber	1441
MINISTERIAL PAPER	1441
Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation	1441
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Local Government Act 2009: Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 63.	1441
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Local Government Act 2009: Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 63, explanatory notes.	1441
MOTION	1441
Dissolution of Logan City Council	1441
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 1 May 2019, from the Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission, Mr Alan MacSporran QC, to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, regarding Logan City Council.	1442
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	1443
Veterans	1443
Jobs	1444
Bundaberg, Maternity Services	1445
Jordan Electorate, School Infrastructure	1445
Maroochydore, Public Safety	1446
Redlands Electorate	1446
Hospitals, Staff Safety	1447
Education and Training	1448
Fly-in Fly-out Workforces	1448
Federal Election, Labor Policies	1449
Racing Industry	1449
Torres Strait Islands	1450
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Photograph depicting a Bramble Cay melomys.	1450
Gold Coast, Multiculturalism	1451
Gold Coast, Jobs	1451
Cancer Council of Queensland, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	1452
Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month	1453

Table of Contents – Thursday, 2 May 2019

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month	1453
Mount Ommaney Electorate, Commemorative Services	1454
Disability Services	1454
Logan, School Infrastructure.....	1455
STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT	
COMMITTEE	1456
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	1456
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, depicting average daily electricity prices, titled 'Data dashboard'	1460
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	1463
Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Report, Reporting Dates and Transfer of Responsibilities.....	1463
HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL	1464
Second Reading	1464
Consideration in Detail	1485
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Steven Miles's amendments.	1485
Amendments agreed to.	1485
Clauses 1 to 62, as amended, agreed to.	1485
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.	1485
Third Reading.....	1486
Long Title.....	1486
Amendment agreed to.	1486
ADJOURNMENT	1486
Toowoomba North Electorate, Bus Service; Toowoomba Second Range Crossing	1486
Griffith University, Teacher Education.....	1486
Gympie Electorate.....	1487
Bulimba Electorate, Anzac Day	1488
Bribie Island Bridge, Pelicans	1488
Bancroft Electorate, Education Funding and School Infrastructure.....	1489
Kawana Electorate, Public Housing	1489
Redback Garrison	1490
Chatsworth Electorate, Anti-Theft Initiative.....	1491
Redcliffe Electorate, Anzac Day; Moreton Bay Barge; Yabbey Road	1491
ATTENDANCE	1492

THURSDAY, 2 MAY 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 RULING

Misconduct in Chamber; Disruption of Proceedings



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I refer to the misconduct and disruption that occurred in the Assembly towards the end of question time yesterday, when a large group of opposition members began waving placards whilst the Premier was answering a question. The misconduct and disruption appeared to be orchestrated; however, even if it was not orchestrated the conduct amounted to misconduct and disrupted proceedings. Members participating were therefore in prima facie contempt in accordance with the examples of contempt at standing order 266(11), misconducting oneself in the presence of the House, and standing order 266(25), a member involving themselves in planning or executing a disruption of a proceeding of the Assembly.

I want to state for the record my significant disappointment in the actions I saw yesterday. It showed significant disrespect to the chair and all members of this House. After reviewing the available video footage I am satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities, the following four members were involved in this misconduct and disruption: Toowoomba South, Moggill, Burleigh and Warrego. I want to emphasise, however, that there were undoubtedly more members involved: that was clear. These four members were, on the balance of probabilities, involved; however, I estimate that more than 20 members were involved. I note that the members for Burleigh, Moggill and Toowoomba South were also already subject to a warning at the time.

I have given the matter consideration. The four members identified are given until the end of today's sitting to unreservedly apologise to the House for their actions before I consider the matter further under standing order 268(2).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Labrador State School in the electorate of Bonney.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[682](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3087-19) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 94 petitioners, requesting the House upgrade the Anzac Street level crossing to a standard equal to Central Street, providing pedestrian maze and activated safety gates

[683](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3068-19) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 541 petitioners, requesting the House to re-use a small number retired electric passenger trains as a unique and historical artificial reef in Moreton Bay for future generations of Australians and tourists

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade Mission



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): Queensland's continued economic success relies on trade and our ability to maintain and strengthen existing relationships and identify new markets and opportunities. I am pleased to say that my recent trade mission to the United Arab Emirates, Germany and the United Kingdom is already delivering results.

Yesterday I informed the House that Queensland will be home to Baz Luhrmann's next blockbuster: a biopic on Elvis Presley starring Tom Hanks. I told the House of my meeting with Rheinmetall Defence CEO Armin Papperger. I am pleased to say that he will be visiting Queensland in August to inspect progress on Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank. Rheinmetall executives are of the view that, once complete, Milvehcoe will be the world's best military vehicle factory and will be capable of supporting long-term highly skilled jobs—manufacturing jobs—for decades to come.

In Germany I had the chance to talk to executives who are working on plans to develop hydrogen powered passenger cars and trains. I was also informed of the use of hydrogen in train transport. In the UAE I met with the CEO of Emirates airline to discuss the potential for even more flights into Queensland, bringing tourists in and taking cargo to the world. I visited a number of investors who see Queensland's reputation as a high-quality producer of meat, fruit and vegetables as a strong drawcard for their future investments.

I also had the opportunity to visit a fish farm in the desert outside Abu Dhabi operated by a Sunshine Coast company. Radaqua is a remarkable Sunshine Coast based small business that is about to undergo a rapid expansion of its operations in the Middle East. With the assistance of Trade and Investment Queensland it established the Emirates Fish Farm, an enterprise currently producing 120 tonnes of fish per year. Radaqua is now looking to increase that to 750 tonnes a year.

In coming months I hope to update the House on more outcomes for Queensland as a result of this trade mission.

Jobs



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): My government's Back to Work program continues to thrive, with almost 19,000 Queenslanders supported into employment. One of the key components of this program is the Back to Work Youth Boost Payment to support businesses that take on a young person. When we first introduced Youth Boost in December 2016, it was initially available for a three-month period. That payment has been so popular with Queensland employers that it is now a permanent feature of the Back to Work program. I am pleased to update the House that more than 12,400 young Queenslanders have a job because of it.

The latest unemployment figures from February 2019 show that Queensland's youth unemployment figure is down by almost a percentage point from the previous 12 months. Programs like Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work are supporting local employers to make important employment decisions that continue to contribute to lowering Queensland's unemployment rate.

SportAccord World Sport and Business Summit



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Over the next week the biggest names in world sport will arrive in Queensland. The Gold Coast will play host to the SportAccord World Sport and Business Summit 2019 from 5 to 10 May. This is the first time SportAccord is being held in Australia and the Oceania region. It is a great endorsement for the Gold Coast and Queensland to host the world's biggest sport and business summit.


I would like to congratulate tourism industry development minister Kate Jones, who secured the summit and \$60 million worth of events for Queensland at the 2018 SportAccord conference in Bangkok last year. Up to 2,000 delegates—the leading decision-makers in world sport—from 100 countries will inject more than \$6 million into the economy during the five-day conference. SportAccord is where major international sporting federations negotiate where to host upcoming events. It supports the Queensland government's vision to make Queensland Australia's events capital.

Sport and sporting events are a big deal in Queensland. In the last financial year sport and recreation contributed \$2.47 billion to the Queensland economy and employed more than 22,000 people. We invest in major events because they pump millions back into our economy and create

tourism jobs. This is a great legacy of the Commonwealth Games held a little over a year ago and an important part of our strategy to capitalise on Queensland's role as host of the biggest event in 2018. I wish everybody the best success for SportAccord. I know that the minister and I will attend SportAccord when it gets underway next week on the Gold Coast, as will the member for Gaven.


Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, there is too much general conversation in the chamber. I ask you to keep your conversations to a minimum.

West End, Fire

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.38 am): This morning we woke up and headed to work with the terrible news of a fire that engulfed a local boarding house and adjoining property in my electorate of South Brisbane. It is with much relief that I can inform the House that everyone has been accounted for. This has obviously been a distressing incident for those directly affected and our local community more broadly. Our thoughts are with those who have lost everything or escaped with very little.

I can inform the House that the government is working today with those impacted to find alternative accommodation. I thank the Minister for Housing for his early-morning call to confirm that with me this morning. I have also spoken to the principal of the school nearest to the blaze, Brisbane State High School, which is open today. Students will be kept safely indoors. Air quality will be monitored throughout the day. Those in smoke affected areas are advised to stay indoors if possible. A number of nearby nursing home residents have also been moved as a precaution. I place on record my sincere gratitude to all of the hardworking emergency services teams who responded to ensure that people were safe and to control the blaze. Investigations into the cause of the blaze will take place at the appropriate time.


Housing, Build-to Rent Pilot

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.39 am): We know that housing affordability is a challenge for many Queenslanders, including those who need to live close to where they work—workers in hospitality, early childhood education, our health system and emergency services, for example—those who often struggle with the work commute and who cannot necessarily afford to live closer to the density of jobs in the city. That is why the Palaszczuk government recently committed \$70 million towards an innovative pilot project that will deliver a range of affordable accommodation in the build-to-rent market. This initiative is a win-win approach, achieving long-term returns for the investor as well as a better tenant experience with longer term certainty.

Today I am pleased to inform the House of the next phase in this initiative, with the government calling for expressions of interest to deliver large-scale build-to-rent projects to benefit Queensland workers. Through this process, market participants are invited to demonstrate their financial, operational and technical capability and capacity to deliver on a privately owned site. Proponents who are shortlisted will then progress to the next stage of the competitive market process later this year. I can inform the House that I have also asked Queensland Treasury to explore whether there are any state owned sites that may be suitable for pilot projects. I look forward to providing a future update on any opportunities that emerge.

This project will not only support housing supply diversity and long-term affordable rentals but also hundreds of new jobs in this new industry in Queensland. It will help to inform future build-to-rent developments in our state and further innovation in the housing market. This pilot is a fantastic example of the government working in partnership with the private sector to deliver long-term solutions which will help make positive differences to the day-to-day lives of hardworking Queenslanders.

Costco; Guthalungra Aquaculture Project


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.41 am): This morning, along with the member for Ipswich, I was delighted to represent the Premier at the opening of Costco's new retail warehouse at Ipswich. This new \$50 million, 14,000-square-metre retail outlet is a huge vote of confidence in the city of Ipswich and in the economy of Queensland. Importantly, this warehouse will boost choice and competition, delivering substantial savings to consumers in South-East Queensland. Even more importantly, this new retail centre will deliver new jobs for Queensland. Ninety construction jobs were created during construction, and 280 full-time-equivalent operational jobs have been created for workers in South-East Queensland.

This morning I was delighted to meet with Costco members and local residents Jasmine and Rebecca, who had waited patiently since 11 o'clock last night for the warehouse to open. Just as importantly, I met some of the new Costco workers. I also met many food producers and manufacturers who now have input into Costco's global supply chain.

That is not the only part of Queensland where new jobs are coming from new investments. On 26 April I declared the Guthalungra aquaculture project near Bowen to be a prescribed project under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act. As my colleague the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries says when he travels the state fighting for more jobs in our regions and the bush, his vision is to make Queensland the aquaculture capital of the world.

This prescribed project declaration for Pacific Biotechnologies means the Coordinator-General can draw on his key powers to ensure the project gains timely approvals. The project has the potential to support up to 230 jobs during construction and up to 220 jobs once operational. The project comprises 259 aquaculture ponds over 260 hectares and a 370-metre seawater storage pond. The project also proposes a 47-hectare discharge remediation area, freshwater storage pond and water reticulation, and food-processing facilities. By prescribing this project we are ensuring the Whitsunday region can start supplying up to 2,700 tonnes of their famous black tiger prawns as soon as possible. It is planned that prawns will grow using a world-first bioremediation technology created in conjunction with James Cook University, with algae to be used to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater so the facility operates at zero net discharge. This project is a great Queensland story. It is also an example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting regional Queensland by creating more regional jobs.

Minjerribah, Whale Interpretive Centre and Mount Vane Walking Trail; Quandamooka Festival


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.44 am): Today the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation has released for public consultation design plans for the whale interpretive centre at Mooloomba, also known as Point Lookout. The centre will house one of the only complete humpback whale skeletons on public display anywhere in the world. We know that Minjerribah is one of the best places not only in Australia but also on the planet for whale watching, an industry that is already worth \$8 million to the local economy and supports local businesses and tourism jobs on the island.

Throughout May QYAC will be undertaking public consultation on the designs released today. I can confirm that, in developing the designs, QYAC CEO Cameron Costello has already received contributions from more than 300 people towards the design concepts and is working with Cox Architects. Through this feedback QYAC has refined the project and has ensured that there is no disruption to ocean views, that the project is below the tree line and that the footprint of the project is minimised. In fact, it is less than half the size of a tennis court.

I am also proud to confirm that the Mount Vane walking trail, with 360-degree views of Moreton Bay and Quandamooka country, is now open and creating new business for the local tourism industry. As we know, bushwalking is one of the most popular activities on the island, and the new Mount Vane walking track is really adding to this experience. Already the Mount Vane walking trail has proven particularly popular. This project involved 20 traditional owners in the walk's design and construction. Walking tourism has the potential to pump an additional \$16 million a year into the local economy each and every year.

There is plenty more to look forward to, with the Quandamooka Festival set to kick off next month. We are expecting upwards of 13,000 visitors to take part, with 4,000 direct visitor nights. We are the only side of politics that is committed to creating jobs on Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island, and we will continue to work with QYAC to diversify the local economy and plan for the future.

Logan City Council

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.46 am): Today I will be recommending to the Governor in Council that the Logan City Council be dismissed. This recommendation under the Local Government Act will be made out of necessity, to ensure the residents of Logan have a functioning council. This action does

not interfere with the relevant judicial proceedings. I wish to be very clear: this action is being recommended because I have no other choice at this point in time under the Local Government Act. I will not be making any specific comment in relation to the current charges involving the councillors.


Following the mayor and eight councillors being charged with integrity offences, from Friday, 26 April 2019 Logan City Council has been left with only four non-suspended councillors. These charges constitute serious integrity offences and, accordingly, upon being charged these councillors were automatically suspended. Let me be clear: these individuals are innocent until proven guilty. However, as a result of the suspension of nine of the 13 councillors of Logan City Council, under the Local Government Act I have been left with no option but to dismiss the council.

Logan City Council has a quorum of seven councillors. With only four councillors remaining, it cannot perform its responsibilities. Logan cannot pass a resolution and there is no mechanism under the local government legislation that would allow this to occur. Importantly, this means that the council is unable to pass its budget for the 2019-20 financial year, appoint an acting mayor or pass a resolution to delegate matters to a standing committee or indeed the chief executive officer.

This is a situation that I cannot let happen. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that the ratepayers and residents of Logan have a council that can function. Logan City Council must have a budget and it must be able to make decisions. For this reason, as I say, I will be recommending to the Governor in Council that the Logan City Council be dissolved and an interim administrator be appointed until the March 2020 local government quadrennial elections.

The people of Logan deserve foremost a functioning council that can continue to provide services. Unfortunately, they find themselves in an extraordinary situation that must be addressed as quickly as possible in order to move forward with confidence. Actions such as those proposed today are integral in ensuring our communities are served by councils which are capable of acting in the best interests of their diverse communities.

Resources Industry


 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government supports the resource sector and the continued development of the world-class deposits that are still being found in the North West Minerals Province. In the North West we have new projects, project expansions and old mines reopening, including Dugald River, Lady Loretta, New Century, Lorena and Capricorn Copper. Our government has introduced policies that focus on giving Queensland the best possible edge in the global market as we embrace a renewable energy future that those opposite ignore. We are investing \$75 million to upgrade the capacity of the Townsville channel to allow larger vessels to access the port to facilitate a boost to trade.

Our North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy will soon be released for public consultation. We have a billion-dollar coordinated project with high-voltage electricity transmission lines that could potentially bring reliable, alternate power to north-west mines. We gave concessions to explorers to help them through the tough times to keep the explorers going. That was argued against by those opposite. In 2018 the Palaszczuk government made the largest exploration land release ever, making more than 44,000 square kilometres of land available through competitive tenders. It is working. Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure increased by 12 per cent to \$492 million for the 12 months to December 2018. The biggest short-term reason for the downturn in mineral concentrates passing through the port of Townsville is the closure of Clive Palmer's nickel plant.

Government members interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: Exactly. This left almost 800 people without jobs and, as we can see, had significant other flow-on effects. This is the bloke that the Liberals are exchanging preferences with. Clive's national resources policy is to dig it up in Queensland and export the ore interstate for processing. Woe betide the North West and the rest of the Queensland resources sector under a Morrison-Palmer-Hanson government.

Flu Season

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): Winter is coming. It is time—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, member for Kawana. There have been previous *Game of Thrones* references in this chamber.

Dr MILES: Winter is coming. It is time for people in all of our electorates and kingdoms to put aside our differences and fight the battle of winter flu. Already people throughout our lands are feeling the impact of the flu invasion. We have seen an unprecedented and unseasonal spike in flu cases, over three times the five-year average. The peak of flu season is still a few months away, but so far this year Queensland has recorded more than 9,000 cases. During the same period last year, there were around 4,000 cases and 3,500 cases the year before. This year there have been 9,345 lab confirmed influenza cases, 775 hospitalisations and 68 intensive care admissions. Our Night's Watch—the hardworking paramedics and emergency department staff—is hard at work preparing to keep us safe, but the increase highlights the need for all Queenslanders to play their part to prevent the flu. Flu viruses change frequently, which is why it is important for Queenslanders to get their flu shot every year.

Ms Grace: I got mine last Friday.

Dr MILES: Free flu shots are available to many in the community and I especially encourage those eligible to take the education minister's lead and take up the opportunity and get vaccinated. Because we know kids are super spreaders, the Palaszczuk government has funded free flu vaccines for all children aged six months to less than five years. I encourage all mums and dads to get their little ones vaccinated. Other at-risk groups eligible for the government funded flu shot include pregnant women during any stage of pregnancy, persons 65 years of age or older, all Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people six months of age or older, and persons six months of age or older who have certain medical conditions. All other Queenslanders can purchase the flu shot from their doctor, pharmacist or immunisation provider.

Flu season in Queensland is typically from June to September, with the peak usually in August. While it is never too late to get vaccinated, the latest expert advice is the best protection is provided if you get the shot three to four months before the flu season peaks—or before episode 5 of *Game of Thrones*. That is now. While it seems like the Red Wedding was only yesterday, winter is nearly here. None of us can afford to be complacent. Everyone also needs to be aware that the vaccine is not immediately effective. It generally takes 10 to 14 days to be fully protected after you get your shot. Everyone needs to be vigilant when it comes to the flu, as the complications can be deadly. We need to encourage everyone to wash their hands properly, cover coughs with a tissue and to stay at home when sick. Vaccines are one of the greatest inventions in human history. They are the Valyrian steel of the battle against the flu. They take only a minute to receive, are incredibly effective and can save your life and the lives of your family. I urge all Queenslanders to come together and join our flu army this season.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold the door, Minister. It is pertinent to remind all members of the House that flu shots will be available on the next sitting week Thursday and the details have been provided to you in an email.

Solar Farms, Code of Practice and Regulations



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.56 am): As a good role model, I did have my flu shot last Friday at my local chemist at the Gasworks. However, when it comes to unsafe electrical work, there are no second chances. That is why the Palaszczuk government has acted to ensure that we have the highest possible electrical safety standards for the rapid-growing solar farm industry. The solar farms code of practice and new electrical safety regulations will apply from 13 May this year to all solar farms with a total rated capacity of at least 100 kilowatts. The code and regulations clarify—and I repeat, clarify—existing legislative requirements for industry and will improve electrical safety by ensuring the mounting, locating, fixing and removal of solar panels is only performed by licensed workers under the act. Solar panels are live while they are being mounted and, more importantly, removed. Incorrect installation or earthing during mounting or removal can result in latent electrical safety risks such as electrocution, fire and system faults.

Mr Hart: Rubbish!

Ms GRACE: The Palaszczuk government—did I hear 'rubbish' from the other side?

A government member: Yes, the member for Burleigh.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh, who is yelling out 'Rubbish'.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms GRACE: The Palaszczuk government acted to develop the code of practice and new regulations following feedback from industry stakeholders about reliance on unlicensed workers such as backpackers mounting and removing live solar panels. The member for Burleigh may want to play with workers' health and those opposite may want to play with workers' health, but we do not. Serious risks were also identified by the Electrical Safety Office—I will listen to it before I would listen to the member for Burleigh—and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland following the undertaking of over 200 audits of solar farms across Queensland. These audits identified a number of concerns about insufficient understanding of, and noncompliance with, existing legislative electrical safety requirements on solar farms and multiple instances of use of unqualified backpackers undertaking electrical work.

The Electrical Safety Office and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland have issued 67 statutory notices to solar farms for a range of breaches of work health and safety and electrical safety laws, including unlicensed electrical work, noncompliant electrical installations and inadequate safe work method statements and emergency plans. My department has also received 13 safety incident reports in relation to solar farms involving electrical shock, electrical burns, explosion and the risk of injury from damage to solar panels from grassfires and severe storms.

In July last year, we established a steering group of technical and safety experts to develop a solar farm code and advise on any associated regulatory changes. The membership of this group included the Commissioner for Electrical Safety; Powerlink; the National Electrical Contractors Association; Master Electricians; the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy; Energy Networks Australia; Energy Queensland; the Electrical Trades Union; the Electrical Safety Office and the Construction, Forestry, Mining, Maritime, Energy Union.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I have already talked about outbursts that are completely uncalled for.

Ms GRACE: Outbursts, may I say, regarding the union representatives working on the committee.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, we do not need any commentary.

Ms GRACE: We have also consulted solar farm industry representatives, including the Clean Energy Council and the Australian Industry Group.

I also welcome the support of the industry, including Patrick Lau, the engineering director of eco-energy company EIWA Queensland, who was reported in the Bundaberg *NewsMail* as 'welcoming the changes'. He also said that the changes provided 'clarity' and 'will make things safer on solar farms'.

Under the code of practice and regulation there remains many tasks—many tasks—that can be performed by other workers who are not a licensed electrical worker or electrical apprentice, such as assembling the PV support structures. We welcome federal Labor's recent \$45 million commitment to support 10,000 apprenticeships in the renewable energy industry with employers able to access up to \$8,000 to take on an apprentice and apprentices receiving \$2,000 towards the costs of their education. It is essential that electrical safety comes first—there are no second chances—that electrical work is undertaken by a licensed worker or electrical apprentice and the updated code of practice and regulations will work to achieve this outcome.

Transport Infrastructure, Investment



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing record funding in Queensland's infrastructure. That investment creates jobs—more than 19,200 over the next four years thanks to our record \$21.7 billion QTRIP infrastructure budget. Of that amount, \$12.6 billion will be spent outside the Brisbane region, supporting more than 11,000 regional and rural jobs. We invest in Queensland for Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's record demonstrates our commitment to supporting a strong and sustainable state economy. Since July 2015, we have put \$16 billion into Queensland's road and transport infrastructure. That investment has helped this government create more than 192,000 jobs for Queenslanders since 2015.

The recently completed \$1.1 billion Gateway Upgrade North Project supported 2,021 direct jobs. Later this year work will wrap up on the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, a \$1.6 billion project supporting more than 1,800 jobs. Of course, the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 extension was built in record time by this government. We finished it in late 2017. That project supported 676 direct jobs. Out west, the new four-lane sections of the road at Dalby support 222 regional jobs. We have backed Townsville jobs with more than 500 jobs supported through the Townsville Ring Road stage 4, the


Vantassel Street to Cluden duplication, Riverway Drive and there is more to come on the Townsville Ring Road stage 5. The \$193 million channel upgrade and the largest ever expansion of the port in Townsville will soon also create 125 jobs during construction. That expansion will open up the port to larger ships, creating more trade and job opportunities for the North Queensland economy.

Thanks to the member for Barron River, construction on the Smithfield bypass is underway, with 115 jobs. The Palaszczuk government is delivering \$1.3 billion on jointly funded Bruce Highway upgrades over the next four years, supporting hundreds of jobs and better road safety from the Sunshine Coast to Cairns. We have also committed \$200 million a year of additional funding as part of our Bruce Highway Trust commitment.

The largest recruitment and training program in Queensland Rail's history is underway: 142 new drivers, 276 new guards, with 81 drivers in training for a net gain of 76 drivers who have been recruited since October 2016 after losing 48 drivers under the previous Newman government. Of course, Cross River Rail is coming and there are 7,000 jobs there. The Palaszczuk Labor government's record investment delivers wider economic benefits for Queensland through reduced travel times.

As we prepare for Labour Day this Monday, Queensland workers can be assured that the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to back jobs and investment in this state, supporting working people and a stronger economy.

Youth Justice

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is a jobs government and we are delivering. This week, we announced construction of a new 32-bed youth detention centre and a further 16 additional beds at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre with a combined investment of an estimated \$177 million. Through the construction phase, this investment will support hundreds of local jobs—jobs for tradespeople concreters, carpenters, electricians and more. It also means jobs for apprentices—putting young people on a path to a successful future. These facilities also mean jobs for frontline and support staff to manage the young people in detention, feed them and clean the place, with flow-on effects to the private sector.


Our investment in early intervention and diversion services are also supporting jobs in the non-government sector, and there is more. Our \$320 million second tranche of the Palaszczuk government's major youth justice reforms will support well over 180 new and existing jobs, on top of the construction jobs associated with the new Youth Detention Centre beds. Our investment in these important initiatives and other initiatives across my portfolio, through employing frontline staff directly and supporting NGOs, is creating and supporting thousands of jobs—approximately 5,600 jobs. This is especially important in regional Queensland and the impact on regional Queensland cannot be underestimated. When new employees come to town, they often bring a family and another income with them to spend on local goods and services. I know that, in the Brisbane CBD, cafe owners will tell you that the customers queuing for a breakfast and coffee are public servants on their way to work. Stationery store operators will tell you that part of their turnover is Public Service purchasing. Landlords rent homes to public servants and offices to government agencies and the NGOs that we fund. These stories are multiplied in cities and towns across the state. We know that, when the government spends money, it generates economic activity and jobs and those impacts are multiplied.

As well as creating jobs, we are helping young people to become good employees. Our Transition 2 Success program is not only helping six out of 10 young people who complete the program to not reoffend; they are gaining qualifications and getting jobs. The recent evaluation of this program shows that, as well as reducing reoffending, graduates spent only 1.1 nights in custody per month, while a matched cohort on average spent 3.6 nights in custody per month, which is a truly wonderful result. Most importantly, T2S participants complete nationally recognised certificates while receiving therapeutic support from trained staff to develop the behavioural, social and life skills that are needed to find and keep a job.

Another program that I was pleased to boost this week is Framing the Future, delivered by the Queensland Police Service in partnership with Police-Citizens Youth Clubs. That program provides mentoring and support to Project Booyah graduates for a period of six months to connect them with education, training and prosocial activity and to reduce future offending. Our additional investment means that the program will now continue in eight Queensland locations, providing a necessary and ongoing safety net to young Project Booyah graduates.

Project Booyah itself is a successful police run leadership and mentoring program that delivers excellent results, with 83 per cent graduating, 81 per cent obtaining a certificate I or II in hospitality and 69 per cent re-engaged with education. With the help of programs like these we are helping to divert these young lives from crime, helping them turn their lives around and get them ready to work. The added bonus of investment in providing hope and opportunity to every young person in Queensland is the jobs and economic strength that we are delivering to communities across Queensland. These are programs worth investing in.


Agriculture and Food Industry, Trade Mission

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.08 am): I am pleased to announce that next week I will lead a delegation of 18 businesses from Queensland's agricultural and food sector on a trade mission to Hong Kong and Chongqing. This trade mission has one objective and one objective only, and that is to grow Queensland jobs by expanding export market opportunities for these businesses. The Palaszczuk government has a proud record of creating more than 192,000 jobs, and we are nowhere near done yet. Labor governments create jobs, we back workers, we back businesses to innovate and grow and we forge those relationships in global markets to increase the opportunities for success.

A key event on the Hong Kong leg of this trade mission will be Hofex, Asia's leading food and hospitality trade show. There we will visit the Taste of Queensland stand, as well as holding key meetings with government and commercial sector officials. In Chongqing we will undertake visits to several sites connected with the food export and import industries, as well as hold meetings with trading groups key to accessing these markets. We will also attend the official opening of the Australia China-Australia Economic and Trade Forum. This is a massive opportunity for Queensland food and beverage businesses taking part.

At Hofex we will have Aussie Game Meats from Ipswich, Ballistic Beer Co from Brisbane, Gotzinger Smallgoods from Yatala, Proteco Oils from Kingaroy, Human Bean Co from Goondiwindi and Brisbane Valley Protein from Scenic Rim, just to name a few. In Chongqing we will have representatives promoting Queensland prawns, ice-cream, macadamias, ginger, brewed drinks and more. In the 12 months to November, Queensland's total goods exports rose to more than \$80 billion. This included \$5.3 billion in beef exports alone. Significant investments and strategic trade missions by the Palaszczuk government have directly contributed to Queensland's growing export story and I expect this trade mission to be no different. Trade means jobs and we are working hard to grow and strengthen our trade relationships. I thank the Premier for the opportunity to lead this trade mission to Hong Kong and Chongqing and the opportunity to contribute to the success of these Queensland food businesses and to further growth in jobs for Queenslanders.

Police and Corrective Services, Recruitment


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.11 am): The people of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services are two fine groups of people dedicated to keeping their fellow Queenslanders safe. The Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services also offer another important benefit to Queenslanders and that is jobs—not just any job: there is no higher calling than being able to work to keep those around you safe. Earlier this month Queensland Corrective Services held three graduation ceremonies: one at Wacol, another at Rockhampton and the third at Townsville. In all, more than 60 new custodial officers joined the ranks of Queensland Corrective Services. Those graduations came after the hard work and achievements of the first 22 community corrections graduates for 2019 were recognised at a ceremony held recently at the Corrective Services academy.

Community corrections officers act as agents for change and play a vital role in keeping communities safe by preventing reoffending. They manage over 20,000 offenders in the community, including supervising parolees, probationers and offenders subject to community service orders. They deal with the most challenging people in our community with the aim of keeping us all safe. It is tough work, demanding work, but they do it for all of us—just as our police do.

Queensland has two police academies, one in Brisbane and one in Townsville. Earlier this year the Townsville Police Academy received a new intake of recruits who will spend six months learning the skills and capabilities of a modern police officer. Just a few weeks ago the latest batch of recruits graduated from the Oxley Police Academy. All in all, 76 new police officers were sworn in to service, a proud and special day for them and their family and friends, a great day for the Queensland community. These new police officers will be deployed right across our great state.

The recruitment drive continues and by 2020-21 the Palaszczuk government will have invested in an extra 535 police personnel. There you have it: police officers and Corrective Services officers—vital jobs, rewarding jobs, jobs for Queenslanders.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 14 May 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 29 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 8: 2018-19 water: 2017-18 results of financial audits*.


Tabled paper: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, Report No. 29, 56th Parliament, May 2019—Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 8: 2018-19 Water: 2017-18 results of financial audits [684].

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank the Auditor-General, Mr Brendan Worrall, and senior officers of the Queensland Audit Office for assisting the committee in its consideration of the Auditor-General's report 8 for 2018-19. I would like to thank members of the committee and the secretariat for their commitment and approach to this inquiry. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Youth Detention Centres

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. Given that youth detention centres are bursting at the seams and 85 youth offenders are currently being held in watch houses, will the Premier acknowledge her government's recent announcement of only 48 beds, at the exorbitant price of nearly \$4 million per bed, will not even cover the current overcrowding crisis let alone build for future capacity?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. If the opposition were listening they would have heard the other day that the minister stood in this House and announced \$150 million of capital infrastructure in relation to growing—

Mr Mander: It was in the paper!

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, the Premier has the call and only the Premier has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not only are we investing in capital infrastructure, we are actually looking at rehabilitation and programs to support those young people. Some members of the opposition stayed at the Catholic Education reception while others left, but at that reception I talked about how some of these young people come from broken homes and some are exposed to ice and other drugs and sexual abuse. We want to address these issues.

The best thing that we can do as a government is to get these young people a job. That is exactly what we want to do. There are provisions to add to the Childrens Court in terms of processing these young people as quickly as possible. The key is to stop the reoffending. Unfortunately some young people grow up in broken or dysfunctional homes where there is alcohol abuse and sexual abuse. These are the facts of life. I have seen some of these young people myself in my own electorate. I am quite sure many members in this House would know that unfortunately these are the circumstances that some young people are born into. We need to do everything that we can to make sure that these young people do get a job. That is why we have a key focus on training to make sure that young people do have a chance of getting a secure job.

The other day I told the House the story about a young person who had that choice to make. My father had spoken to that young person and it changed their life. I think all of us have an obligation to see if we can change—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is not funny. All of us have an obligation.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Everton might practise what he preaches. It is definitely all about making sure that young people get a job.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. Leader of the Opposition, I have asked you before not to rise to your feet until the time has run out on the clock. You will wait until that time before rising, please.

Youth Detention Centres

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. Why won't the Premier commit to providing more beds in Townsville for youth offenders so that Labor's failed bail houses can be closed and the riots at the Cleveland centre stopped?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will get back to the House, but my understanding is that some additional beds have already been provided in the Townsville youth detention centre.

Mr Bleijie: Yes, I did it. My name is on the plaque.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection from the member for Kawana, the architect of the boot camps—

Mr Dick: The helicopter.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection. He took a helicopter. He could not drive. The Attorney-General drove, but he had to catch a helicopter. There are 16 new beds in Townsville and we are building a new youth detention centre in Wacol. That money has been committed and it will be built.

Gold Coast, Screen Industry

Ms SCANLON: My question without notice is of the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how post-production facilities can further cement Queensland's and the Gold Coast's role as Australia's pre-eminent destination for screen production?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gaven for the question. We are now seeing a permanent screen industry in Queensland. Queensland is now the capital of screen in Australia and it will continue to be that way for many years to come. Of course, blockbuster after blockbuster has been filmed on the Gold Coast, from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Thor: Ragnarok* to *Aquaman* and, of course, now Baz Luhrmann's movie about Elvis Presley. He will be coming to Queensland in the very near future. In fact, yesterday I got a text from Baz to say that he wanted me to pass—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Jealous!

Mr Dick: And Barry O'Rourke.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And Barry down the back. He wanted me to pass on his best to the Queensland parliament. However, I am sorry, member for Kawana: he did not mention your audition tape. We know it got an airing last night, but I do not think you are in contention.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that comments will come through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In all seriousness, this is all about jobs. It is about 900 long-term permanent, secure jobs on the Gold Coast in the screen industry. That is a legacy from the Commonwealth Games and having the large sound stage studio at Village Roadshow to cater for blockbuster productions.

I also advise the House that in August *Danger Close* will be opening. It was filmed partly in Kingaroy. We can see that such productions are being made around the state. I look forward to the opening of that film.

Mr Batt interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, the screen industry also means work for people such as carpenters. It means more business for hardware shops that sell all the stuff that is needed for stage sets. It also means more work for caterers on the Gold Coast. I am very pleased—

Mr Bleijie: Beads shops, for the white jumpsuits.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Keep going, member for Kawana.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. Members, it is Thursday, clearly.

Youth Justice

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Queensland Police Union recently said that the juvenile justice minister is asleep at the wheel. Has the Premier asked the Police Union to meet with her to gain a better understanding of their concerns about the minister's performance?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Everton for the question. The minister is doing an excellent job. The minister is handling a very complex issue. Let us be very clear: we took a decision to move 17-year-olds out of adult prisons. Those opposite did not support that decision. We were the only state in Australia that was behind that. We had been in breach of the UN charter, so we took that decision. We have put together—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, when the Premier or a minister is being responsive to the question, I will not accept any kind of interjections when there is no provocation, particularly. I ask you to cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is why we have put together a comprehensive package, including a brand-new youth detention centre. We cannot be any clearer. I know that the government has had conversations with the Police Union. We will continue to have discussions with the Police Union, as we do on a regular basis.

Federal-State Funding Agreements, Infrastructure

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House on the importance of certainty around infrastructure funding arrangements between state and federal governments?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question. Of course, the member for Mount Ommaney is a very strong advocate for infrastructure improvements in her local community. There is very good reason why this should be of concern to her and all members of parliament.

We on this side of the House have stood in this place and talked about the cuts and chaos coming out of the federal conservative government. However, we can add another c-word to that, which is 'cons'. When it comes to infrastructure funding for our nation, the federal Morrison government is doing nothing but conning the people of Australia. For Queensland, 80 per cent of the federal funding that we have secured we will not see for another four years. We would have to re-elect that government another two times before we saw any of that money. In New South Wales, it is the same: 80 per cent of their new funding announced in the budget would not materialise for another four to five years. In Victoria, it is 70 per cent of their new funding. That government is only about cuts, chaos and cons when it comes to infrastructure. What will add even further to this is the grubby preference deal they have done with Clive Palmer, the 'Night King' of Australian politics.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. 'Grubby' is unparliamentary.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for the point of order, member for Mermaid Beach. Deputy Premier, I ask you to withdraw that word as it is deemed to be unparliamentary.

Ms TRAD: I withdraw. I refer to the unpalatable preference deal that the Morrison government has done with Clive Palmer, the 'Night King' of Australian politics. He is the bloke who has run down Queensland Nickel, essentially putting 800 Townsville workers out of a job. Scott Morrison could have stood on the side of the workers, but instead he chose to side with someone who is interested only in himself.

We all know that Clive Palmer does not do anything for nothing, so what exactly has Scott Morrison promised Clive Palmer in return for this preference deal? It gets even better, because of course the National Party here in Queensland—because Scott Morrison still thinks there is a National Party here in Queensland—has done a deal with One Nation; he forgot about that.

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: With all of these preference deals, we know that in 2013 people voted for Abbott and got Turnbull, then they voted for Turnbull and got Morrison. If they vote for Morrison they will get Morrison, Palmer and Hanson.

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

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

Townsville, Police Resources

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. The member for Townsville recently said in the media that Townsville needs more coppers, not choppers. Can the Premier explain why her government's members are not satisfied with the numbers of police in Townsville when the Premier has repeatedly said there are adequate police in Townsville?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As part of our election commitment to grow the Queensland police force, we are constantly, as the minister said in this House numerous times, going to the graduations and putting more police where they are needed across our state, because we value our men and women who serve in this state.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Thuringowa, you are warned under the standing orders. The Premier has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In the Townsville police district there are 656 approved police positions, an increase in approved positions of 73 from 1 July 2014.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is as I hear it being responsive to the question asked. I expect you would like to hear the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Police efforts are backed by the Townsville Community Policing Board, Stronger Communities Action Group, PCYCs and school based police officers. I have been out there in the community. I have sat down, I have gone to the Stronger Communities Action Group and talked to people. This is what we do. Listening, consulting, delivering—this is what a government does as opposed to those opposite who cut—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If you want to talk about police, what about all the senior officers you cut?

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will put her comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The former government cut senior officers. I know about that. I sat down and spoke with them as well when they lost their jobs. When those opposite cut the jobs, I sat down and spoke to some of those officers. How do you think it feels after being in the police force for all those years to find out your job is gone overnight? How do you think people feel about that? It is not nice. You did not care and you do not care now. We will continue to grow the police service in this state; record budgets; a fine police minister who is always out there talking and making sure to support the police on the beat, and that is what we will continue to do.

Regional Queensland, Investment

Ms LUI: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is building our regions for the benefit of all Queenslanders and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cook for her advocacy for projects that support her very unique part of Queensland. In March this year, the member for Cook and I announced funding for five projects in her community. This included: \$2 million for the Mapoon residential aged-care facility and the Mapoon shire staff accommodation project; the \$1 million stage 2 airport terminal development of the Kowanyama transport hub; \$1 million for the Lockhart River Airport cabins project; \$565,000 for the Sadies Beach helipad on Thursday Island; and \$557,000 for the George Bowen Memorial Kindergarten in Hope Vale. Recently, I also had the opportunity to visit Gayndah to check progress on the Mingo Creek Crossing caravan park redevelopment funded by a contribution of \$1.27 million from the Palaszczuk government—nine new powered sites, six glamping sites, a second amenities block, a camp kitchen, better parking and a new playground, creating nearly eight jobs.

Mr Boyce interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection of the member for Callide because we also saved another job in Callide—that of the member for Callide's job when the Labor Party put One Nation last. The member for Callide can thank me later. We are investing from Callide to Cook because Labor governments respect all people in Queensland wherever they live, unlike the LNP. Yesterday we saw the federal Liberal Party forced to abandon two of their candidates for displaying awful hatred of minority groups. The Liberal candidate for Wills, the one who thinks 'homosexual lifestyle was distressingly dangerous'—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, can you please resume your seat? I need to deal with a point of order. What is the point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under relevance, 118, with respect to the question by the government member. The minister was asked about building regions, and I fail to see the relevance of this answer to that government question.

Mr SPEAKER: I do note that the minister has one minute and 21 seconds on the clock to be able to answer this question. I ask the minister to ensure that he returns to the core of that question.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is no surprise the member for Kawana wants to run a protection racket for homophobes, people who are anti-women and neo-Nazis. It is no surprise, because while we respect all people—and I say that—the question went to what do we do for Queensland? We respect all Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister—

Mr DICK: We never held Callide but we are funding projects in Callide—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr DICK: We are funding projects—

Mr SPEAKER: I do appreciate that sometimes I am not in your line of sight but I asked almost I think four times for you to resume your seat. That is also a product of too many interjections in this House as well. What is your point of order, member for Kawana?

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to two points of order, Mr Speaker. One, I find the comments the minister made offensive and I ask him to withdraw. The second point of order is under standing order 118 on relevance to the question asked by the government member.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, will you withdraw the comments the member found unparliamentary?

Mr DICK: I withdraw unreservedly. I make the point about projects we are funding in Queensland—

Mr SPEAKER: I want to ensure that I am giving you the guidance to come back to the question that was asked.

Mr DICK: Sorry, that is what I was saying, Mr Speaker, about projects that we fund in Queensland. We respect all people regardless of who they are, their background, their orientation or where they live. We never have held the seat of Callide. The Australian Labor Party has never held the

seat of Callide, but we are happy to fund projects there because that supports mighty regional communities like Gayndah where we have also invested \$5 million in renovating the Gayndah Hospital, a hospital that the LNP let run down when the then deputy premier Jeff Seeney represented that community. We represent and respect all people, and that is the clear direction that the Premier has given all members of the government including ministers, that we respect and represent all Queenslanders regardless of who they support. That is the clear difference between those who align themselves through deals with minority parties and those who look after all Australians, which is what Labor will always do.

Domestic Violence Officers

Mr WATTS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. I table the ministerial media release from 31 May 2018 committing the government to hiring an additional 24 specialist domestic violence officers. Given that it was promised almost a year ago, will the minister outline whether this commitment has been fully delivered with each region receiving its promised allocation?

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Di Farmer, titled 'Budget fulfils commitment to tackle domestic violence' [685].

Mr RYAN: When it comes to rolling out the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, our government remains 100 per cent committed to that. Yesterday we heard an update from the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence about our progress. One of the agencies which is absolutely committed to that is the Queensland Police Service. They have done significant work when it comes to reforming their processes as well as also delivering additional resources to support those people who are experiencing domestic and family violence and ensuring that those people who are perpetrators of domestic and family violence are held to account.

One of those particular commitments was a commitment that we made at the last election to roll out additional domestic violence coordinators. That was a commitment that we made as part of our four-year growth number commitment. That commitment will be delivered in line with that period of time. We started the rollout last year and that rollout will continue during the period of time that we committed to.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Mr RYAN: We are the government that is delivering the funding for extra domestic violence coordinators here in Queensland. That commitment will be delivered in line with the time lines that we announced at the election—which is the growth numbers over four years. There is particular priority in certain regions of Queensland to deliver those additional numbers.

All in all we will continue to invest in the front line and we will continue to support the work that our Queensland Police Service does with our domestic and family violence coordinators. In fact, our commitment, which is an additional \$4 million to support those 24 new specialist domestic and family violence coordinators in line with our election commitment, will bring the total to 54 domestic and family violence coordinators right across the state. This builds on the additional work our police are doing around establishing vulnerable persons units, working in high-risk domestic violence teams and the collaborative approach that we have supported and agreed to with other agencies.

The Queensland Police Service is doing great work when it comes to not only preventing domestic and family violence but ensuring those people who commit domestic and family violence are arrested, brought before the courts and held to account.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you might have thought you were getting away with it, but you are warned under the standing orders.

Wangetti Trail

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the progress of community consultation for the Wangetti Trail and tourism in Tropical North Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. He is just as passionate as I am about ensuring that we are growing tourism and tourism jobs in Queensland, particularly in Far North Queensland and in the Cairns region. I am very pleased to advise members of the House today that

one of the first projects we have funded through our Attracting Tourism Fund is the Wangetti Trail. We have provided \$5.7 million for the first stage of this works. I can advise the House today that more than 2,000 people have engaged with our project team already on the design of this trail, which we expect will inject millions of additional dollars in new tourism opportunities for the Far North Queensland economy. We know that tourism is the backbone—the backbone—of the Cairns and Far North Queensland economy.

What is the biggest threat to tourism in Queensland? It is racism—unchecked, undefended racism. What have we seen here today? Can you imagine being a Chinese tourist sitting in Cairns this morning and picking up the *Cairns Post* and having the Prime Minister of Australia not distancing himself from the racist, sexist comments made by the One Nation candidate in that seat?

Mr Dick: Shame. What a disgrace.

Ms JONES: Every single one of them.

Mr Dick: The Prime Minister of Australia.

Ms JONES: The Prime Minister—and the LNP elected local member is saying that he is happy to take preferences from a candidate who has openly talked about using Aboriginal people as bait for crocodiles. This is the kind of person that the Leader of the Opposition is happy to do deals with. If the Leader of the Opposition is not, then she can stand up in this parliament or call a press conference and condemn this racist behaviour.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118. The question from the government member was about the Wangetti Trail, not what the opposition leader may or may not be doing, considering the opposition leader is not running for federal parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I have notes on the question asked and it does go to the broader issue of tourism, but I will ensure that the member is being relevant to matters around tourism.

Ms JONES: Everybody in the tourism industry in Cairns remembers when Pauline Hanson first came on the scene and we saw the downturn in Asian visitors to Australia because of the racism that the Liberal Party and the National Party of our country continue to allow to go unchecked.

I am so sick and tired of those opposite coming in here and lecturing us about family values when they will not condemn a man and the awful sleazy pictures that are printed all over the *Cairns Post* today. It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to show what kind of a woman she actually is. Will the Leader of the Opposition today condemn One Nation and the terrible deal that has been done by her party and One Nation? How can you walk into this parliament and lecture us about family values—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Minister.

Ms JONES:—and defend a man in awful racist and sexist pictures?

(Time expired)

Police Service, Evidence Handling

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to media reports that crucial evidence for unsolved crimes has been lost or destroyed by Queensland police including a dress worn by a gang rape victim. Will the Premier support the LNP's calls for an independent external investigation of the Queensland Police Service's handling of evidence?

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, Premier. Minister for tourism and member for Mudgeeraba, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that the matter is being reviewed by the Ethical Standards Command. If the member wants some more information from the minister, I am quite sure that the minister will get it for her.

Public Transport, Investment

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's investment in public transport and recent funding announcements for similar infrastructure?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Bancroft, who is a very passionate supporter of public transport and infrastructure in this state. We are seeing our third record infrastructure investment out of four budgets in Queensland—\$21.7 billion investment in infrastructure. We have rolled out Fairer Fares, which means that a record number of people are using public transport under this government. We are seeing Cross River Rail progress and roll out. We have built the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2. We have duplicated the line from Helensvale to Coomera. We are rolling out smart ticketing, as outlined previously—world-class, world-best digital ticketing—greater productivity.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera.

Mr BAILEY: Other cities like London are using it. We are also bringing the TransLink brand and some of its features to Townsville in conjunction with the Townsville bus hub, to invest in the Townsville public transport system.

In our budget last year we saw a 10 per cent increase in investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government in infrastructure in our state and a six per cent cut by the Morrison-Abbott-Turnbull government—a withdrawal of funding from Queensland by them. In this context of federal cuts to infrastructure in Queensland, yesterday I saw a quote from the Morrison government themselves. Let me read the quote from the Prime Minister: 'More than \$27 billion has now been budgeted towards major road and rail projects in Victoria.' We cannot get a dollar out of them for Cross River Rail, yet there is a mountain of announcements at the last minute in Victoria. There are pages of them. There are pages of last-minute infrastructure—road and rail investments—in Victoria, yet we get zero for Cross River Rail.

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: We get ripped off on Sunshine Coast rail duplication. We get ripped off on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3—\$400 million is the shortfall, yet there is \$27 billion going to Victoria.

We have seen cuts and chaos from Morrison, from Turnbull and from Abbott. That is going to be a picnic compared to the Pauline Hanson-Clive Palmer-Morrison coalition. That is what is going to come. The cuts and the chaos that Queensland has suffered under this government is going to be a picnic if that lot get the power after this election.

They get \$700 million for a rail line to Geelong at 80 per cent; we get nothing for Cross River Rail. To cap it off, they have announced five park and rides in Queensland, but how many do Victoria get? They will get 25 in Victoria.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr BAILEY: All I can say is that the Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, must be pretty worried.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, under standing order 253A you can leave the chamber for one hour. You were already under a warning.

Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 10.49 am.

Police Service, Resources

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. I refer to media reports on 10 April that the Palaszczuk government had cut the number of police in the homicide cold case unit. Will the minister stop this cut which may leave murders unsolved and murderers on Queensland streets?

Mr RYAN: The member might have the opportunity later to correct the record because in the very same media report, right at the end, the live cross to the reporter said, 'Actually police aren't being cut from the cold case homicide unit.' This is what happens when you see only half the story. The reporter at the end of that story in the live cross said, 'Police aren't being cut.'

The member might have an opportunity to review the vision, maybe ring up Tim Arvier at Channel 9 and say, 'Mate, what did you say in that live cross?', and then come back and correct the record. Our government is the government which has invested more police resources in units like the homicide cold case unit. A few years ago we committed additional money to support the good work that teams like the organised crime gang group does, like the homicide cold case team does and like Taskforce Maxima does. We are continuing to grow the resources there.

I am assured by the commissioner that the resourcing to the cold case unit means that there is no police officer reduction in that unit. No wonder why, because it is one of the leading cold case units in the nation. Queensland Police Service's cold case homicide unit is recognised by many as one of the leading units because they get results. Just recently we saw some significant arrests in some very old cold cases. They continue to invest in that. They continue to provide whatever closure they can to people who have been affected by those most heinous crimes of homicide. I look forward to the member correcting the record and assuring the House of this government's commitment to police resourcing, particularly in the cold case homicide unit.

Electricity Prices

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Can the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is putting downward pressure on prices, and is he aware of any alternatives?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. I know that she knows that families in Redlands are enjoying lower power prices thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Prices in regional Queensland continue to fall. Our second round of the \$50 asset dividend will start to appear in power bills this week. Can I remind everyone that Queensland has the lowest average electricity prices of any mainland state on the National Electricity Market? That is because of our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan and it is because we own our power assets.

As prices in Queensland fall, it is chaos and confusion in the LNP. Who can forget Abbott signing up to the Paris Agreement, not realising he is supposed to do something after he signed it? Then Turnbull knifed Abbott. Turnbull gave us Finkel. Just about everyone said 'yes' but Abbott said 'no' so Finkel was gone. Then Turnbull gave us the NEG. Everyone said 'yes'; Abbott said 'no', and the NEG was gone. Turnbull was NEG-less. Actually it is a painful condition: NEG-lessness. My medical colleagues inform me that symptoms may include sharp, stabbing pains in the back.

It is not to be confused with the Queensland strain—same symptoms caused by a waterborne vector from the Broadwater. Now we have 'ScoMo', the smiling assassin with his price cap notion. This could actually increase power prices for some customers on market offers and increase some standing offer prices here in Queensland. The Australian Energy Council said that customers would be better off without it. It is a half-baked proposal. ScoMo's price cap could mean that South-East Queensland families who have made the effort to shop around and get a good market offer could lose those savings. Maybe his new best mate Clive has the answer. What does Clive think about energy? Who knows? Make it up—he does.

What energy deal have the Nationals done with One Nation for these preferences? Are we going to build a new coal-fired power station along every one of those new dams in every marginal seat west of the great divide? Next time people put their hand in their pocket to pay their power bill it could be ScoMo or it could be Clive with their hand in the pocket first. How would they know? The only sure way to avoid the Palmer-Hanson-Morrison coalition is to vote for Shorten and Labor.

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, Industrial Action

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. The minister is aware of industrial action this week at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre in response to deserting the government's 'buy local' policy at the centre and stalling enterprise bargaining negotiations. Will the minister outline what action the minister has taken to address and fix these issues?

Mr RYAN: I appreciate the question from the member. I also appreciate the opportunity that I had with the member about a month ago to discuss this issue and assure the member that Queensland Corrective Services complies with the Buy Queensland procurement strategy. It is a strategy which is delivering great local benefits right across the state, particularly in places around Lotus Glen in the Cairns region. That policy is all about delivering on local benefits for the community as well as getting good value for taxpayers.

Up in Lotus Glen we see a number of local suppliers taking benefit of the Buy Queensland strategy, but we also have to have transparent, clear and accountable competitive tender processes. That is what taxpayers expect of us. I am assured by Queensland Corrective Services that, as we continue to update our agreements with providers, all of those agreements with providers will comply with the Buy Queensland policy and deliver those outcomes which I have explained—local benefits for the community as well as value for taxpayers. I also have good news about the Lotus Glen farm, and that is that the Lotus Glen farm continues to provide the same quality of supplies to the prison, delivering great rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners who participate in that farm program as well as savings to taxpayers by providing high-quality produce to prisoners for their meals.

I am also assured that there is a massive contribution through Queensland Corrective Services to the community around the Lotus Glen correctional facility because we employ over 300 people in full-time public servant jobs. We respect the work that they do and we respect the bargaining process which is currently underway around enterprise bargaining negotiations. I look forward to those negotiations continuing and have faith that a happy medium will be agreed to by all parties.

Let us talk more about our Buy Queensland procurement strategy when it comes to projects being delivered by Queensland Corrective Services. We can go no further than Capricornia Correctional Centre. Let us have a look at the investment there—a \$241 million capital works investment which is already delivering outstanding local opportunities. What we have seen there is 215,000 hours of work undertaken on the project. Almost 90 per cent of that work has been conducted by local people, and local suppliers are getting the benefit. We will see local people continue to benefit from that project including 172 jobs during construction and then ongoing jobs, which is 130 jobs, once the expanded prison is fully commissioned. This is Queensland Corrective Services delivering for communities right across the state.

(Time expired)

Sport, Women's Participation

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister advise the House on how the Morrison government's wages policy fails to support women's participation in sport?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Jordan for the question. She is a passionate advocate for women's sport—first to the table to make sure that the Brisbane Lions AFLW facility is being delivered as we speak. This week's release by the Morrison government of Sport Australia's AusPlay Survey makes for sobering reading. What it shows us is that women and girls in Australia are missing out on the chance to play sport. What it shows us is that only about one-third of Australian women are meeting Commonwealth physical health guidelines.

The data shows us that the biggest barrier to participation in sport is the ability for women and girls to pay for it. It shows us that working women on minimum rates are 30 per cent less likely to play sport than those with higher incomes. The data shows that, if you are a girl in one of those low-income households, you make up a whopping 42 per cent of the Australians who do not get to play sport. In this nation, it is getting harder and harder for working families to afford to pay for their daughters to play sport.

Scott Morrison's cuts to workers' wages bear out in the results of the 2019 AusPlay Survey. There are 1.7 million Australian women now earning under \$40,000 a year. Casualisation is running at a rate of 25 per cent. Cuts to wages for hospitality and retail workers are running at \$6,000 per year. Through all of the coalition's cuts and chaos, these workers have suffered under the lowest wages growth in a generation.

The Prime Minister has done nothing to help that 42 per cent of Queensland women be able to afford sport. He voted eight times to cut penalty rates for those workers. The Morrison government simply cannot bring itself to help women in this nation get a pay rise. It is no surprise when the LNP are more focused on doing deals with parties whose candidates clearly have scant regard for the status of women in this country. When it comes to sleaze, the only thing that is worse than the revelations of behaviour of former members of the LNP in recent weeks is a Prime Minister who blocks wage increases to Australian workers.

How did this Prime Minister respond when he was asked to match a 20 per cent increase for early childhood professionals and a 100 per cent increase in the childcare subsidy for Australian women? Did he support that wage increase so that those families could afford the sport for their

daughters? He said no to that wage increase for early childhood professionals so that they could afford sport for their daughters. There is one thing that Australians know about this Prime Minister. They do not want him to be captain of 'Team Australia' any longer.

Racing Queensland, Integrity

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for Racing. Will the minister advise why Racing Queensland is doing the integrity job of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, expressly contravening a royal commission recommendation of Alan MacSporran QC?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the shadow minister for the question. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to ensuring integrity in racing in Queensland. That is why we established QRIC in 2016 in response to the MacSporran report. Equally, Racing Queensland as the principal racing authority are also the administrators in terms of the nominations and acceptances process.

I can advise the House that Racing Queensland sought independent advice about their powers under the revised Australian Rules of Racing and conducted a process where they sought information as to why they should not use their power under AR55 to refuse to accept nominations from a particular trainer. After receiving that information, Racing Queensland then made a determination that it was in the interests of racing to refuse those nominations. I think it is very important that everyone understands that there are some elements of this dynamic, of this area, that have moved on from the time of the MacSporran report.

On the issue of QRIC, I have to say that the suggestion that QRIC is failing is absolutely 100 per cent bunkum. The simple fact is that, if QRIC were not in existence as a result of this government's actions as a result of the MacSporran report, then the very complex case like the one that the shadow minister is alluding to would simply not have been undertaken. The strong powers and resources that were given to QRIC are the ones that give them the ability to conduct much more complex work than the old system would ever have allowed. For those opposite to stand in this place or on social media and claim that the system that has progressed this case to where it is now is failing is utterly misleading and damaging to the reputation of racing in this state.

As we kick off another fantastic Winter Racing Carnival with increased prize money and upgraded races, there are those opposite who are doing nothing but talk down the industry and talk down the code. I will never forget that it was the bungling from those on the other side of the House that led us to having to fix Eagle Farm. We will see a great outcome and increased investment in infrastructure that will deliver a tremendous industry that will continue to perform. I encourage everyone to get out there and enjoy the fantastic Winter Racing Carnival.

National Disability Insurance Scheme, Transition

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. Will the minister update the House on the NDIS transition in Queensland?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question and her dedication to people with disabilities, their families and the sector. The NDIS continues to roll out across Queensland. It is a scheme that we know will change thousands and thousands of lives. The commitment and the work that is being delivered during this transition will see more than 50,000 people enter the scheme by 30 June, but what is incredibly disappointing is that the heavy lifting to get these people into the scheme has been borne by the Palaszczuk government. This to me is something that is incredibly important. As a joint scheme with shared responsibility between the Commonwealth and the state, it should be delivered together.

What we have done though to make sure people with a disability receive the support they should get is we have stepped in. We have seconded more than 118 Queensland public servants to plug important gaps in the NDIA and support planning processes and support for people with a disability. We have spent more than \$25 million to make sure that participants and providers are ready and willing to provide support and have the information they need. We have also had to step in and reinstate the Taxi Subsidy Scheme to make sure participants have the transport that they need. We have had to reinstate community nursing programs to make sure people are getting the medical support that they need. The heavy lifting continues. To further drive workforce supply and capability to meet demand under the NDIS, we have invested almost \$1 million in this financial year in partnership with Jobs Queensland to provide funding to the highly successful WorkAbility project.

Unfortunately, what we did see from the Commonwealth government this year was an utter betrayal of people with a disability and Australians who supported the NDIA. What we did see was a desperate Commonwealth government that created a projected surplus of \$1.6 billion on the back of people with a disability, on the back of the NDIS underspend. This is money that was meant for people with a disability and money that has been taken away to prop up a failing government. The latest is that we have seen the resignation of the Morrison government appointed CEO, Rob De Luca. He has seen the writing on the wall and he has jumped ship.

I stand by the Palaszczuk government's absolute commitment to people with a disability. We will do everything we can to ensure that people with a disability enter the scheme and have the ability to have complete choice and control over the lives and goals they want. This is something that everyone on this side of the House will stand by and are proud of each and every day.

Drought Support, Report

Mr PERRETT: My question without notice is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Given that 65 per cent of Queensland is still drought declared, will the minister commit to releasing the independent report into Queensland drought support that the minister has had since January?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for his question. Two days ago, I announced that the drought declarations in this state had increased from 58 per cent to 65 per cent, and there is no doubt that this is a concern. It should be a concern to everyone in this state, particularly our primary producers who provide the food and fibre for our wonderful state as well as opportunities for export.

Included in the additional declarations were Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Livingstone and there are partial further declarations in Banana and Western Downs. I am sure those affected members opposite and on this side would appreciate the opportunity of accepting those recommendations from the local drought committees, as I have done on previous occasions.

I must say that we will thoroughly investigate the good work that has been done by those two eminent people from the agriculture sector, both Ruth Wade and Charles Burke, who have provided a detailed report that the cabinet is considering. The cabinet will consider opportunities in that report, looking at the extensive period of this particular drought—some seven years in effect. We are seeing the diverse change in terms of weather from the monsoonal events in the north-west of the state to the droughted properties in the west, including some areas of the Gregory and Warrego electorates. In those areas we have been at the forefront of providing investment of over \$670 million in the form of drought relief for those primary producers. We will continue that investment. The Palaszczuk government always supports our farmers and always will.

The Premier and I went down to the drought summit last year and heard from the Prime Minister about the investment they had sought to make not only in recent times to assist primary producers. As a cabinet we will consider that report looking for opportunities in terms of things like emergency water infrastructure rebates, and the federal government withdrew that assistance of 25 per cent for 2½ years. The Palaszczuk government has continued the support of 50 per cent throughout this drought to provide future opportunities to assist those primary producers, whereas that miserable federal government withdrew 25 per cent of the funding. That was on the back of farmers who are doing it tough and are going through drought. They withdrew 25 per cent of the emergency water infrastructure assistance. We will always stand by farmers in Queensland. We always do and we always will.

(Time expired)

Fire and Emergency Services, Resources

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on QFES and the rural fire brigade, and are there any other positions?

Mr CRAWFORD: I want to thank the member for Mackay for her question and her strong advocacy in Mackay for all arms of QFES. Before I move on to talk about the Rural Fire Service, I want to touch on another point. This morning in Brisbane just after six o'clock—in fact, at 6.06 am to be precise—the switchboard for Brisbane FireCom lit up with a significant fire in South Brisbane. Within minutes multiple responding crews were getting confirmed reports of a structure well alight. Police that were on scene early were confirming that there were persons reported missing. By the time that job finished around 16 of Brisbane's appliances were on scene at that job including specialist gear from the member for Bulimba's area at Cannon Hill. We have reports of one station officer who sustained an injury and we are monitoring that to see how it goes. Critically, there was a period of around 20 minutes

when QFES had strong intelligence that there were three people missing, and during that time there were multiple crews in breathing apparatus. I want to place on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to those hardworking men and women this morning.

As Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, one of the organisations I work with the most is the United Firefighters Union, and I want to touch on that briefly. This weekend is obviously Labour Day. I want to thank the United Firefighters Union for their hard work in advocating for the jobs across Queensland—the hundred firefighters that we are employing across Queensland. Leading into that, I also want to respond to the member's question in relation to the Rural Fire Service. There was some incorrect reporting coming from those opposite in respect of changes that were happening within the rural firefighting area. I table a media release which came from those opposite.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 12 March 2019, from the shadow minister for fire, emergency services and volunteers, Mr Lachlan Millar MP, titled 'Labor strips control from rural fire brigades' [686].

It states—

Dedicated budgets for every Rural Fire Service Queensland region will also be absorbed into the QFES regional budgets.

That is incorrect. It goes on—

The Rural Fire Service Queensland is a shining example of how to model and operate a successful volunteer-based firefighting service ...

I agree with that one, but I do disagree with the fact that the LNP still have a petition online that makes reference to the fact that QFES is changing the way that reporting is occurring. I ask those opposite to withdraw that straightaway. It is inappropriate. It is not correct—

(Time expired)


Gold Coast, Casino Proposal


Mr MOLHOEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier rule out Carey Park and other public land at the Broadwater Parklands' historic Queens Park Tennis Centre, Southport Croquet Club and Southport Bowls Club for the development of a second Gold Coast casino and global tourism hub?


Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. Tune in next sitting, members. Members, I ask that if you are leaving the chamber can you please do so quietly.


PRIVILEGE

Misconduct in Chamber, Apology; Disruption of Proceedings, Apology

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.15 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to Mr Speaker's ruling this morning and hereby unreservedly apologise to the House for my conduct and disruption to the proceedings of the House.


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (11.15 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to Mr Speaker's ruling this morning and I hereby unreservedly apologise to the House for my conduct and disruption to the proceedings of the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to Mr Speaker's ruling this morning and I hereby unreservedly apologise to the House for my conduct and the disruption to the proceedings of the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to Mr Speaker's ruling this morning and hereby unreservedly apologise to the House for my conduct and the disruption to the proceedings of the House.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Justice Reforms

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.16 am): I wish to make a ministerial statement about the youth justice reforms which I announced this week. I announced \$550 million worth of investment since last year when we transitioned 17-year-olds to the youth justice system. At that time

we committed \$200 million to implement our reforms and this week I committed an additional \$320 million for the second tranche of those reforms. I note that earlier the member for Kawana was trying to take credit for the 12 new beds that we actually just opened at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, which was part of the \$200 million that we committed at that point in time.

In February last year we had committed \$200 million for infrastructure and security upgrades at youth detention centres, including 16 beds at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and 12 beds at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. That money included recruitment and training of 98 additional staff focusing on mental health and therapeutic services, behaviour management and incident prevention. This week in addition to over \$177 million in non-infrastructure initiatives, we also announced the funding of a 32-bed youth detention centre at Wacol and an extension of the facility at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.


What we saw going into the last election was the LNP promising to rip \$150 million out of the youth justice system. What were we to do with the significant reform that needs to happen in youth justice? We cannot keep doing the same thing we have been doing in youth justice year after year and expect the results to be any different. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has made a major commitment. It is very clear who is putting the money into these reforms, who is purposeful and who knows what they want to do about it. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 1 May (see p. 1393), on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.19 am), continuing: Queensland Health was a basket case under former Labor premier Anna Bligh, and it is now bedlam under Anastacia Palaszczuk and her hapless Minister for Health, Steven Miles. The health of Queenslanders is too important to risk. As a sign of how much Labor thinks about preventive health, it has taken over four years to debate these changes and the minister could only speak about the bill for four minutes last night. The LNP supports this bill because the LNP supports preventive health.

This bill seeks to establish a health promotion agency known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, HWQ, as a statutory body. HWQ will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities. The creation of HWQ is a reaction to the well-publicised issue of chronic disease and its effects in Queensland. Chronic disease—including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, oral disease and some forms of cancers—is now the major health burden on individuals, communities, the health sector and governments in Queensland, Australia and globally.

The dominance of chronic disease in Queensland is a relatively recent phenomenon that looks likely to keep increasing into the future. This increase threatens to reduce the quality of life of Queenslanders and will place increased stress on the state's health system. Chronic disease causes up to 88 per cent of the health problems and early deaths in Queensland, with an excess borne by the disadvantaged in the community. One-third of the burden of disease is attributed to preventable risk factors such as poor nutrition, obesity, high blood pressure and smoking, which accounts for 43 per cent of deaths in Queensland. Queensland, like the rest of Australia, is facing an epidemic of overweight and obese children and adults. Sixty-four per cent of Queenslanders are overweight or obese with a further 23 per cent at risk of being overweight in the future.

There are large differences in the risk factors that lead to disease and premature death across the Queensland population. Obesity rates are: 49 per cent higher in socio-economically disadvantaged areas of Queensland compared to advantaged areas; 35 per cent higher in remote areas; 39 per cent higher in very remote areas of Queensland compared to major cities; and 39 per cent higher amongst Indigenous Queenslanders than non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Perhaps it is most troubling that 21 per cent of children aged between five and 17 years are overweight or obese. Excess weight is the largest cause of ill health and early death in Queensland, causing 8.5 per cent of the total health burden. Smoking is the second largest cause at 7.2 per cent.

We have all heard these worrying statistics, however, most chronic diseases are preventable. It is estimated that about 4,000 premature deaths each year in Queensland could be prevented by people modifying their lifestyle. *The health of Queenslanders 2018: report of the Chief Health Officer*

Queensland indicated that the health system continues to face public health challenges including: high rates of obesity; an increasing chronic disease burden; disparity in the life expectancy and chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and the adverse effects of socio-economic factors. Combined with a growing and ageing population, these factors are negatively impacting the quality of life of Queenslanders, the capacity of the health system and the productivity of the economy.

The cost associated with these risk factors is significant for individuals and the community. In adults, being overweight or obese frequently results in chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer, which can reduce life expectancy by up to 10 years. It is estimated that obesity related illness cost the Queensland healthcare system \$756 million in 2015. When the additional costs of absenteeism from employment, loss of productivity, loss of wellbeing and early death are included, the total financial impact on the Queensland economy was estimated to be \$11.2 billion. In socio-economically disadvantaged areas the rate of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions was 50 per cent higher than those in advantaged areas in 2015.

Remoteness is also a key factor in Queensland, with rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions in remote and very remote areas 33 per cent higher than in major cities in 2015. The disease and injury burden for Indigenous Queenslanders is 2.2 times that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders, and rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions is 70 per cent higher than in the non-Indigenous population.

Improving the health of the community requires an effort across three tiers of national, state and local governments and a range of sectors—education, transport, employment, housing and industry—to develop and implement policies and strategies that influence people's everyday environments. Health is strongly influenced by the complex everyday environments in which people live, work and play. HWQ is seeking to address this in a way Queensland has not seen before. HWQ provides a new way of working by investing in innovative projects generated by local community partnerships to create environments that support the health and wellbeing of Queensland communities.

There is strong stakeholder support for the bill. Submissions were made by 33 organisations including the Cancer Council Queensland, the Stroke Foundation, Diabetes Queensland, the Heart Foundation and AMA Queensland. Last month the LNP hosted a preventive health round table at Parliament House with key public health advocates, and I want to publically thank and acknowledge those organisations for their attendance. The LNP supports this bill because the LNP supports preventive health. It is our hope that HWQ achieves all it sets out to achieve and that we begin to see a shift in statistics around obesity and the chronic disease crisis gripping Queensland.

There are several key issues I would like the minister to clarify in his reply to this second reading speech. Will there be whole-of-government input from the strategies that are developed through the board and new statutory body? How much of the overall budget of \$32.955 million will be distributed into grants to organisations as opposed to new bureaucracy? What will the staffing levels and wages budget for operating Health and Wellbeing Queensland be in their first budget? What will happen to the preventive health branch within Queensland Health? How much of the overall budget is new money as opposed to existing grants that are given to non-government organisations? What KPIs are going to be put in place to measure the outcomes from the grants that are distributed and the goals and strategies set by the board? We would like the minister to address these concerns. Preventive health is very important, but is just one part of the policy response to public health issues.

I want to conclude by saying that the minister's recent announcement about billboard advertising was very disappointing. If anything, the government should be upping the ante on what they spend to educate consumers and make them aware of certain food groups. The fact that Stadiums Queensland advertising was excluded from the announcement makes a complete mockery of the policy intent in the first place. The minister should be focused on more beds, not billboards.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Before I call the member for Nudgee, I note that in the gallery today we have students from Algester State School in the electorate of Algester, Calamvale Community College and St Bernadine's primary school.

I remind everyone who is on a warning; that is, the members for Bundaberg, Southern Downs, Thuringowa, Nicklin, Cooper and Mudgeeraba.



Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (11.27 am): It is a pleasure to rise in this House to support the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. In 2015, as chair of the former Health and Ambulance Services Committee, we inquired into the potential roles, scope and strategic directions of a Queensland health promotion commission. That inquiry's genesis was a bold and, I believe, visionary election commitment

of our government from opposition at the time to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders by reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and health inequity in this state. This commitment stood in stark contrast to the over \$8 million in annual grants to help provide health prevention, promotion and early intervention and the 177 health promotion and prevention officers who were cut under the previous LNP Newman government.

During that initial inquiry the committee found that there is strong support from non-government and tertiary health and academic stakeholders for the establishment of a health promotion commission. The committee travelled to Perth to meet with the West Australian Health Promotion Foundation; Melbourne to meet with the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation; and teleconferenced with the South Australian Department of Health and Ageing, who outlined their HiAP approach, to allow the committee to consider comparative health promotion arrangements across Australia.

While each jurisdiction does it differently, each jurisdiction spoke strongly of the importance of having a coordinated strategic focus on health promotion and prevention efforts to address the social determinants of health and reduce the risk factors of chronic disease and, in doing so, the significant cost of tertiary health care to the community.

The former health committee also examined the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017, which sought to give effect to the findings of the earlier inquiry but which sadly lapsed when the House was dissolved for the last state election. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the former health minister, Cameron Dick, under whom the first two inquiries were conducted and who, along with his office, gave great support to this initiative. It was very gratifying to have the opportunity to see the process through to fruition in the current parliament, though now as the chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, when the bill was referred to us.

As I said in my foreword, this bill and the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Queensland provides an exciting opportunity to provide long-term strategic leadership and direction on whole-of-government initiatives and partnerships to address the social determinants of health. It can act as an independent champion, engage with the diverse sectors engaged in health promotion, add to the empirical base underlying health promotion policy in Queensland and foster the innovative thinking required to reduce health inequity.

The bill establishes the agency as an independent statutory body to work in partnership with other government and non-government organisations to promote health and wellbeing. Key amongst these will be Queensland Health. The work of Health and Wellbeing Queensland will include funding and supporting evidence based and locally supported initiatives, including the allocation of grants to contribute to improved health across Queensland, to promote a cross-sectoral approach to health promotion and to provide advice to the minister on the same.

The objective of Health and Wellbeing Queensland is to reduce the burden of chronic diseases through targeting risk factors such as poor nutrition, low physical activity and obesity, and reducing health inequity in Queensland. We all know that chronic disease is experienced disparately by those who are often most vulnerable across our community. Research and best practice in illness prevention and health promotion has increasingly focused on the social determinants of health—that is, the circumstances in which people grow, live, work and age—and the systems put in place to deal with illness. The interaction of these factors is often complex and by no means uniform for each individual or population group, so we need to be innovative, we need to be flexible, we need to take a cross-sectoral approach and we need to harness the absolute powerhouse of expertise, research and innovation that exists within Queensland to find localised and targeted solutions as well as identify gaps in research and keep our understanding of best policy practice in this regard evolving.

I believe that this is what the highly successful VicHealth Health Promotion Foundation has done in Victoria over the past 32 years, with bipartisan support. I believe that we can similarly advance health promotion in this state, but it will take long-term shared political will to do so. In Victoria, Labor and conservative governments alike have recognised the benefits of investment in preventive health measures. Because of it, they have a health promotion agency that has spanned three decades. We know that what you invest in prevention you save in tertiary health care and avoidable human suffering. We get it. We always have. With long-term sustained commitment, long-term outcomes can be achieved for the benefit of all Queenslanders, and Queenslanders deserve that investment.

The consistent theme throughout each inquiry has been the strong support amongst health, medical and sporting bodies, non-government organisations and tertiary research institutes for the establishment of a Queensland health promotion agency. These stakeholders, like the Heart Foundation, Cancer Council, Stroke Foundation, QUT, Diabetes Queensland, AMAQ, Health

Consumers Queensland and QIMR, among others, are the powerhouse of expertise, research and innovation that I spoke of earlier. Many of them, certainly all those I just mentioned, have been involved in each inquiry and at every hearing. I also thank the Department of Health for its assistance and expertise throughout all three inquiries. I know it has put a lot of effort and consideration into how to best operationalise this policy commitment.

Finally, I thank the Minister for Health, Steven Miles, for his commitment to setting up an agency that can make a true difference to the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders for generations to come. The minister knows that I am passionate about evidence based policy, and I know he is likewise. He has responded to every recommendation of previous inquiries and taken all feedback on board to bring forward the best possible model. I commend the bill to the House.



Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (11.33 am): The legislation we are debating today, the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019, is very similar to the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017, which lapsed when an election was called in that year. The current bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 28 February, with a reporting date of 18 April. Here we have yet another bill referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee even though it clearly belongs with the health committee—just like its predecessor, the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017. It seems that this Labor government is not able to manage the business of government.

As is usual practice, stakeholders and subscribers were invited to make written submissions on the bill. Thirty-three were received. There was a public briefing from Queensland Health on 13 March and a public hearing on 1 April. On 18 April report No. 16 of the 56th Parliament from the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee was tabled here in the parliament, with one recommendation—that is, that the bill be passed. As deputy chair of this committee I thank my fellow committee members, our secretariat, departmental staff, submitters and witnesses.

The committee report on the 2017 bill even went so far as to recommend that a Queensland health promotion commission be established, but the committee could not agree on a proposed model. The 2017 bill targeted populations of children and families, while the 2019 HWQ Bill aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. Mr Michael Walsh, Director-General of Queensland Health, advised our committee—

The agency will engage in new and innovative partnerships with business, industry, community organisations, academia and governments to help create healthy environments and shift social conditions.

The objective of the bill before us is to establish a health promotion agency, to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as a statutory body and to provide annual reports. Chronic disease is spreading throughout our state like an insidious scourge, with much higher numbers occurring in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, where rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions were 50 per cent above those in advantaged areas back in 2015. In remote and Indigenous communities, rates of death, as we have heard from the shadow minister, were 33 per cent higher than in major cities.

Obesity was recognised as the primary health issue by many of the submitters. Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland's Chief Health Officer, stated that there has not been an increase in overweight or obese children since 2007 but neither was there a decrease. That is still 21 per cent of kids between five and 17 years of age carrying weight that can cause disease and medical problems as they reach adulthood. For adults there has not been an increase in the number since 2011 but, again, there has not been a decrease. It has remained level.

The 2018 Chief Health Officer report found that 2.5 million Queensland adults and 224,000 Queensland children are overweight or obese. HWQ has been set a target to increase the population of adults and children with a healthy body weight by 10 per cent by 2026. The minister in his introductory speech stated—

It is convenient for some to blame individuals for their weight. However, the personal responsibility frame has the benefit of absolving everyone else of responsibility. It leads us to ignore the root causes and, worse still, the intentional actions which drive the obesity epidemic.

He continued—

While I accept that every one of us has to take some responsibility for our own health, I have not seen any evidence anywhere that the obesity epidemic in Australia is the result of waves of people waking up and deciding one day that they would prefer to be fat.

I recognise that there are many vulnerable Queenslanders who for socio-economic and geographic reasons have poor diets and very limited access to healthy foods; however, they do not represent two-thirds of all adult Queenslanders who fall into the overweight or obese category. As many honourable members are aware, I am married to a GP. I have been a member of this parliament for over 15 years. I remember in 2004 my husband warning me of the temptations of the buffet and indulging in more calories than I would burn, saying that if I put on only one kilogram a year it would add up to a lot. Those words ring true today.

An opposition member: Yes, they do!

Mrs STUCKEY: He did not know that I would be here for 15 years—or maybe he did! I also recall him telling me of an overweight patient who used to say, ‘I don’t eat much, Doc.’ This was in the days of Sizzler restaurants. One night when we were there we saw this person go to the buffet six times. Others would tell my husband that they did not drink much alcohol either, but they consumed up to a dozen stubbies every day.

Some responsibility must be taken by individuals, and GPs like my husband and local professional trainers are doing their bit, even though, despite proactive language, they can be abused by patients and others. During the committee’s public hearing diabetes specialist Dr Sultan Linjawi called for the introduction of smaller portion sizes, which would thereby reduce the amount that people consume. This is a positive suggestion and one that I personally have embraced.

As mentioned earlier, there were 33 submissions for this bill, almost all from health related organisations that expressed widespread support for a body dedicated to the promotion of health, and they put forward some worthy recommendations. However, there was a fairly strong theme regarding just how HWQ commission will work and the amount of money from the total funding model that should be allocated to grants and that the process for distribution of those grants must be open, competitive and transparent. Other recommendations included the necessity for long-term investment, ongoing research and a desire for the HWQ agency to work with existing networks as a priority. Additionally, there were comments about the need for independence, adequate funding and the importance of reporting issues and outcomes in a timely fashion.


Governance was also raised, as was the composition of the advisory board. The board will consist of up to 10 members, a chief executive officer and staff to be appointed for four years by the Governor in Council. At least one and up to four of the board members will be chief executives of government departments and at least one must be an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander. Professor Whiteman from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute indicated that an amount in the vicinity of two per cent of the total Health budget should be allocated to prevention in the health space. The Heart Foundation suggested that 80 per cent of the funding allocated to HWQ be available for grants. There is an initial operating budget of \$32.955 million for 2019-20 but no doubt more will be required in the future. Current preventive health activities provided by Queensland Health will transition to HWQ to deliver.

How will HWQ achieve its target? On 21 April the *Sunday Mail* revealed the Palaszczuk government’s plans to restrict junk food ads on 2,000 publicly owned sites for ads that feature high fat, salt and sugar products as well as alcohol to be phased out from the rail network, busways, bus shelters, roadsides and outside major hospitals. These bans will cost the government millions in lost revenue—and, yes, we can all argue it is for a good cause—but stadiums will still be able to advertise junk food, so where is the fairness in that? How will this assist those in remote communities where these billboards are not present and who have difficulty accessing fairly priced fresh food?

I note that the *Courier-Mail* partnered with the Heart Foundation to call on the federal government to establish a national nutrition strategy. Way back in August 2008 the then Queensland Labor government released a discussion paper about junk food advertising on children’s television to look at the pros and cons of regulating junk food advertising on television. I decided to ask our wonderful library to see what happened with that brief and whether legislation was brought forward, but it could not find any—I thank it for its brief—and this was revealed by Steven Wardill in 2011 who accused then premier Bligh of a ‘failure on food ban promise’ as she handballed the problem to the federal Labor government to deal with.

I also asked the library whether there were any other research or discussion papers undertaken by the parliament. Again the answer was no. We are told this bill was an election promise in 2015 but, as honourable members can see, successive Labor governments over the past dozen years did nothing about this serious problem, apart from a bit of legislation in 2016 requiring food outlets to display

kilojoules on food items. A recent study highlighted in the paper today has shown that in a regional Australian hospital the impact of increasingly big bodies of Australians is wearing out hips and knees, with nine out of 10 joint replacements classified as pre-obese or obese, posing a higher risk for anaesthetic and surgery. For this legislation to work—and we hope it does—the outcomes must be measured with dedicated monitoring and an evaluation framework, and long-term investment is essential. These strategies and programs need to be adapted to local needs and take account of differing social, cultural and economic systems if we are ever to reduce this scourge.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.43 am): I rise to speak to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. I first want to thank the minister and the department for the wonderful support that the committee received from them and thank the stakeholders involved because it was very interesting. I am very glad that the education committee inquired into this bill because this is something that I have been very interested in for many years. While I am on my feet, I want to congratulate the proactive approach that the Palaszczuk government is taking in terms of the advertising of junk food at railway stations and on government buildings. It is time that we took a stand on this because we know from the report of this committee the adverse effects this is having on health. We also hear about the fact that the Health bill is escalating over time, so this is a proactive step to ensure that the Health bill does not escalate in years to come. The explanatory notes state—

The objective of the Bill is to establish a health promotion agency, to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQ), as a statutory body. HWQ will contribute to:


- improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders;
- reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease; and
- reducing health inequities.

As we know, we have to reduce the high rates of obesity. We have to be proactive, and that is what this government is all about with this bill. It is about being proactive. We all know that we will not be able to change eating habits overnight. It is going to take time to get people used to eating the right foods, but we need to have a government agency to help people do this. The Palaszczuk government that I am a part of is being proactive in this field unlike the Newman government, which cut agencies like this in the slash-and-burn years that it was in power. We hope that we are all on the same page now in realising that we have to be proactive. We have to educate people, and that came out loud and clear in the hearings held with stakeholders. All sides of the House have to work together to be proactive to ensure that people have access to information and are educated about good food, good nourishment and exercise. Many people today are not educated in terms of the right eating habits, ensuring that they are getting the right amount of exercise or the sugar or salt content in foods. As a government we have to ensure that people are aware of this, and this bill goes in the right direction.

I congratulate Queensland Health for this. We hear a lot of negative stories and bad things about Queensland Health from those opposite, but all I ever hear in my patch are good stories about the WBHHS. This is a step in the right direction. This has to be one of the best policies to come out of Health for a long time to ensure that people are heading in the right direction and eating the right foods. Some of the stakeholders mentioned putting programs such as these into schools to ensure that the younger generation know the healthy benefits of this lifestyle.

I made a comment during a committee hearing—and it was picked up by the *Brisbane Times*—that you could buy 100 party pies for \$20. In my electorate I was attacked for saying that by some of my opponents, but I was correct in saying that you could buy 100 party pies for \$20 in low socio-economic areas. Some of the worries that people come to see me about is the high cost of food, cutbacks in wages and the cost of living going out of control and people were buying party pies for dinner. Instead of feeding wholesome food to their children every night, they were buying party pies which were satisfying the hunger of the children. That really concerned me.

As a member of the government, this bill is heading in the right direction. I congratulate the minister, I congratulate Queensland Health and I congratulate all of the stakeholders involved. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (11.48 am): I rise to add to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. There are a lot of good things that could come out of this, but I want to reflect on some of the things that the member for Maryborough had to say in his contribution. It is interesting to note that the member for Maryborough says that the Palaszczuk government is being proactive with this bill—proactive in that it made an election commitment in 2015 to bring this forward and sent it off to a

committee. The committee decided that this was a good idea but could not decide on how it should be constructed, so this issue did not come in the form of a bill into the House until May 2017. That bill then sat on the *Notice Paper* for six months until the government went to an election and it lapsed, and now we see the bill back before the House in 2019.

The member for Maryborough's proactive activity from the Palaszczuk government is to wait for four years for something that is apparently important to the health and wellbeing of the people of Queensland. The member for Maryborough thinks that being proactive is to wait for four years to do nothing about hospital ramping, to run down the health system, to put the health system right back where it was under the bad days of Anna Bligh when she wanted to break up the health system into a number of areas and maybe—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Thank you, member for Greenslopes. Member for Burleigh, I think you are sticking to the long title of the bill and the general principles. Please keep that in mind when you proceed.

Mr HART: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, Anna Bligh wanted to break up the health system. This bill is breaking up the health department. We know that the Labor Party loves bureaucracy. This bill puts in place what could end up being a quango.

Having said that, I think there could be some good outcomes. The member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Currumbin covered a lot of those outcomes. One of the proposed functions of Health and Wellbeing Queensland is to facilitate and commission activities to prevent illness or promote health and wellbeing. If that function of Health and Wellbeing Queensland comes to fruition, that is a good thing.

Another function of Health and Wellbeing Queensland is to develop partnerships and collaborate across government and with entities such as businesses, industry organisations, community organisations, academia, local governments and individuals to further its objective or carry out its functions. One would hope that the Department of Health might be doing that at this point. If Health and Wellbeing Queensland does that, that is a good thing.

Another function is to give grants for activities to further its objective or carry out its functions. One would think that the Department of Health is probably doing that but, if Health and Wellbeing Queensland achieves that, that is possibly a good thing as well. It is proposed that Health and Wellbeing will do a number of other things but, as I say, the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Currumbin have covered them.

Another important function of Health and Wellbeing Queensland is to establish a foundation to support its activities. There could be some fundraising involved in that. I note that the bill allows for a board of this government quango, if I can use that term, comprising up to 10 members. It will have a chief executive and staff. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will have a budget of \$32.95 million in 2019-20. No doubt, as happens traditionally with Labor Party bureaucracy, that figure will grow. Let us hope there are some real outcomes from the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

I want to raise a couple of issues. I notice that the minister can give directions to HWQ. The minister can ask HWQ to prepare a special report on a matter that the minister considers relevant to HWQ's function or powers and HWQ must comply with that ministerial direction. This is nothing strange about that. However, the minister cannot direct HWQ about the content of the special report. That has to be a good thing.

I also notice that, once that special report is given back to the minister, the minister may publish the report in a way that the minister feels is appropriate. We have all seen how Labor ministers do not bother to publish reports. They do not think that it is appropriate at all to give reports out to the public so that we have the open, transparent and apparently accountable government that the Premier keeps telling us that this Labor government is. Those of us on this side of the House know that there is absolutely nothing open, transparent, or accountable about the Labor government in Queensland. The sooner that ends, the sooner a lot of us will be a lot happier.

I have a question for the minister that I would not mind receiving an answer to. I am not sure whether the Mudgeeraba raised this point. Currently, Queensland Health delivers programs that are aimed at reducing chronic disease and improving nutrition and physical activities. These are transitioning to HWQ. I wonder if the minister could tell us if Queensland Health's preventive health


branch will continue under these new arrangements or if it will disappear. We did not hear about that from the members of the committee in their contributions. That was possibly discussed at the committee hearings and we might hear a bit more of about that in the future.

The member for Maryborough said that this bill is one of the best things that Queensland Health could do. I suspect that providing some more beds in our hospitals or stopping ramping at our hospitals might be a better thing to do than to introduce another layer of bureaucracy at a cost of \$32 million a year. As I said, if there are some outcomes from Health and Wellbeing Queensland I will be very pleased, but I have to tell members that I would be extremely surprised if there are any outcomes that comes out of anything that those opposite do. They would be far better off stopping patients from having to be treated in hallways, in offices, in the back of ambulances on ramps—

Ms PUGH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sorry, I am really struggling to see the relevance to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! I will deal with the issue of relevance. The explanatory notes outline the objectives for this bill, which include improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease, reducing health inequities, and enabling the establishment of a foundation to support HWQ. There will be a few people rising on a point of order of relevance. I remind you all that the explanatory notes set out what the long title of the bill is about and also the general principles behind it. I ask the member to recommence and keep that in mind.

Mr HART: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was referring to HWQ bureaucracy and the outcomes that might be achieved from that and what, in my view, better outcomes might be. As the member for Mudgeeraba said, the LNP supports this bill, but I have raised a number of questions and I hope that the minister might be able to respond to those questions in his summing-up of the debate. I will leave my contribution there.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.58 am): I stand to speak in support of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. This bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment. Some in this chamber will benefit from this bill directly, but I find it absolutely remarkable that they would stand in here and dribble about the small politics associated with it. This bill is absolutely essential. It was requested in our communities. I can tell members that in my region, where there is a significant challenge with the breaking down of the traditional family unit, what people eat and their ability to maintain their health and that of their young children, this is essential legislation. To hear the negativity of certain members is nothing more than disturbing. I am also quite concerned that people in the real world find it disturbing that politicians carry on about this. I could not agree more.

The Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill was introduced to the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 28 February. The committee received written advice from Queensland Health in response to issues raised in submissions and from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services in relation to issues of fundamental legislative principles. The objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency. This is not building new bureaucracy; this is within the existing infrastructure. Any comments relating to the fact that we are building more bureaucracy are far from the truth.


The objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency, to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as a statutory body. The explanatory notes state that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders; reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease; and reducing health inequalities. I cannot register strongly enough how important this is, particularly in regional areas. This is what people need. When I am at schools talking to parents we are talking about sugar content in foods and drinks and education to ensure that our children and our next generation of Queenslanders are eating well.

The government consulted with key experts and opinion leaders on how to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders and to identify opportunities for cross-sectorial collaboration and the role a health promotion agency could play to facilitate health prevention and health promotion. Ongoing consultation with key stakeholders will obviously continue during the establishment of this organisation.

As early as 1986, the World Health Organization, through the Ottawa Charter, identified that the health sector alone cannot ensure the prerequisites and prospects for health. It recognised that health promotion requires coordinated action by governments, health and other social and economic sectors, non-government and voluntary organisations, local authorities, industry and the media. It is very clear that this is a broad challenge across the entire community. I recognise that there is a lot of work to be

done. Not all of us are married to a doctor, but we do have the skills to recognise the importance of eating well. People need to acquire knowledge, skills and information to make healthy choices, for example, about the food they eat. In that regard I do not need to consult my partner.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the chair, the member for Nudgee, the committee secretariat and my fellow colleagues on the committee. I am proud to be associated with this important, sensible, life-changing legislation. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. I note the committee recommended that the bill be passed with no other recommendations being made. The main objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency, known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as a statutory body. It is intended that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders through a focus on reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities.

The proposed functions of the agency include facilitation and commission of activities to prevent illness and promotion of health and wellbeing in our community. As well, the agency will develop partnerships and collaborate across government and with organisations, including businesses, industry organisations, community organisations, academics, local governments and individuals to further its objectives or carry out its functions.

The agency will give grants for activities that further its objectives. Monitoring and evaluation will occur to ensure the goals of prevention of illness and promotion of health and wellbeing are achieved. The agency is also charged with the responsibility of developing policy and provision of advice to the minister and government entities about illness prevention or promotion of health and wellbeing and also coordinate the exchange of information about activities for that very same reason.

The bill also amends the Hospital Foundations Act 2018 to enable the establishment of a foundation to support Health and Wellbeing Queensland in achieving its objectives. *The health of Queenslanders 2018: report by the Chief Health Officer Queensland* identified that the health system continues to face public health challenges, including high rates of obesity, an increase in chronic disease burden, disparity in the life expectancy and chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the adverse effect of socio-economic factors. Combined with a growing and ageing population, these factors are negatively impacting the quality of life of many Queenslanders.

The costs associated with these risk factors are significant for individuals and the community. In adults, being overweight or obese frequently results in chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer, which can reduce life expectancy by up to 10 years. It is estimated that obesity related illness had an estimated cost on the Queensland healthcare system of \$756 million in 2015, which I believe is the latest data available. When the additional costs of absenteeism from employment, losses to productivity, loss of wellbeing and early death are included, the total financial impact on the Queensland economy was estimated to be \$11.2 billion.

In socio-economically disadvantaged areas, the rates of death due to a lifestyle related chronic condition were 50 per cent higher than those in advantaged areas in that same year of 2015. Remoteness is also a key factor in Queensland, with rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions in remote and very remote areas 33 per cent higher than in major cities in 2015. The disease and injury burden for Indigenous Queenslanders is 2.2 times that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders and rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions is 70 per cent higher than the non-Indigenous population.

There are large differences in the risk factors that lead to diseases and premature death across Queensland's population. For example, obesity rates are 49 per cent higher in socio-economically disadvantaged areas of Queensland when compared to advantaged areas, 35 per cent higher in remote areas and 39 per cent higher in very remote areas of Queensland compared to major cities. Across-the-board, obesity rates are 39 per cent higher among Indigenous Queenslanders when compared with non-Indigenous Queenslanders.


It is intended that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will provide a new way of working by investing in innovative projects generated by local community partnerships to create environments that support the health and wellbeing of Queensland communities. As well, it will use flexible funding models to source private and non-government revenue streams, such as corporate partnerships and sponsorship.

From a government perspective, the bill provides that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will have a board of up to 10 members, a chief executive officer and staff. The board is responsible to the minister for the management and performance of the agency. A maximum of four members of the board will be chief executives of government departments. The other members will be persons with knowledge, skills or experience in business or financial management, law, public health, academia, community service organisations, the not-for-profit sector or other areas considered relevant or necessary to support the board in performing its functions. This will ensure that there is flexibility to enable the board to be made up of members who will bring a range of experience and background to the board such as experience as a consumer representative or advocate.

The bill requires that at least one person on the board must be an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person. Board members will be appointed by the Governor in Council for periods not exceeding four years; however, they may be reappointed. The board functions are as one would expect: ensuring the proper, efficient and effective performance of the agency's functions, and such things as deciding the objectives, strategies and policies to be followed and ensuring compliance with its obligations under the act and/or other law. To ensure that the agency will be held to a high standard of accountability, the bill provides that, among other things, the agency is a unit of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

The bill also requires that Health and Wellbeing Queensland's annual report, which is prepared under the Financial Accountability Act 2009, must contain details of each direction given to it by the minister during the financial year and any action taken by it because of that direction. The annual report must also include details of functions performed by the agency during the year and how efficiently and effectively these were performed.

In 2019-20 the agency will have an initial operational budget of \$32.955 million. Existing prevention activities currently delivered by Queensland Health that are aimed at reducing chronic disease and improving nutrition and physical activity are to transition to Health and Wellbeing Queensland for them to deliver. Certainly, it makes total sense to work to develop preventive health strategies from both a public health and economic perspective, and most certainly at an individual level. The concept has my full support. From personal experience, I can say that Queensland Health programs have made a huge difference to the health of one of my family members. I cannot thank enough the good folk of Queensland Health Helensvale for the wonderful programs they provide, which make such a huge difference to the individuals they work with.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill, which is aimed at tackling obesity, the greatest health challenge we face as a state. Like all members of this House, it is an issue that is close to my heart. I am sure that each member of this House wants to do all that they can to address this critical issue. Year to year our Health budget is roughly 30 per cent of the annual state budget. It is usually more than any other portfolio. That is staggering. We owe it to each and every Queenslanders to do whatever we can to address the health issues that underpin that expenditure.

Perhaps a reason that the issue is so difficult to address is that health is such a deeply personal issue. We confide in our doctors with complete trust, because in order to properly address our health issues we have to be nakedly honest with them, figuratively and literally. Sometimes those conversations can be challenging and uncomfortable, and the advice can be difficult to follow due to time constraints, budget restrictions and more. It is easy to tell somebody to prepare and cook more fresh fruit and vegies, and to go for a run three times a week. However, in reality for many Queenslanders finding the time and money is a real struggle. Sometimes it can feel that losing weight is mission impossible, and weight loss and health improvements can be a long, hard row to hoe, but the journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step—a step like this bill.

I thank the committee for their work on the bill, particularly the wonderful chair of the committee, Leanne Linard, who is a paragon of healthy living and an inspiration to all of us in this House. Leanne has inspired me to visit the parliamentary gym of a morning from time to time. The committee heard from some fantastic witnesses who were all committed to challenging the rising levels of obesity and weight gain. I very much enjoyed reading the perspectives of the different witnesses. One issue that certainly struck me as being key is judgement, both internal judgement of oneself and external judgement from our peers and others. At one of the committee hearings, a witness, Ms Hamill, said—

It is about being aware that there is language. What we are finding increasingly is that we talk about obesity, but in fact you have to talk about healthy weight, not obesity, because obesity now has negative connotations. We even find it with diabetes. Someone who is newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes may not be quite so willing to talk about it because of the connotation that they got it because they eat too much, they are fat and they did not do the right thing. There are a whole pile of people with a whole range

of reconditions who are going to get type 2 diabetes. If you are a male over 55 with any kind of history you have a one-in-seven chance of getting type 2 diabetes, yet three-quarters of the factors that make the difference are not your fault. There is this whole 'fault' discussion.


...

Throughout the world everyone is trying to find a polite way to talk about it to engage people positively but still get the point across ... It is very difficult to have a conversation with someone without seeming to place blame on people or them seeming to feel like it is blaming them. It is a challenge.

Witnesses spoke about the fact that weight issues can also result in comorbidities. We know that weight issues can cause type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and many other issues. That medical terminology that can sound very ugly and very confronting. It might make patients feel like they are getting an ever-increasing set of diagnoses, which, piled one on top of the other, can create the feeling of an ever-increasing challenge that seems insurmountable. Of course, the easy and obvious answer is not to gain weight. However, most people will need to lose weight at some point in their lifetime, whether, like me, it is losing the extra weight after having a baby or dealing with the extra kilos that pile on during a period when you are preoccupied with other things. This legislation addresses that reality.

I think we can all agree that starting young with these conversations is critically important. The tuckshops in Queensland schools now have health ratings on all items to help kids and parents understand their choices. As a busy parent and a single mum, I love tuckshop Fridays and the awesome tuckshop team at Middle Park State School. I tell the kids that it is a treat for them, but truly it is more a treat for mummy because I do not have to make lunches. It creates an easy way of starting with my kids that conversation around healthy choices for their lunch. That is great because that conversation is hard to have and even at their young age it can feel laden with judgement. My daughter has always had an adventurous palate. She eats just about anything. On the other hand, my son loves cheese, pasta and cheesy pasta, with as little variety as possible. I have had to talk to him about why making healthy choices is important and what happens when all he eats is cheese and pasta.

I could go on and on, as I am very excited about this bill. The bottom line is that we all know there is no silver bullet to fix this problem, otherwise it would be fixed by now. This bill puts the wellness of Queenslanders at the forefront of our health system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.15 pm): I rise to voice my support for the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. The bill will establish a health promotional agency, to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland. It will be a statutory body tasked with improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities. The proposed functions of HWQ are various. I believe the most important functions are to commission activities to prevent illness and promote health and wellbeing, and give grants to carry out those activities and reach their objectives.

Another vitally important initiative of HWQ will be to develop partnerships and collaborate with state and local governments, businesses, industry and community organisations, academics and individuals. This will provide a holistic and structured pathway to coordinate all activities under the umbrella of HWQ, instead of having a situation where the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. I firmly believe that this bill offers a great opportunity to place Queensland at the forefront of preventive health and to educate and better the health of all Queenslanders.

This week I met with Diabetes Queensland. They outlined the fantastic work that they are doing to educate Queenslanders of the dangers of diabetes and to encourage testing and prevention treatments. Currently, Diabetes Queensland is annually funded, which gives no assurance for them to be able to plan long-term programs to tackle diabetes and relevant illnesses. However, under the Health and Wellbeing framework, a coordinated and funded organisation will be able to incorporate the work of Diabetes Queensland with an overall health plan for the state. The burden on Queensland Health is the result of a range of health and non-health risk factors. Allowing agencies, statutory and independent bodies to cross portfolio boundaries will ensure that inputs and risk factors can be acknowledged and tackled.

In my electorate alone, five per cent of the population or over 2,200 people are living with diabetes. Across the state, 4.7 per cent of people are living with diabetes. Certainly, it is a major issue. Diabetes leads to many debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. Up to 60 per cent of type 2 diabetes is preventable. Considering that obesity costs this state \$11.2 billion annually, preventive measures will greatly reduce this burden, freeing up funds that can be used elsewhere. Diabetes Queensland is only one of the organisations that is 100 per cent supportive of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. It welcomes the inclusion of non-traditional sectors in a health prevention and promotional agency.

This week, the Heart Foundation was also very active at Parliament House. I was among those who took the time to have my blood pressure tested and to talk to staff. The Heart Foundation is another hardworking and valuable organisation that will benefit greatly from this bill.

A government member interjected.

Mr KNUTH: I have been here for 15 years. After 12 months, every member of parliament looks very different. In closing, I wish to commend the work of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. I fully support the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (12.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. The World Health Organization outlines the social determinants of health as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities, the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries. I relish the opportunity to experience the research carried out by the OECD in France in 2017 which supports the approach of the World Health Organization. We know that our most disadvantaged groups within our community often experience the worst health outcomes, and research suggests that the greater the privilege the better the health outcomes.

Studying to be a health educator during the early 1990s, the research is clear—that society could not rely on the medical model of health alone. The social model of health provides a significant framework for preventing community health issues and promoting the health of individuals, families and communities. I congratulate our minister and our government for this initiative and the proactive approach to addressing some of the most significant lifestyle factors that affect Queenslanders. Queenslanders understand that there is only one party that understands the complexity of an individual's health and wellbeing.

The objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland as a statutory body. HWQ will contribute, as others have suggested, to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reduce the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reduce health inequities. I enjoyed my years leading the schools under the Bligh government. As a graduate of physical and health education, I welcomed the introduction of the red, amber and green light food choices and the associated decision-making model. I led my P&C at the time through the associated change, including banning sugary drinks and each year allowing a minimum number of red days in our school community. I witnessed firsthand the impact that this policy had on the health of my school community. The students and I often discussed how powerful it would be if we as a government were able to place spoons on labels indicating the amount of sugar a product contains. Perhaps, students, this may now come to fruition.

The community I led managed this initiative well with minor impact on the profits of the school P&C, so it can be done. Introducing the statutory body Health and Wellbeing Queensland will assist our government to address innovatively the leading social determinants of health associated with obesity, being overweight, and other unhealthy behaviours including the early years of development, education, employment and working conditions, housing and access to and use of health services. For example, education provides the development of knowledge and skills for problem solving and greater control over life circumstances. Education also increases an individual's work opportunities, security, satisfaction and income, all of which are foundations of good health and wellbeing.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the chair of our Brisbane South HHS, Janine Walker, and her staff on the innovative work they engage in to assist my community to understand health literacy. Health literacy is emerging as a considerable factor in influencing people's decision-making around food particularly. I commend the work that Brisbane South HHS is engaging in. I commend this bill to the House.



Mrs WILSON (Pumicestone—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. The objective of this bill is to establish a new statutory body that will be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland. It is essentially a health promotion agency that will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders through reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities. The new statutory body will be responsible for facilitating and commissioning activities to prevent illness, promote health and wellbeing through developing partnerships with organisations such as businesses, industry groups, communities and local governments to further the agency's objectives and improve health for Queenslanders.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland will also be responsible for providing groups with grant opportunities to be used for health and wellbeing activities and will undertake a monitoring and evaluation role of activities to ensure that these are achieved through its goals. Other functions include policy development, ministerial level advice, advice to other government entities in relation to prevention of illness and promotion of health and wellbeing.

The bill also amends the Hospital Foundation Act 2018 to establish a new foundation that will support the new statutory body in achieving its objectives. There is no doubt that Health and Wellbeing Queensland has an incredibly important role to undertake in making sure Queenslanders get the very best preventive health care possible and that strategies are promoted widely through varying demographics across our state.

The LNP supports any advance in preventive health measures, and we on this side understand the correlation of healthy living and economic perspective for Queenslanders. I note that back in September 2015 the then Health and Ambulance Services Committee was referred an inquiry into the establishment of a Queensland health promotion commission. That was almost four years ago, and I further note that then the committee had only one recommendation—for it to be established. Fast track a couple of years later, in May 2017 the government introduced the Healthy Futures Queensland Commission Bill 2017. This bill sought to establish the Health Promotion Commission, akin to that considered in 2015. So what happened to that effort? The bill lapsed when the parliament was dissolved in October 2017, five months after Labor introduced its second crack at it.

Despite the two attempts by Labor to do something about preventive health, they used the establishment of this new statutory health promotion commission as an election promise. As part of this promise, they pledged to make Queensland the leading healthy state with a target to increase the proportion of Queenslanders with healthy body weight by 10 per cent by 2026. They have seven years to fulfil this target, so they had better get cracking on this. If they had not put this on the backburner since 2015, we would be well on our way to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. We know—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting. The member has not taken your interjections.


Mrs WILSON: We know their track record on health priorities, we know where their priorities lie in the health system—to take away the name ‘Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital’—but hopefully they can get the new statutory agency right. The bill provides that Health and Wellbeing Queensland comprises a board of 10 members with at least one person on this board being an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander. I hope that the government appoints more Indigenous persons to the board than just the baseline quota of one as there are some serious issues to be tackled in closing the gap when it comes to the health and wellbeing of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Disease and injury for Indigenous Queenslanders for example—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting or I will start naming members.

Mrs WILSON:—is 2.2 times that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders. The rate of death due to lifestyle related chronic disease is 70 per cent higher than that of the non-Indigenous population. Obesity is another concern impacting the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. The Cancer Council outlined in its submission some staggering statistics that showed that 64 per cent of Queensland adults and around 26 per cent of our state’s children either are overweight or obese. There is no doubt there is much work to be done. Along with my colleagues on this side of the House, I will be keeping a keen eye on the progress of the new statutory body.

The initial operating budget for Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be just shy of \$33 million in 2019-20. We will be watching closely to ensure that this investment achieves its objectives. In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the secretariat, Hansard reporters and those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill and appeared at the committee’s public hearing.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.29 pm): When it comes to this bill, I am going to start by quoting the late great ‘Big Kev’: ‘I’m excited!’ This is a great bill and I can say that on behalf of all healthcare professionals, except for those who voted against safe nurse-to-patient ratios. We support this bill. It is a great step forward for health in this state.

I know that I am pretty biased—I am a nurse—but we have done a pretty good job in terms of delivering improved health care not just in our state but in our country. We have made huge inroads into dealing with things that were causing widespread premature death in the last century. Most of those things these days would be considered preventable. Maternal and neonatal survival rates are high thanks to the excellent work of midwives. I give a shout out to midwives for the International Day of the Midwife, which is coming up. Thanks to vaccinations, public sanitation, clean water and improved access to food, the majority of people now reach the age of five and then go on to live a healthy life.

We have made huge inroads into dealing with infectious diseases caused by bacteria, viruses and poor living conditions. People arrive healthy, stay healthy and live longer, but—and there is a big 'but'—people are still dying prematurely of preventable diseases. One of our key current health challenges is diseases caused by the lifestyle choices that people make. There is much work to be done to promote health and to prevent disease.

There is already so much happening in this space, particularly in the electorate of Greenslopes: the parkrun every Saturday morning; the Stroke Foundation coming out to do the big BP check every year; the Heart Foundation walking groups every week; school tuckshops adopting the traffic light system for food; a local hairdresser running a mental health first aid program for her staff; the Deadly Choices touch carnival; the BreastScreen Queensland service in Coorparoo; PPP parenting courses—the list goes on and on. These activities cut across sectors—public, private, health and non-health. Some of it is delivered by health professionals but much of it is not. Think of the parent who when packing a school lunch chooses healthy food options for their kids. That is an exercise in preventable health. A lot of it is delivered not by health professionals but by people like that—families who gain knowledge to make healthy choices.

Talk to anybody who works for the great health promotion organisations. It was great to have both the Heart Foundation and the Stroke Foundation in here earlier this week—and I thank all members for supporting that event. There is much work already going on, but there is a need for coordination across the various sectors. There is a need for coordination of activities not just in the health system but beyond the health system as well. There is a need to develop a strategic plan and there is a need to identify gaps and respond to them.

I have spoken many times in this House about the social determinants of health, and the health literature is really clear on this matter. I would like to again refer to Dr Michael Marmot, who has done an excellent job over decades and decades of researching and documenting research into social determinants of health. The evidence is clear: where you live, how much you earn, the type of house you live in, your gender, your ethnicity, your sexuality and the level of education you attain will all have an impact on your health outcomes.

We know that people who are Indigenous, people who live in remote areas and people who live in socially disadvantaged communities have significantly higher rates of lifestyle related chronic conditions. We know that we need health promotion strategies that target people who are Indigenous, people who live in remote communities and people who live in socially disadvantaged areas. Think of the Deadly Choices program. What a great example of one of these programs.

Dealing with diseases caused by lifestyle choices involves not just changing the individual but changing society. These types of changes only occur over a very long period of time. Think about the 50-plus years our society has been attempting to reduce smoking rates. When health promotion and acute care services are managed under the same budget, it is natural for the disease that we can see and cure now to receive funding priority over programs that have broad aims and are hard to demonstrate short-term outcomes particularly that fit in with the political cycle.

I support this bill and the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland statutory authority because it deals with many of the issues that I have just outlined in this speech. The authority will prioritise health promotion. It will be independent and have a separate budget. It has set real and positive targets—a 10 per cent increase in Queenslanders with a healthy body weight. That will have significant economic benefits for this state beyond the significant benefits for the individuals who manage to achieve that. It will focus on the social determinants of health, particularly for people who are Indigenous, for people who live in remote areas and for people who live in socially disadvantaged communities. It will coordinate activities across and beyond the health sector. It will encourage collaboration, and it will enhance the existing culture of evidence based practice in the area of health promotion.

I could stand here and stray from the long title of the bill and talk about nurses who did not vote for safe nurse-to-patient ratios and the wrong priorities of the LNP in cutting services and sacking nurses, but I will not do that. I will stick to the long title of the bill. I support the bill because by doing these things Health and Wellbeing Queensland will contribute to the social change that we need for all Queenslanders to reduce their risk factors of chronic disease and to reduce health inequity.

The committee has done an excellent job. I commend the chair and all of the submitters. It was one of the best reports that I have read. I would encourage all members of the House to take the time to read this report. They will increase their knowledge about health promotion exponentially. This is a really important step forward in delivering better health outcomes for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Before I call the next speaker, will members please join me in welcoming the students and staff from Labrador State School and class 5-6B from the electorate of Bonney.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!



Mr WEIR (Condamine—LNP) (12.35 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. The LNP will not be opposing the bill. However, we will raise several issues as part of the debate including the delays in implementing the election commitment. The LNP supports preventive health from both a public health and economic perspective. The objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency, known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as a statutory body. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, while reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland will provide a new way of working by investing in innovative projects generated by local community partnerships to create environments that support the health and wellbeing of Queensland communities. It will use flexible funding models to source private and non-government revenue streams such as corporate partnerships and sponsorships.

Our Future State has a target to increase the portion of Queenslanders with a healthy body weight of 10 per cent by 2026, but *The health of Queenslanders 2018: report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland* identified that the health system continues to face public health challenges including high rates of obesity; an increasing chronic disease burden; difference in the life expectancy and chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and the adverse effect of socio-economic factors. Combined with a growing and ageing population, these factors are negatively impacting the quality of life of Queenslanders, the capacity of the health system and the productivity of the economy.

One-third of the burden of disease is credited to avoidable risk factors such as poor nutrition, obesity, high blood pressure and smoking—which account for 43 per cent of deaths in Queensland. I am probably guilty of one or two of those myself—not the obesity one so much but I am an ex-smoker. I grew up in an era when smoking was very common. I smoked for a number of years. I know what a difficult addiction it is to overcome, but giving up certainly does bring a lot of health benefits. The public is much more aware of the impact of smoking these days, and there is a decreasing proportion of the population who smoke.

It may surprise some to know that, as far as cholesterol levels are concerned, even with my build my natural cholesterol levels are very, very high—8.8 was my original reading—so I take a tablet to control my cholesterol. I was told no amount of dieting would fix it. It is a hereditary condition. For the last 12 months we have been trying to control my blood pressure. I had my blood pressure tested over in the Undumbi Room the other day. This is probably not a very good venue to get your blood pressure checked because it was not so good, so we still have more work to do in that space.


There are a number of things that we can do ourselves to improve our health and exercise as well, and I am attempting to do all of those.

Mr Nicholls: How's the grog going?

Mr WEIR: Everybody has one weakness, I am afraid, member for Clayfield. The cost associated with these risk factors is significant for individuals and the community. Adults being overweight or obese frequently results in chronic disease such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer which can reduce life expectancy by up to 10 years. Obesity related illnesses had an estimated cost on the Queensland healthcare system of \$756 million in 2015. When the additional costs of non-attendance at work, losses to productivity, loss of wellbeing and early deaths are included, the total financial impact on the Queensland economy was estimated to be \$11.2 billion.

Remoteness is also a key factor in Queensland, with rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions in remote and very remote areas 33 per cent higher than in major cities in 2015. The disease and injury burden for Indigenous Queenslanders is much higher than that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders and rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic diseases is 70 per cent higher than the non-Indigenous population.

One of the pleasing outcomes I have had in my time as a member of parliament was when Dalby was in the seat of Condamine and I was approached to assist the community get a dialysis machine in Dalby Hospital. That took some time, but before the redistribution we finally delivered that. There were two dialysis machines installed in Dalby Hospital, and that was a great relief to patients who had to travel to Toowoomba twice a week to have dialysis treatment. We heard the member for Gregory talk about the importance of it in his area. While this bill talks to preventive measures, the impact that those dialysis machines had on those affected in Dalby was enormous. We support this bill and I will be very interested to see the outcomes of it. Implementing this program is one thing; getting the necessary outcomes is another. I look forward to seeing that in the future.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.42 pm): I rise to support the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. I start by thanking all members of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee who were given this bill that is before us today. The bill is the result of a significant body of work. I thought I would give a little bit of background on how we arrived here today, but before I do I want to particularly thank fellow chair Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee, for her work as chair of the former health committee in the 55th Parliament. I was also a member of that committee so I had an excellent mentor who examined the then inquiry into the establishment of the Queensland health promotion commission. A report was subsequently tabled in 2016, and as a result in May 2017 the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill was introduced into the Assembly to establish a health promotion commission. The bill lapsed when the parliament was dissolved in October 2017. Quite a significant body of work was conducted in engaging with many stakeholders and meeting representatives. We travelled to Victoria to meet VicHealth and compared a similar model in Western Australia, the Healthway model.

I am really pleased to see this bill before the House. We have much work to do in the health space for all Queenslanders. With an ageing population and chronic issues with obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, we have an obligation to get this right. As chair of the current health committee, we know the challenges around health literacy for all Queenslanders. More must be done to educate and inform all Queenslanders of positive health promotion and health initiatives.

The Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019 was introduced to the Assembly and referred to the committee on 28 February 2019. The bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to establish a health promotion agency known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, or HWQ, to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders in reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and health inequity.

The objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency as a statutory body. HWQ will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders, reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities. The latest 2018 Chief Health Officer report found that 2.5 million adults and 224,000 Queensland children are overweight or obese. That is two in three adults and, sadly, that is one in four children.

I want to comment on health literacy for a moment. I strongly believe that people need to acquire the knowledge, skills and information to make healthy choices, for example, about the food they eat and the healthcare services they need. Despite the Queensland government's health prevention and promotion program showing some gains, *The health of Queenslanders 2018: report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland* also identified that the health system continues to face public health challenges including high rates of obesity, increasing chronic disease burden, disparity in life expectancy and chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and adverse effects of socio-economic factors. I might well add challenges in aged care as well.


These factors combined with a growing and ageing population are negatively impacting the quality of life of Queenslanders, the capacity of the health system and the productivity of our Queensland economy. One-third of the burden of disease is attributed to preventable risk factors such as poor nutrition, obesity, high blood pressure and smoking which accounts for 43 per cent of deaths in Queensland. The costs associated with these risks are significant for individuals and the community. In adults, being overweight or obese frequently results in chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer which can reduce life expectancy by up to 10 years. It is estimated that obesity related illness has an estimated cost on the Queensland healthcare system of \$756 million. That was

in 2015. When the additional costs of absenteeism from employment, losses to productivity, loss of wellbeing and early death are included, the total financial impact on the Queensland economy was estimated to be \$11.2 billion.

A key challenge for Queensland is the significant health inequity that is related to a person's socio-economic status, the remoteness of where they live, or whether they are Indigenous. The Chief Health Officer report highlighted an opportunity to improve health outcomes for these Queenslanders through a stronger focus on prevention. In socio-economically disadvantaged areas, the rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions were 50 per cent higher than those in advantaged areas in 2015.

Remoteness is also a key factor in Queensland, with rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions in remote and very remote areas 33 per cent higher than in major cities. The disease and injury burden for Indigenous Queenslanders is 2.2 times that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders, and the rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions is 70 per cent higher than the non-Indigenous population.

What will the commission do? It will adopt a multisector approach to improving health and wellbeing, drawing on expertise from public health, sport, recreation, primary care, social behaviour, marketing and other fields. It will coordinate illness prevention and health and wellbeing promotion activities focused on reducing risk factors of chronic diseases such as eating well, being more active and creating environments that make healthier choices easier, and develop partnerships and engage with sectors outside the health system to identify key leverage points and facilitate new opportunities to improve health and wellbeing. I believe that the commencement of Health and Wellbeing Queensland is a giant step forward in better health outcomes in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (12.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. I note the objective of the bill is to establish a health promotion agency known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, HWQ, as a statutory body. I understand that the role of this new body, HWQ, will be to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities.

We live in a time and in a country of great privilege. Our life expectancy has never been higher and medical science has meant that many conditions that would have previously led to premature death are now treatable and curable, but we still have problems and we still have people in our communities, particularly in our Indigenous communities, who are falling through the gaps.

Staying healthy as you get older—and even staying healthy as a child—by good lifestyle choices is getting more and more difficult. Our way of life has become very different, with technology simply at times making us less active. We have the world available to us at our fingertips now. We can press a button and get things delivered, get odd jobs done on the cheap in the gig economy and communicate face to face without leaving the couch. We also have busy lifestyles, with many families having both parents working full-time or single parents trying to juggle work and care for children. This often means we look to fast but unhealthy options for food as well. This increase in demand for people's time and the stress it causes often leads to the overuse of alcohol or other drug use. All of us in this House would understand the daily struggle and temptations often offered to members at various community meetings and events—the cakes, scones and biscuits so lovingly prepared at times for our visits and often difficult to resist.

Mr Batt: We can't say no.

Mr HUNT: We can't say no. Some things, however, have improved over time. We all know that smoking rates have reduced dramatically over the last couple of decades. As a former smoker myself until age 23, I recall how common it was in those days to smoke in the workplace, in pubs and clubs, in shopping centres and in other public spaces. I also recall how intensely difficult it was to quit. If it was not for the insistence and encouragement of my now wife, it would have been much harder. Smoking rates, however, continue to be a big issue among our Indigenous population and our most disadvantaged. This is coupled with alarming obesity rates, for example.

There are large differences in the risk factors that lead to diseases and premature death across the Queensland population. I note that obesity rates are 49 per cent higher in socio-economically disadvantaged areas of Queensland compared to advantaged areas. I also note that obesity rates are 35 per cent higher in remote areas and 39 per cent higher in very remote areas of Queensland, compared to major cities. I also note that obesity rates are 39 per cent higher among Indigenous Queenslanders than non-Indigenous Queenslanders.


These ongoing health issues are putting a strain on our health system. As our population ages, it is only going to get much worse until we start to turn things around. In that respect, I note it has taken us a while to get to this point. In the last parliament, the 55th Parliament, on 16 September 2015 the Legislative Assembly referred an inquiry into the establishment of a Queensland health promotion commission to the then Health and Ambulance Services Committee. Their report contained one recommendation, and that recommendation was that a Queensland health promotion commission be established. That was in 2015. However, at that time the committee could not reach consensus on a proposed model.

On 23 May 2017, the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly to establish a health promotion commission. Unfortunately, the bill lapsed when the Queensland parliament was dissolved in October 2017. During the 2017 state election, Labor committed to establishing a statutory health promotion commission to tackle Queensland's obesity and chronic disease rates. Fast forward to May 2019, and here we are finally with a Labor commitment in 2015 to establish the promised commission some four years later—better late than never. It is funny how things like hospital name changes can occur very quickly. It is a shame those opposite appear to be less enthusiastic and motivated about the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

The health of Queenslanders 2018: report by the Chief Health Officer Queensland identified that the health system continues to face public health challenges, including high rates of obesity, an increasing chronic disease burden, disparity in the life expectancy and chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the adverse effect of socio-economic factors. We already see our hospitals under tremendous strain to cope with our current health crisis, and preventive health is going to be increasingly important into the future. We not only need preventive health initiatives funded; we also need to ensure they are achieving results.

In that regard, it will be interesting to see the reports provided. I note that the bill requires that HWQ's annual report, which is prepared under the Financial Accountability Act 2009, must contain details of each direction given to HWQ by the minister during the financial year and any action taken by HWQ because of the direction. Most importantly, I note that the annual report must also include details of functions performed by HWQ during the year and how efficiently and effectively these were performed. The results will be the important thing here. I look forward to that report. I look forward to, hopefully, seeing rates in the various target categories I have mentioned in my contribution today trending downwards.


The LNP supports preventive health measures and we will be supporting the bill. The Health and Wellbeing Queensland health promotion agency is a good idea. We can only hold out hope that, under the management of this government, it is able to achieve the results required. I look forward to seeing those reports, as I said. I look forward to seeing those results trending downwards.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.57 pm): I rise in this House today to make a brief contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. This is just another example of our Palaszczuk government delivering for a brighter and healthier future for all Queenslanders. During the 2017 state election, our government committed to establishing a statutory health promotion commission to tackle Queensland's obesity and chronic disease rates. 'Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities' reinforces the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. We all know that we can do better in the health and wellbeing stakes. As the member for Nicklin pointed out, the temptation in this role can be great, with the many fantastic morning teas we attend. We just experienced one with the Cancer Council this morning, and a shout out to them for the great work they are doing.

Debate, on motion of Ms Richards, adjourned.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.58 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended for this day's sitting to enable:

- (a) government business to take priority at 2.00 pm to enable the moving and debate of a government motion with the following speakers in that debate:
 - Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and
 - member for Warrego

- (b) private members statements to commence at the conclusion of the government motion for one hour and
- (c) debate of committee reports to commence at the conclusion of private members' statements.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Photographs in Chamber

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Honourable members, I wish to advise that members of the press gallery will be filming in the chamber during the upcoming motion debate.

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.00 pm): In accordance with section 73 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and in order to exercise the government's jurisdiction in relation to such matters as defined in section 123 of the Local Government Act 2009, I lay upon the table of the House for ratification by the Legislative Assembly the Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation 2019 and accompanying explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Local Government Act 2009: Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 63 [\[687\]](#).

Tabled paper: Local Government Act 2009: Local Government (Dissolution of Logan City Council) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 63, explanatory notes [\[688\]](#).

MOTION

Dissolution of Logan City Council

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the regulation approved by the Governor in Council on 2 May 2019 dissolving the Logan City Council under section 123(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2009 and appointing Ms Tamara O'Shea as the interim administrator for Logan City Council under section 123(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009;
2. notes that the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs has tabled a copy of the regulation in the House in accordance with section 73 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and ratifies that part of the regulation which dissolves Logan City Council under section 123(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2009 in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001.

As foreshadowed this morning, I have recommended to the Governor in Council that the Logan City Council be dismissed. The regulation made under the Local Government Act was agreed to out of necessity to ensure that the people of Logan have a functioning council. This action does not interfere with the relevant judicial proceedings. I wish to be very clear: the dismissal of the council is necessary because I have no other choice at this point in time under the Local Government Act.

From Friday, 26 April 2019 Logan City Council has been left with four non-suspended councillors. On or about 15 December 2019 Councillor Stacey McIntosh was charged with one count of stealing as a servant. On 26 March 2018 the Crime and Corruption Commission charged Logan City Council Mayor, Councillor Luke Smith, with perjury, official corruption and failure to correct his register of interests contrary to the Local Government Act.

On 21 May 2018 the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was assented to, introducing the automatic suspension of councillors charged with an integrity offence or a serious integrity offence. Both Councillor Luke Smith and Councillor Stacey McIntosh, by virtue of their charges in relation to the disqualifying offences, were automatically suspended under the Local Government Act.

On 26 April 2019 the CCC charged the following councillors with fraud under section 408C(1)(e) of the Criminal Code: Councillor Luke Smith, Councillor Russell Lutton, Councillor Steve Swenson, Councillor Laurie Smith, Councillor Cherie Dalley, Councillor Phil Pidgeon, Councillor Trevina Schwarz and Councillor Jennie Breene. It is understood that the charges contained a circumstance of aggravation given it is alleged the fraud caused a detriment in excess of \$100,000.

On 26 April 2019 the CCC also charged Councillor Luke Smith with an offence under section 92A of the Criminal Code for alleged interference in recruitment and probation processes. These charges constitute serious integrity offences. Accordingly, upon being charged, these councillors were also automatically suspended. Let me be clear: all of these individuals are innocent until proven guilty. However, as a result of the suspension of nine of the 13 councillors at Logan City Council, I have been left with no option but to dismiss the council.

Logan has a quorum of seven councillors. With only four councillors remaining, it cannot perform its responsibilities. Logan cannot pass a resolution and there is no mechanism under the local government legislation which will allow for this to occur. Importantly, as I mentioned earlier today, this means that council is unable to pass its budget for the 2019-20 financial year or appoint an acting mayor or pass a resolution to delegate matters to a standing committee or to the chief executive. In addition, the absence of a mayor or acting mayor means that the key responsibilities of a mayor cannot be performed. This is a situation which I cannot let happen. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that the ratepayers of Logan have a council which can function. Logan City Council must have a budget and it must be able to make decisions.

The Local Government Act is clear and it is for this reason that the Governor in Council has dissolved the Logan City Council and appointed an interim administrator until the March 2020 local government quadrennial elections. The appointment of an interim administrator until the March 2020 elections will ensure that the four non-suspended councillors can run at the next available election; the Electoral Commission of Queensland will have completed the boundary review for the Logan city local government election; Logan ratepayers are not asked to foot the bill for two local government elections within a nine-month period; and noting that under the Local Government Act by-elections are not held if a councillor position is made vacant with less than 18 months to the quadrennial election.

Further, the Governor in Council, as I say, has today approved the appointment of Tamara O'Shea as the interim administrator. Ms O'Shea has had a long, distinguished career as a public administrator, most recently serving as director-general of the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs from January to May 2018. Prior to that, Tamara was the director-general of the department of national parks, sport and racing from July 2015 to December 2017. Her skills as a senior executive administrator managing government interests in complex and rapidly evolving environments while upholding high standards of ethical behaviour and high levels of business performance will be invaluable in the role of interim administrator and for the people of Logan. I am confident that, as with the appointment of Mr Greg Chemello as the Ipswich City Council interim administrator, the appointment of Tamara O'Shea will see the Logan community thrive during this period.


In the coming weeks it is my intention to appoint an interim management committee, just as I did for Ipswich City Council, to help the interim administrator to perform their responsibilities. It is my intention to offer the four non-suspended councillors—Lisa Bradley, Laurie Koranski, Jon Raven and Darren Power—appointments to this committee. I table a letter from Mr Alan MacSporran, chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission, supporting the appointment of the four non-disqualified councillors to the interim management committee.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 May 2019, from the Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission, Mr Alan MacSporran QC, to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, regarding Logan City Council [\[689\]](#).

Unlike at Ipswich City Council, where councillors who were not charged with offences seemingly looked the other way when faced with questionable practices, these four councillors at Logan actively called out the poor governance and integrity practices of the now suspended mayor and councillors. Mr MacSporran confirms that it is appropriate that these four councillors should be given the opportunity to continue to represent their community and should not be penalised with lost remuneration.

Other appointees to the interim management committee will also be made to provide expertise in required fields. I hope that today's actions will go some way to restoring the community's faith in local government and repairing the reputation of the sector. The reality is that the vast majority of councils across the state—and, indeed, councillors across the state—act with integrity to deliver fundamental services and good governance to their communities each and every day.

Yesterday this House saw the introduction of the second stage of Belcarra reforms designed to build on the government's commitment to improving integrity and accountability in the local government sector. In relation to the matter today, I want to acknowledge and thank the opposition for their support for this required action. The people of Logan foremost deserve a functioning council that can continue to provide services. Unfortunately, they find themselves in an extraordinary situation that needs to be addressed as quickly as possible in order to move forward with confidence. Actions such as these proposed today are integral to ensure that our communities are served by councils that are capable of acting in the best interests of those communities.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.10 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the member for Sandgate and Minister for Local Government. The matter before us today represents an exceptional day for this parliament and is something that no member of this House should take lightly. May I remind members that as state parliamentarians we should be very careful about where and when the powers to dissolve an elected local government are used.

Firstly, it is important that we put the ratepayers and residents of Logan at the forefront of these deliberations. Ratepayers need to be assured that life will go on, roads will be repaired, rates will be collected, rubbish will be removed and the delivery of utility services will continue. That is important for the functioning of the Logan region; therefore, on behalf of the ratepayers there is a need to end the uncertainty about the future of the Logan City Council.

Councils are the closest level of government to the people. Councils play an important role in their communities. They deserve support and encouragement to fulfil their duties. The LNP wants to work with councils to enable them to be responsive and provide good services to their communities. Unfortunately, in the case of Logan there is no longer a quorum at the Logan City Council, and that prevents the council from functioning and serving its community. Accordingly, it has been determined by the state government that the council will need to be dissolved and an administrator appointed.

The LNP opposition was only informed after question time today who the administrator would be. We have not had the opportunity to conduct our own due diligence in relation to the administrator. The ratepayers and staff of the Logan City Council will be obliged to work with the administrator until at least the March 2020 local government elections. We do note that the four councillors who were not suspended will be appointed as paid advisors to assist the administrator, and we will maintain a watching brief on this situation in the LNP opposition.

It is important to place on the record that the situation that has occurred at Logan is somewhat different to the earlier situation we saw at Ipswich and it is not as a result of systemic corruption. The parliament today is ending uncertainty for the non-suspended councillors as well as the ratepayers and residents of Logan. I use this opportunity to re-state the importance of local government in Queensland. The LNP's commitment is to respect the role of local government, work with local government and earn the trust of local government and their ratepayers.


I do, however, contrast this to what has happened today with the Palaszczuk Labor government. I understand that the government has not even picked up the phone to speak to the LGAQ, who are the peak representative body, and advise them of this motion and what the government is planning. I find that very disappointing. We hear the government talk about consultation a lot, but the reality is that on the ground it does not happen. I hope that the government now at least makes contact with the LGAQ and talks to them about what is being proposed here today and how it will operate. To the best of my knowledge there has not even been a phone call.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Veterans

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.15 pm): Jesse Bird is an Afghanistan veteran, and on a cold Melbourne day he is in his apartment alone and at breaking point. After seven years battling post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Jessie pulled on his Army uniform, laid out his medals and ended his life. Around him were documents detailing his struggle with the department. The final insult was a letter rejecting his claim for support in relation to


PTSD, depression and alcohol abuse. The department acknowledged that these conditions were caused by his military service, but they decided that they were not enough to merit the support that he needed. Unfortunately, Jesse's story is not unique. Today I will do two things: I will place on the record the struggles that many veterans face; and I will issue a call to arms for all politicians at all levels to do more than just remember the dead.

In my maiden speech I talked about my own struggles with PTSD, but my story is just one of many. I spoke of how the strength of those around me made me strong and kept me safe, but others are not so lucky. Stories filter through the veterans' community every single week of another young veteran who cannot take the pain any more. Veterans are sick and tired of watching the suffering of those who sacrificed to defend our nation. Veterans are sick and tired of a bureaucracy that makes them jump through hoops. Veterans need more from politicians than just laying wreaths on Anzac Day: they need politicians to use their power to build a safety net that will catch them all when they fall.

To help those veterans who are suffering we need more than just words, more than just gestures and more than just individual initiatives. We need root and branch reform of the way that we support veterans and their families. We need all parliaments—not just the one in Canberra—to lend a hand. We need to support service men and women as they make the difficult transition into civilian life, and we need better mental health and accommodation for those veterans who are doing it tough.

Jesse Bird's final resting place is in the ocean off the beach at Surfers Paradise. Tragically, not far from there on Anzac Day last week another digger, Bradley Carr, took his own life in a lonely Gold Coast hotel room. The stories keep coming but they must stop. The next time you silently listen to the haunting cries of the last post I urge all members to remember Jesse and Brad and reflect on what you will do to ensure their suffering is not repeated.

Jobs

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.18 pm): Right now we need a federal government that is focused on jobs growth and boosting flatlining wages growth. The recent federal budget downgraded already low wages growth by 0.25 per cent over the next two financial years, only reaching 3.25 per cent by the end of 2021. This is concerning when you consider that actual wages growth has been below the government's forecast for the past six years. However, the latest ABS labour force data in Queensland for March 2019 included plenty of good news. Our trend unemployment rate was 5.9 per cent in March 2019. That is 0.7 per cent lower than the 6.6 per cent rate we inherited from the previous government.


Since the Palaszczuk government came to office, 192,000 more Queenslanders have found employment, with over 113,000 of those being full-time jobs. Earlier this week we heard the hypocrisy of those opposite saying that they wanted to see more jobs in manufacturing. Of course, sending train contracts to India instead of Maryborough is a sure-fire way to lose manufacturing jobs in Queensland. In fact, had the member for Maryborough not been elected as part of a majority Labor government in 2015 we may not even have much of a rail manufacturing industry left in Queensland.

We also need a federal government that understands Queensland in order to keep this momentum going. The current federal government's recent budget actually had zero dollars in its new Infrastructure Investment Program for the whole of Queensland next financial year. Even the Northern Territory got \$5 million but there was nothing for Queensland. The budget announced major road projects—projects like the Linkfield Road overpass, which has been widely spruiked by government members—but allocated zero dollars over the forward estimates. In order to get funding to even start this project people would have to vote for this government at not only this election but also the one after. Let us not forget that the Morrison government is providing zero dollars for the biggest infrastructure priority in Queensland—Cross River Rail—which represents over 7,000 jobs. It is a great project in terms of the outcomes it will deliver: increased rail capacity and decreased travel times.

People should not think that the lack of investment down here is because the federal government is favouring the regions over South-East Queensland, because it is failing there too. The \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility was talked up in 2015 by its brainchild the former minister for northern Australia, Josh Frydenberg, who is of course now the Treasurer. The fund set up by this Victorian minister for northern Australia has been a disaster from the get-go. Still now, more than three years later, not a single dollar of the \$5 billion fund has been spent in Queensland—not a single dollar, other than for the members of the board, which is stacked with LNP donors. It is little wonder Queensland is fed up with the Morrison government.

This contrasts with the forward-looking jobs industry development focus of the Palaszczuk government and federal Labor opposition. The support of hydrogen as an industry of the future is a great example. It is great to see the Premier and the Minister for State Development and Manufacturing pushing this in particular. This follows on from the development of an entire industry under Labor—the LNG industry—now providing billions in royalties for the people of Queensland. There is little doubt that under the nimby Nats this would not have gone ahead, as it did not in New South Wales.

Bundaberg, Maternity Services

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (2.21 pm): Better access to health services locally is a key concern for Bundaberg residents. It is something I hear in my office on a daily basis. Today I rise to congratulate the local mums who have successfully advocated for the implementation of the midwifery group practice model, MGP, for our local hospital. I will address what this model will mean for our community.


For local mums Emily Dempster and Lisa-Marie Gallwey, better birthing options in Bundaberg is very high on their list of priorities. Over the past 15 months Emily, Lisa-Marie and hundreds of other local mums have banded together to put pressure on our region's health service to adopt the model of care. The local mums, who have created a group called Pregnancy and Birthing in Bundaberg, began fighting for the MGP model after becoming aware of the positive outcomes it was having at a nearby facility on the Fraser Coast.

The determination of our local mums has paid off. As of this week, MGP is now officially operating in Bundaberg. This means that each year approximately 180 local mums will have access to the personalised program which allows women to be supported by the same midwife throughout their pregnancy, labour, birth and the first six weeks of motherhood. The MGP model is considered best practice as it allows trusting relationships between mums and their midwives to develop. This relationship makes it easier for the mother to raise any concerns or ask any questions. It also helps midwives develop a better understanding of each individual mum's health journey and makes it easier to recognise when a change or irregularity in the pregnancy occurs.

Pregnancy is an incredibly important time in a woman's life. They are bringing a new soul into the world. The nine months is exciting but it can also be daunting. Feeling supported and being able to build a relationship with the person delivering their baby is incredibly important to mums. Stability of midwife care has proven to have outstanding outcomes, with a higher rate of birth satisfaction and lower rates of complications for both mum and baby.

Six part-time midwives are now running the program in the relaxed, community type setting at the Margaret Rose Centre on Bourbong Street in Bundaberg. This is a really exciting step for midwifery in the Bundaberg region. I am pleased that I was able to facilitate the meeting for the local mums with the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service to ensure their voices were heard. I would like to thank our health service for listening to what our community is calling for. Once again, congratulations to all who fought for this program. It will make a huge difference for many local mums in our region.

Jordan Electorate, School Infrastructure

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.24 pm): Investment in education and the jobs that follow is a priority for me and for the Palaszczuk Labor government. In my electorate of Jordan I have been pleased to see progress on and completion of a number of key school infrastructure projects over the last few months. In late March it was my absolute honour to officially open the Jude Fox Learning Hub at Flagstone State Community College. Named after the late Jude Fox, foundation principal, the \$5.89 million learning hub contains five special education areas, five general learning areas and a range of other spaces including the popular life skills area. I know what a difference this new building has made to the school community, and it is wonderful recognition of a much loved educator.

I also recently visited the Hangar, an impressive \$576,000 refurbishment at Woodcrest State College which has seen a rather dated facility upgraded, ensuring students have access to state-of-the-art facilities for the skills they need in our rapidly expanding digital economy. Only last week I visited Greenbank State School, where I had the opportunity to inspect the refurbished tuckshop. In collaboration with the wonderful school P&C, the Queensland government has contributed almost half of the \$384,000 for this upgrade.

A \$2.2 million project at Springfield Central State School has recently been completed, delivering six additional learning areas, three teacher support areas, offices, meeting rooms and a new covered play area. This is all catering for the increased enrolment growth at this popular school and will be well utilised. The same can be said for Augusta State School, with construction now underway on an exciting

\$6.3 million new multistorey learning centre that will deliver eight new learning spaces and with the potential to grow even further. Finally, I am pleased to see great progress on the Springfield Central State High School multipurpose hall and community centre—a \$9.89 million project which is highly anticipated by students, staff and the community.

It has been great to see workers on site at all of these schools. These projects are all generating jobs in the building and construction industry. As Minister Grace said in this House on Tuesday, if you add in all of the projects to provide new and refurbished facilities at existing schools across the state, you will see that the Palaszczuk government is supporting around 2,700 jobs through its education infrastructure program. Imagine how many more jobs we could deliver if we had the same commitment at the federal level, rather than the \$182 million in cuts to public schools in Queensland in this year alone.

I know that federal Labor has made a significant commitment to public school education funding in Australia—an additional \$14 billion in fact. What does this mean for Jordan schools? It means that over three years all of our local state schools in Jordan would receive increased funding. Flagstone State Community College would get an additional \$1.14 million; Woodcrest State College, \$1.9 million; Springfield Central State School, \$710,000; and Greenbank State School, over \$1 million. Not only would this be a tremendous boost to public education in my electorate; it would be a tremendous boost to jobs as well.

Maroochydore, Public Safety



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.27 pm): Recent disturbing violent incidents involving young people in Maroochydore and other parts of the Sunshine Coast have caused great concern in our region. I am calling for more funding for intervention, for the appropriate youth engagement strategies. I also make it clear that no violence is ever acceptable. I am working with local agencies in my electorate and want to see their efforts properly funded. Clear and transparent measures about what works are underway.

I note the government's announcement this week—no announcement in respect of funding for the Sunshine Coast. I repeat: violence is never acceptable. Often the victims are themselves young people. From talking with some of the youth agencies I have learned that they are currently not funded to undertake outreach services where and when young people are gathering—at night around bus stops, skate parks, you name it. The police are desperate to see a better interface to support them in their efforts. No-one wants to see people in a life of crime. They want to see the circuit broken. I repeat: no violence is acceptable. Some of the recent incidents emphasise the need for more appropriate and timely services not only to ensure public safety and ensure the public is able to use public transport but also to intervene and divert people onto an alternative pathway.

We are yet to see what funding will be available for this statewide youth justice strategy in terms of after-hours situations together with transparent measures. I call on the government: it should not just pick a few spots and say that it has done something. It is time for transparency about where that funding is being spent to ensure that it gets to the front line and that there is proper cooperation between police, youth justice and those community engagement agencies. There needs to be an appropriate approach so that the spectrum of this problem is appropriately dealt with not just with a policy statement but with outcomes that are measured. Everyone has the right to be safe in the streets, whatever age they are, and that will ensure that our communities truly are respected and that people are able to ride safely on our public transport. Parents who have been approaching me with their concerns and telling me why they will not let their young children take public transport need to be heard, because they have a right to use public transport and to be safe.

Redlands Electorate



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (2.30 pm): The Palaszczuk government is continuing to deliver on economic and jobs growth across Queensland. More than 192,000 jobs have been created since our government was elected in 2015 and we are continuing to work hard to make sure that we support jobs growth and the economy in how we diversify in industries like the film industry. I have to congratulate the Premier on securing Baz Luhrmann's next blockbuster about Elvis. I am sure that Elvis would agree that you really cannot help falling in love with Queensland and its film industry.

The Redlands have been an absolute beneficiary of our Palaszczuk government's investment in film and have seen a number of blockbusters utilise our spectacular coastal environment with the investment by the Palaszczuk government. Our region is in the top five locations for filming and this week we have seen Paramount's latest film project, *Monster Problems*, filming in the Redlands, with

more than 150 cast and crew injecting into our economy. Our shores have been host to international blockbusters such as Netflix's *Tidelands* series, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Lies*, *Aquaman*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and Angelina Jolie's *Unbroken*. The efforts that our government is putting into the film industry are really yielding dividends for my community in the Redlands in creating jobs and growing our economy.

In the renewables and agriculture space, I have spoken about the Redlands research centre before. The work that is going on there with Larry and his team is really exciting. QUT's Professor Ian Mackinnon is working with global companies like Sumitomo to grow opportunities in renewables from the translation of research from the university and that step change into large-scale delivery of renewables. We saw the first export of hydrogen leave from the Redlands research centre a few weeks back, so I know that there are some exciting times ahead in how our community can benefit from our investment in renewables and a green future.

UQ in the agtech space is also really interesting. There is Harvey the harvester robot. The students are looking at how technology can work to deliver better results for agriculture. In that space we are looking at how the universities work with our TAFEs and our high schools and what that step change looks like for students as they study in high school in terms of the skills and academics they need to ensure that we are positioning for jobs of the future and for economic diversity in the Redlands.

I want to give a quick shout-out that the Quandamooka Festival is about to kick off. There are lots of exciting things happening in our region on the Quandamooka coast. There are some fantastic projects that are going to yield dividends for the tourism industry in the Redlands. The whale interpretive centre will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase our beautiful coastal environment and the cultural heritage centre will be a first in Queensland. These are exciting times for our economy with the Palaszczuk government's investment in our area.

Hospitals, Staff Safety




Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.33 pm): In March we learnt of another shocking incident of violence against Queensland hospital staff. A wardman and a security guard were stabbed in a frantic attack at Logan Hospital. Sadly, attacks like this are the norm for our hardworking hospital staff who are being used as punching bags inside our hospitals. Since July last year there have been over 3,600 assaults on hospital staff reported. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, assaults and serious assaults increased by over 48 per cent. This is an indictment on the ability of this government to protect health workers across this state. In any other profession this would be condemned. Meanwhile, hospital staff are punched, kicked, bitten, spat on, choked and even stabbed.

For many health workers this kind of abuse has become normalised and even expected. As a former ED nurse and someone with loved ones still in that field, it is just simply unacceptable. Our hospital staff deserve better than this. They should not be going to work scared of physical violence or being attacked. At Logan Hospital there has been a 19 per cent increase in assaults under this do-nothing Labor government. In Metro North and Metro South there are at least 32 acts of aggression recorded every week of the year. How can we forget the image released by Metro North Hospital and Health Service which revealed dozens of weapons seized by staff including knives, scissors and a screwdriver? What is the government going to do to stop this and what is being done to protect staff? When was the last time the Minister for Health visited a busy emergency department on a Saturday night and witnessed the chaos firsthand?

No level of violence is acceptable in our hospitals and health services. I have been calling for a permanent police beat to be installed at some of our worst hospitals for assault including Logan and the Gold Coast University Hospital—two of the worst hospitals in Queensland for assaults on staff. A permanent police presence would deter attacks, make it easier for staff to report assaults and see that perpetrators are charged before being discharged from hospital. Our current Minister for Health snubs his nose at this suggested solution and does not seem to think that 3,600 assaults in less than eight months is a big deal. The Minister for Health's ignorance on this issue is jaw dropping, especially in the face of the attack at Logan Hospital. He was nowhere to be seen on this issue. If a police beat were in place at Logan on the weekends, it is unlikely that the attack which took place would have occurred.

Hospital staff deserve action. This is a problem now and it needs to be solved now. Our hospital staff deserve a safe working environment. The minister needs to stop playing politics with our health system and prioritise protecting our health workers over wasting taxpayers' money renaming hospitals. Nurses and doctors go to work to save lives and help people recover and heal every day. They do not deserve to be treated like punching bags.

Education and Training

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.36 pm): Queensland's pathway to a thriving economy and improved job growth lies in how much we value the education and training of our young people. Our next federal government must be committed to investing in schools and TAFE because the Queensland economy depends on it and it is the key to growing jobs across Queensland and in my electorate of Ipswich. I am optimistic of Bill Shorten's plan for investing more in education and training, but the Morrison government is falling short. The LNP has abandoned the education and training sectors and, in so doing, it has abandoned future job growth in Queensland. The key to attracting industry investment in Queensland is the education and training of our workforce. Our competitive advantage is our people and it was one of the reasons why Queensland won the Rheinmetall Land 400 phase 2 contract last year and it is why Queensland is now the largest vehicle manufacturer in Australia and provides hundreds of jobs to locals in South-East Queensland including in my electorate of Ipswich. Ipswich needs more jobs to keep up with our population growth, and that is why I will fight to get a fair share of funding for Ipswich when it comes to schools and TAFE.

Scott Morrison's federal budget a few weeks ago abandoned investment in our future economy by looking at cuts to education and training. Queensland schools did not see the restoration of \$2.1 billion in funding that the LNP cut when it abandoned the national education agreement in 2017. In contrast, a Shorten government would give Queensland schools \$650 million over three years starting from January 2020. That is on top of the Queensland government's record \$14.1 billion investment in education and training this financial year and our commitment to employing 3,700 more teachers over the next four years. The LNP has no plan for investing in education for all Australians. It is happy to set up a \$1.2 billion choice and affordability slush fund—


Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you are making interjections while you are not in your correct seat. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms HOWARD: It is happy to set up a slush fund for non-government schools, but a thriving economy relies on all of its citizens, whatever their background, getting an equally high standard of education. I want to make sure that the 13 state schools in the Ipswich electorate are on an equal footing to the seven private schools so that every single student gets the chance to go to university or TAFE and become a highly skilled worker who is in demand by employers.

The LNP also has no plan for training our future workforce through TAFE or apprenticeships. More than \$3 billion has been cut from TAFE and apprenticeships under the federal LNP government. Australia now has 150,000 fewer apprentices and trainees than when Labor was last in government. Our TAFE colleges have been deliberately underfunded and undervalued and enrolments have plummeted by 24.5 per cent. How can we attract industries to Queensland if we do not have a highly skilled workforce? Companies will just look elsewhere. Our competitive advantage is our world-class education system. Labor governments will always value schools and TAFE because we understand that economic prosperity depends on having a highly skilled and trained workforce.

Fly-in Fly-out Workforces

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.39 pm): I rise to talk about the scourge of FIFO and its impact on areas in the north-west, particularly towns such as Mount Isa and Cloncurry. Recently, in Cloncurry I spoke with Mayor Greg Campbell about mines that have been opened in his area. It is really nothing short of outrageous that a new mine such as Dugald River could be constructed 70 kilometres from Cloncurry and that, at last count, between five and 10 employees out of a workforce of over 400 people are from Cloncurry. To me, the operators of that mine are smiling smugly at the local people in Cloncurry—the people of Queensland—and are not making any effort to contribute to the area.

My area does not get much benefit from royalties. The mine operators dig the dirt out of our ground and impact local services. A lot of employees of the mine come to some towns and say unfavourable things about them on social media. The one thing that we can get out of the labour at those mines is the wages to be put into the businesses in these towns around the mining areas.


I have put a lot of work into keeping mines viable and making sure that they have an environment in which they can operate sustainably. They have to put something back. It is not enough for the operators of these mines—the likes of MMG and Round Oak—to smile smugly and bring in these fly-in

fly-out contractors. There are too many contractors in the workforce. Mount Isa is full of contractors now. People cannot afford to buy a home there. The banks will not lend them money because they do not have a permanent job. The bottom line of these mining companies looks good, but they are not looking after the towns. They are ruining the fabric of these towns by stealth. Places like Mount Isa and Cloncurry are really struggling. The prices of the minerals there have gone up. Everyone is saying, 'Mining is good.' It is not good in the towns. They are still struggling like they were during the GFC.

The government should stand up and be strong. The social impact assessment needs to be legislated. The KAP will be looking at legislating that, because there is just not enough grunt coming from the government to force these people to make these decisions. With what has happened at Dugald River, they have proved that they are not going to do it passively. The operators of Round Oak are not upholding their commitments to local Indigenous people who want a guarantee of a job. The operators are finding new and creative ways to stop them from employing Indigenous people. They love getting in their contractors who come in and trash the towns.

The operators of these mines are denying people the opportunity to have their families living in the suburbs of these towns. Workers are not being provided with the chance that their parents may have had to go out to these areas and experience the adventure and the wonderful lifestyle that we have out there. Unless the government forces the companies to cut down on FIFO, it will not happen. We must cut down on FIFO and the impact of contract workers on our towns.

Federal Election, Labor Policies


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.42 pm): I would like to refer to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that states that the Liberal candidate for the seat of Paterson in New South Wales said that men were more likely to actively seek business skills and responsibilities to boost their pay packets. I have to ask: how out of touch is the federal coalition? All I can say is that, if you are a female, either in the workforce or not, the worst thing for you is for the coalition to be re-elected on 18 May.

I will now deal with how federal Labor, when elected, will change the rules to make being employed and being a wage earner fairer. The federal opposition has announced that it will help workers receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. In summary, the commitments by Bill Shorten and federal Labor are as follows: more secure jobs, fair pay rises and fairness for working women. I will now deal with how this will be achieved and why it is important that a Shorten Labor government be elected on 18 May.

Labor will stop forced casual work—the same job, the same pay for labour hire workers. It will introduce a national labour hire licensing scheme. It will stop employers forcing people to get ABNs. There will be local jobs for local workers and more secure jobs from trade agreements. There will be an end to the uncapped temporary working visa scheme. There will be skills for the future. The award system will be repaired. Penalty rates will be restored and protected. Zombie Work Choices agreements will be terminated. There will be multi-employer bargaining. Employers will be stopped from gaming the system. Employers will also be stopped from avoiding their obligations. There will be big increases in penalties for wage theft. Superannuation theft will be stopped. There will be better rules to stop sexual harassment at work. There will be paid 10 days family and domestic violence leave for all. There will be new equal pay laws. There will be gender equality specialists at the Fair Work Commission. The ABCC and the building code will be abolished. The Registered Organisations Commission will be abolished.

In the short time that I have left, I will now deal with some of the reforms that I have outlined. The first step is stopping workers being forced into casual work. Employers will no longer be able to call someone a casual if their job is not genuinely casual. Too many employers have been converting permanent jobs into casual jobs. Federal Labor has committed to stopping that.

Racing Industry

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.45 pm): The LNP supports racing. The LNP supports it for the thousands of jobs that it supports and for the joy that it brings to many as part of a tradition that goes back to when our state was a colony and Eagle Farm was on the outskirts of Brisbane. Racing has to have integrity and to be run efficiently. The LNP blames Labor for the mess that has been created by its three racing ministers in the last four years.

Today, the minister suggested that the LNP and I are talking down the racing industry. I reject that. I refute that. What does the minister say to Aquis, a sponsor of the Gold Coast Turf Club and one of Queensland's biggest horse breeders and owners, which said that it will not race horses in Queensland until integrity issues are resolved? What does the minister say to David Hayes, Tom Dabernig and his own son, one of Australia's premier trainers, who also want Racing Queensland to tidy up their act to make people feel they are on a level playing field?

This morning, the minister dismissed the royal commission chaired by Alan MacSporran QC by saying that we have 'moved on' since 2015 because of the decision that was made yesterday for the integrity part of QRIC to be administered by Racing Queensland. The minister has dismissed the royal commission recommendations simply because, once Labor set up QRIC, the way it had set up the judicial processes was inappropriate. That is why the minister has had to give some sort of direction to Racing Queensland to invoke a rule to try to stop someone from nominating their horses. Although the Labor government established QRIC, it is now scrambling to recover Queensland's racing industry's credibility for Australian trainers, owners and breeders.

The concerns that we have in Queensland have continued. Since I last spoke in the House about this issue, there was an administrative blunder that led to the incorrect registration of a jockey at Ipswich. I was with the minister at the Weetwood Handicap in Toowoomba when the wrong horse was judged to have run fourth. Subsequently, betting agencies paid out on two fourths. Seriously, the horse that was judged to have come fourth actually came eighth. What a joke! At nine o'clock last night, the Redcliffe harness meeting was transferred to Albion Park. The TAB and the form guide in the *Courier-Mail* have the Redcliffe branding with the race times and the distances all wrong.

Recently, the commissioner overturned a decision on using a twitch after peak industry bodies informed QRIC that it is humane when it is applied properly to subdue a horse for short-use situations. We have QRIC investigators flying to interview stewards far from Brisbane. They are part-timers, so they were not there when the stewards arrived. That was all on the public purse. Seriously, we need to have the LNP back in as the racing party for Queensland. You bet it is!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Waterford, member for Mermaid Beach, thank you for moving to your correct seat before your interjections.

Torres Strait Islands



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.48 pm): I am incredibly proud to serve as the ministerial champion for the Torres Strait. It is an honour to represent, champion and advocate on behalf of the interests of people in the Torres Strait—one of our state's most remote regions. I acknowledge the incredible advocacy of the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, the first Torres Strait Islander to sit in one of our nation's parliaments.

Our Islander communities are resilient and resourceful. However, they are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels. In February this year, the federal environment minister declared the Bramble Cay melomys, a small native mammal that previously inhabited a small sandy area in the Torres Strait, extinct. I am happy to table a photograph of the melomys.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a Bramble Cay melomys [690].

It is incredibly sad. A Queensland government and UQ report showed that the likely cause of this mammal's extinction was climate change. Climate change is having a devastating impact in the Torres Strait. Extreme tides which inundate communities have become a much more common occurrence. These impacts are severe. The risks are imminent. Having stood on the beaches at Saibai, Poruma, Boigu and Iama islands, I have seen firsthand the devastation of increased coastal erosion.

Given their isolation and their high reliance on freight, especially by boat, damage to infrastructure preventing boats and barges from landing is also of very real serious concern. In last year's budget the Palaszczuk government committed an additional \$20 million over three years to continue to build sea walls and other flood mitigation projects on five of the outer islands. These works are designed to protect critical infrastructure, housing, schools, hospitals, drinking water, roads and telecommunications. It will reduce erosion and give residents on these islands a sense of security.


The cost of these vital works is \$40 million. Our \$20 million was committed on the basis that it would be matched by the federal government. Well, we are still waiting. It is an absolute insult that we have only seen from Warren Entsch a measly \$5 million committed to these works. It is an absolute

insult to communities in some of the most remote parts of this state and certainly communities that are most vulnerable to climate change. While the LNP continue to play politics about the science of climate change and bow to pressure from far right extremists within their own party, the people of the Torres Strait are bearing the brunt of climate change now. I stand with the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, and we call on the federal government to commit real funding for action on climate change.

Mr Power: We all call!

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection. This side of the House calls for action on climate change for the Torres Strait now.

Gold Coast, Multiculturalism

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.51 pm): The Gold Coast is proudly one of the most multicultural cities in Queensland. I would like to share some moments I have had with some of our communities over the last month. At the beginning of April we had the Labrador Harmony Day Festival. It was organised by Thia and the Kusuma Indonesian community and was full of colour and festivities and engaged people from all cultures in food and fun to spread the message of harmony.


Over Easter I had the privilege of being part of the Bengali New Year with the Bangladesh Association of Gold Coast. It is actually the year 1426 to them so they like to joke about how advanced they are. They put on a fabulous display of their rich culture and traditions. This is really important for their kids to keep a cultural connection because most of them were born in Australia. I have to admit that I did not understand a lot of it because it was in Bengali, but I did enjoy the performances and, of course, the food at the end. I thank the management committee for inviting me and for their ongoing work.

Last Friday I attended the 3Es to Freedom *Stories to Freedom* exhibition launch organised by coordinator Kesti Faulkner. It features photos, videos and stories of refugee and migrant women and shines a light on their 3Es to Freedom, focusing on education, employment and empowerment. A standout for me was a short film made by Jude Kalman, *Do You See All of Me?* The film captured the women getting ready for a photo shoot where many of them wore their traditional outfits. For me it moved them from being just another story to individual people who are just like you and me. This piece and so many others are a reminder of the racism that is often faced by new Australians when people cannot see beyond their skin colour or accent to instead see what potential a person has. I have gone along to this program and met with many of these incredible women at the Labrador Women's Space and I know the difference it makes.

On Saturday our local Sri Lankan community planned to celebrate the new year, but instead they stood with members of our community in remembrance of those who were killed in the recent Sri Lankan bombings. Thank you to President Sange, president of the Gold Coast Sri Lankans group, and to the Southport Labrador Cricket Club for hosting. It was a great show of support with the ever-present queen of multiculturalism on the Gold Coast, Cornelia Babbage, helping to bring everyone together, as she did at the Gold Coast mosque. Cornelia's work with our multicultural communities, as a migrant herself, through the Multicultural Families Organisation is second to none. She knows everyone and has a sense of when we most need to show solidarity and unity. I thank her for all of her hard work and for truly being a leader of positive change.

Across my communities I want to make sure that we stamp out any racism, fear of religion or segregation of cultures. Most of us do it well, but the attacks that we have seen in the last two months around the world remind us that we need to keep trying to stamp out fear.

Gold Coast, Jobs

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.54 pm): The Gold Coast is a job creation hotspot right now with the largest annual employment growth in Queensland: 17,400 people have joined the workforce here in the last 12 months, according to ABS data. Our government has played a role in boosting the local economy to create jobs. We have the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which has assisted 30,000 people with training, of which more than 22,000 people have found a job as a direct result. Last week I joined the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to announce that we are spending \$240 million on infrastructure projects across 16 Gold Coast schools which is creating 600 full-time jobs. This year in Queensland we will employ more than 1,000 additional teachers as part of our commitment to employ more than 3,700 extra teachers over four years.

In last year's budget we backed in Gold Coast health services with a record \$1.5 billion investment, a \$34.5 million increase on the previous year, and since March 2015 we have hired an additional 218 doctors and 886 nurses in our city alone. In the tourism sector we have seen record numbers. The National Visitor Survey figures released last month showed that domestic overnight visitation grew by 7.2 per cent and we have seen record overnight expenditure grow to \$3.5 billion. What this means is jobs for locals and it helps us grow what is already a sector that employs around 40,000 people on the Gold Coast.

We are seeing the transformation of the athletes village to the Health and Knowledge Precinct, a space for incubators and start-up businesses which is expected to support around 26,000 full-time jobs once fully developed and occupied. It is also very exciting to see my old uni, Griffith University, purchase one of these sites to be home to its new \$80 million advanced design manufacturing and prototyping building. We are also backing in local businesses like Patterson Glass, based in Nerang in my electorate, that has received a grant through our Made in Queensland program to grow its manufacturing business. This will create job opportunities for locals.

Yesterday we were 'all shook up' over the announcement that Baz Lurhman 'can't help falling in love' with the Gold Coast and will film a new Elvis Presley movie that will create 900 jobs and inject \$105 million into our economy. We are building infrastructure. We are delivering four M1 upgrades, Cross River Rail, the Oxenford interchange, three new train stations—the list goes on. We are doing the heavy lifting and delivering for Gold Coasters, but unfortunately the Morrison government is cutting. It has locked in over \$27 million worth of cuts from our local hospitals and health services and has allowed penalty rates to be cut, affecting thousands of people in my community and showing no great increase in jobs in these businesses. We need representatives who will back our local industries, services and employees so I will continue to fight for our city's fair share.

Cancer Council of Queensland, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (2.57 pm): This morning I joined many members of this chamber at Australia's Biggest Morning Tea launch chaired by the Cancer Council of Queensland. At that function, Chris McMillan, the CEO of the council, spoke about the great work that that body does, not just in regard to the Biggest Morning Tea but many other issues that they touch upon and deal with in their day-to-day activities.

I want to give a shout-out to people in Caloundra about the morning tea I am going to host on 24 May this year at the CCSA Hall in Nutley Street, Caloundra. Entry is a gold coin donation. About 200 people every year come along to the morning tea. The gold coin donation is a small price to pay for a morning tea and the opportunity to listen to three guest speakers, including a person from the Cancer Council who explains the current research and stats in relation to cancer on the Sunshine Coast; a medical practitioner from the local health service giving an update on the research that is taking place in those facilities; and also a survivor of cancer who outlines the journey they have been on and are still continuing on from day to day. As I said, entry is a gold coin donation. We have raffles as well. It is a great opportunity for people to come along and receive some education and also raise important funds for the Cancer Council.

As I explained this morning, one of the reasons I do this is that it also helps break down the issue of isolation. Older people tend to remain tied to their own homes and their own vicinities. This allows them to come out, meet other people and converse on issues, not just in regard to the Cancer Council but also across the community as a whole. It allows them to make a \$1 or \$2 donation towards research, which gives them a sense of doing something that is worthwhile. People who feel that they are making a contribution also feel positive about themselves, which helps the community to feel positive about itself.

In the Sunshine Coast region, around 3,500 people per year are diagnosed with cancer and over 1,100 die from cancer. One in two Queenslanders will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85 years. On the Sunshine Coast the most common cancers are prostate, melanoma, breast, colorectal and lung cancers. Across the Sunshine Coast, \$29.9 million has been raised through various activities to assist with research. The Cancer Council also provides a counselling service, financial assistance, wigs and turbans and also accommodation—100,000 bed nights per annum—for those who need to travel to Brisbane to obtain treatment. In 2018, the Cancer Council raised \$9.4 million for research. I welcome all attendees on 24 May in Caloundra.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month



Ms LUI (Cook—ALP) (3.00 pm): Each May Queensland marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month to raise community awareness of domestic and family violence and to send a clear message that violence of that sort will not be tolerated. Domestic violence has no boundaries. Where there is love it is important to know that love does not suppress, threaten or harm another person. It is vital for society to understand that domestic violence can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, wealth, where they live or their cultural background. I applaud the many individuals affected by this insidious form of violence who show enormous strength and courage in telling their stories. There is no room in society for any form of violence. It is up to us to stand up against domestic and family violence in our homes, families and communities.

The *Not now, not ever* government report highlights that in 2013-14 over 66,000 occurrences of domestic and family violence were reported to Queensland police. That equates to over 180 incidents of domestic and family violence being reported every day across the state. In 2012-13 in Queensland, 17 homicides relating to domestic and family violence occurred. On average across Australia, every week one woman is killed by her partner. The annual cost of domestic and family violence to the Queensland economy is estimated to be between \$2.7 billion and \$3.32 billion.

The picture in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is even bleaker, with the *Not now, not ever* report highlighting that violence and abuse is reported as being so prevalent in some communities that it is becoming normalised. The lack of support services and poor access to the justice system compound the violence and make it impossible for victims, who are predominantly women and children, to escape.

It is important to know the signs of domestic and family violence and to take the appropriate action. Some of the signs include emotional abuse, verbal abuse, stalking and harassment, financial abuse, physical abuse, damaging property to frighten someone, social abuse, spiritual abuse, sexual abuse and depriving someone of the necessities of life such as food, shelter and medical care. I acknowledge the many organisations in our communities that do incredible work to support those affected by domestic and family violence.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (3.03 pm): We have now entered May, which is a time when Queensland marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month to raise community awareness of domestic and family violence and to send a clear message that violence of that sort will not be tolerated. However, it is increasingly distressing to see that not only is domestic and family violence continuing to plague Queensland communities; it is getting worse. One example is that, in the 12 months to March 2019, there were 28,099 breaches of domestic violence prevention orders. That is almost 30,000 times that victims of domestic violence were put at risk after they had trusted governments to protect them. Victims, whether they are partners or children, need greater protection and offenders need to be held accountable.


It is becoming clearer that Queensland's youth are also being impacted by domestic and family violence. Sadly, recently it was revealed that, in 2018, of 281,000 attempts to contact the Kids Helpline counselling service only 147,000 calls were answered, which means that only 52 per cent of those vulnerable kids were helped by the hotline. Sadly, family relationship issues and suicide related concerns were higher in Queensland than the rest of the nation, which shows that far too many in this state are impacted by domestic violence and we need help. It is disappointing that the government failed to help support the Kids Helpline when we called for the \$5 million shortfall to be matched. When in government, we introduced the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012 and funded new initiatives to provide safety upgrades to victims who needed help in their homes.

It is also disappointing that the Palaszczuk government has the wrong priorities. In February it was revealed that Queensland failed to join the other states in using federal funding to monitor domestic violence perpetrators through GPS tracking. New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania signed up to the preventive measures to protect DV victims from perpetrators, but unfortunately, under this Labor government, in Queensland those people will continue to roam our streets unencumbered. The government's failure to act on domestic and family violence is putting Queenslanders in harm's way, particularly women who are disproportionately victims of domestic violence.

I call on the minister to take real action on domestic violence and child safety, as Queensland's most vulnerable are continuing to suffer as a result of inaction. This issue affects far too many. More needs to be done to keep Queensland kids safe. Much more needs to be done to keep victims safe from domestic and family violence, and much more needs to be done to crack down on the perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

Last night I had the pleasure of attending the candlelight vigil held at Kangaroo Point. I thank Kay McGrath and guest speakers Karni Liddell, Jonty Bush and Natalie Hinton, the mother of Tara Brown, for their moving speeches and contributions to the night. I also mention the sponsors, CEO Challenge and QSuper, which are great organisations. I thank all the frontline services that help with this insidious problem in our community.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Commemorative Services

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.06 pm): It has been an especially solemn week for the residents of Mount Ommaney, but it was also a week when our famous community spirit was on display. Last week our local schools commemorated Anzac Day, showing beautiful respect to our fallen service men and women. I was privileged to attend the services at Corinda State School, Middle Park State School, Jindalee State School, Corinda State High School and Centenary State High School, alongside my good friends Milton Dick, the member for Oxley, and Graham Perrett, the member for Moreton. I must say how lovely the schools' floral tributes were. They were handmade by the students and teachers, which was a very fitting way to honour our Anzacs.

Like all members of this House, I was up well before dawn to attend the Sherwood subbranch dawn service, which was beautifully organised by Kylie, Hayley and President Glenn Mostyn. After a fabulous breakfast at the Sherwood Services Club with the cadets, I was off to the Mount Ommaney subbranch to attend a stunning service at the brand-new memorial, under the gumtrees and surrounded by birdsong. President Georges Leferve did a fantastic job leading the service and RSL member Terry did a stupendous job singing the national anthem. The Centenary State High School band, led by Fiona Harvey, was absolutely outstanding. Without a word of a lie, that band is at an absolutely professional level. I finished up at Oxley.


I thank my dad, David, for representing me at the Mount Ommaney dawn service, where Josie and Rochelle sang the anthems so beautifully, and the Darra subbranch RSL, led by Peter and the team. I know that both Josie and Rochelle got choked up when they sang the anthems and the truth is that I do, too. When I stood up at my three Anzac Day services to sing the New Zealand anthem for the Pugh Anzacs in my father's family, it filled me with joy and pride. It was incredibly special, looking out over the 5,000-odd people attending each of the services. I hope I made Nanna Pugh proud.

Last Sunday, at the St Stephens Catholic Church in Brisbane, the Sri Lankan community came together in mourning, along with many other faiths. It really was very special to be a part of that service, where I stood alongside the Premier, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and my good friend the member for Ipswich West. I thank my good friends Anu Perera, a Riverhills local, and Ash Misra who invited me to attend the service. I will also mention just a few of the many organisers: Alexandira, who is a second-generation Sri Lankan, and her father, Kumudu; it was also lovely to see consul Anton Swan. At the time of the bombings my own aunts were enjoying a trip to Sri Lanka. I am deeply grateful that today they returned home safely. Tragically, far too many did not.

Finally, on Tuesday, 30 April my beloved Vietnamese community commemorated the Fall of Saigon. My very good friend Phuong Ngyuen was my representative, as I sadly could not be at that wonderful event. Being the member for such a multicultural community is a blessing. Our community shares their joys—

(Time expired)

Disability Services

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise on behalf of the many Queenslanders sidelined and forgotten about by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I speak of course about Queenslanders living with disabilities, Queenslanders being left behind by a Labor government that is either incompetent or malicious or both in the way that it treats many of Queensland's most vulnerable. This has been particularly obvious for Queenslanders living with severe disabilities and particularly those requiring 24/7 health care. We only need look at the debacle of how Queensland Health under the incompetent Labor Minister for Health handled the proposed closure of the Halwyn Centre to see just how little regard this Labor government has for actually consulting with those affected residents and families that Labor's callous decision would impact the most.

When the Metro North Hospital and Health Service originally told 38 Halwyn residents and their families that it planned to close the centre on 27 November 2018, it was done with almost no consultation. In fact, it was only after the then impending closure received significant media attention that the health minister decided to pay attention to the fact that he was forcing 38 Queenslanders with complex disabilities and health conditions out of the Halwyn Centre, a place that many residents only ever knew as home. I thank the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP, the federal Liberal-National Minister for Families and Social Services, for forcing the Queensland Labor government to work with the federal government to ensure that state Labor fulfils its responsibilities.

The Queensland Liberal National Party opposition continues to consult widely with organisations and individuals advocating for Queenslanders living with disabilities. A recent Liberal National Party sponsored petition called for changes to be made to Queensland's disability parking permits to include vision impairment and to bring Queensland into line with other states. Labor's Minister for Transport and Main Roads needs to ensure there are no review delays, inaction or inertia when reviewing this issue.

Further, the disability sector needs absolute certainty with respect to the taxi travel subsidy scheme. In question time today, Labor's disabilities minister appeared to indicate that the Palaszczuk Labor government has backflipped on its intended callous transport cut to vulnerable Queenslanders with disabilities; however, many disability organisations have heard nothing from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Such organisations remain very concerned in relation to the ongoing status of the taxi subsidy scheme in Queensland for those with disabilities and the impacts such a loss of the scheme would have on the social, economic, health and employment opportunities for Queenslanders living with disabilities. Other state jurisdictions are stepping up to the mark, other state jurisdictions are ensuring certainty, and the Palaszczuk Labor government should never play politics with the lives of Queenslanders with a disability. This Labor government in Queensland needs to do so much more when it comes to disability services and health.

Logan, School Infrastructure



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (3.12 pm): It is unbelievable that the member for Moggill cannot mention the underspend in the federal budget in terms of people with a disability. Those who heard that speech, knowing that that was not mentioned, know that it must undermine everything that he said on this issue. Every Queenslander knows that the Palaszczuk Labor government is all about job creation, about creating jobs and educating Queenslanders, especially young Queenslanders, for jobs for the future. In a growing area like Logan, that means delivering new classrooms for a growing population of eager students. Labor is delivering new classrooms and the jobs that come with constructing them.

In Logan Village, the former education minister delivered the fantastic news of a two-storey six-classroom block, and we visited it together when we opened it. The two-storey building creates a significant undercroft for play, especially on hot and wet days. We know that the jobs of the future are in sciences and technology, and that is why we are supporting jobs now and future jobs through the state-of-the-art STEM learning space and extra classroom at the Park Ridge State High School.

We know that there should be jobs for all Queenslanders, from the highest academic achiever to those who struggle even with literacy and numeracy. We are supporting students with special needs with a state-of-the-art special needs classroom block, the Jude Fox Centre, at Flagstone State Community College. In Yarrabilba we saw the demand and we designed and built the fantastic new Yarrabilba State School in record time. The design was so strong that now there are 688 students at the school and that builders immediately moved over to stage 2 of the school, building the co-located health hub with the fantastic new principal, Lee Harrex. I did not stop there: I pushed very hard to continue to start construction of a new high school which opens next year, ensuring Yarrabilba primary school students of today can go through their entire education in their own community.

Our investment in school classrooms is supporting jobs for Logan tradies, for Logan suppliers. There are jobs for today, and they are building the classroom to create the jobs of tomorrow. With such growth in southern Logan we would expect similar investment in classroom and teachers under an LNP government, but I am sorry to say that there was no investment in education under the LNP for classrooms. The cuts and sell-offs that are the identity of the LNP hurt growing areas the most. The LNP did not build a single classroom and did not indicate in its budget that it intended to build any in the following years. Labor invests in education and jobs—jobs now and of course construction jobs for the future through quality school and teaching.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****Report, Motion to Take Note**

Resumed from 4 April (see p. 1166), on motion of Mr Whiting—

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 on 28 March 2019.



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's consideration of the Auditor-General's report No. 9 of 2018-19 titled *Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits* as outlined in the committee's report No. 25 of the 56th Parliament as tabled in March 2019. There was only one recommendation in the report: that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

The committee's task was to consider the Auditor-General's findings in relation to its financial audits of the government's main energy entities. There are four government owned corporations otherwise known as 'energy entities' that form the energy sector in Queensland. They are Stanwell Corporation Ltd trading as Stanwell, CS Energy Ltd trading as CS Energy, Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Ltd trading as Powerlink, and Energy Queensland Ltd trading as Energy Queensland. The energy sector also includes 31 government owned corporations including Ergon Energy.

I was pleased to see that the Auditor's report dealt with Stanwell's Swanbank E Power Station located at Swanbank in Ipswich. Swanbank E was recommissioned in December 2017 after a six-month period preparing the power station to be brought back online. Producing enough energy to supply a city the size of Townsville, Swanbank E is the first gas combined-cycle plant in the nation to be recommissioned. The best thing about the power station is that it is quick to turn on. When we need the power, it can start generating power in 30 minutes. It had been in cold storage since 2014, when the Newman-Nicholls government sold off the gas entitlements to the power station.

The 15-year plant operated by Stanwell has returned to full operational capacity to boost available megawatts during summer's peak demand periods, providing an extra 385 megawatts of power into the grid. Switching on Swanbank E has improved Queensland's energy security and helped reduce wholesale electricity prices in Queensland. With about 2,000 megawatts of surplus power in Queensland, the state government now has the ability to sell its excess to southern states. Last year, about \$200 million was injected into the state coffers through power sales, which drives down power prices for Queenslanders. The recommissioning of Swanbank E has helped the government achieve its plan of ensuring power price rises do not go above CPI.

Swanbank Power Station contributes about five per cent of Queensland's average electricity demand. In 2017 a record demand of 9,369 megawatts saw the state almost lose power supply. Swanbank E ensures that Queensland has enough power to meet the state's power needs.

There is a proposal to build another power station at Swanbank, with a proposed \$400 million waste-to-energy power station to be built by the German company Remondis. The proposed power plant would convert between 300,000 and 500,000 tonnes of waste per year to generate up to 50 megawatts of baseload electricity for Queensland's households and businesses. While I have had a briefing from the minister's office, I am yet to be convinced that this project will benefit the Ipswich community or that this is an environmentally acceptable method to generate electricity in Ipswich.

While the Swanbank industrial area was once bounded by a buffer of farmland and bushland, this buffer area is rapidly being replaced by housing, with suburbs such as Ripley, which is a priority development area with an estimated population of 150,000 people, as well as the ever-expanding suburbs of Blackstone, Collingwood Park and Redbank Plains. Residents from these suburbs have voiced their concerns to me about the proposed waste-to-energy power plant. I share these concerns and I hope that their voices are heard.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, the Queensland Auditor-General's office, the committee secretariat and Hansard.



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (3.20 pm): I rise to speak to the Auditor-General's report No. 9 for 2018-19 titled *Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits* and in so doing I want to take this opportunity to highlight the ongoing concerns and issues around skyrocketing power prices, particularly in Queensland. Families, small businesses and primary producers throughout Queensland have highlighted the need to reduce the cost of electricity, especially in regional Queensland where households, farmers and industry have no choice of electricity provider.

While the government claims that tiny dividend payments and suggested decreases are the answer, the truth can be found in the report from the Queensland Audit Office titled *Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits*. The audit report shows that there are 4.1 million electricity customers in Queensland and that the news for those millions of customers is bad news. While they struggle to pay their electricity bills, each and every one of them paid a hidden tax of over \$560 in the 2017-18 year.

In fact, this hidden tax would have been even higher were it not for the work of the independent Australian Energy Regulator. The AER took action to rein in the transmission and distribution costs—action that actually has an impact on the electricity bills that Queensland households and businesses pay. Meanwhile, this government continues to rip between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of the profits from these entities and expects Queenslanders to be grateful for the pittance they return via the energy dividend scheme.

The Audit Office report shows that the dividends paid to the Queensland government in 2017-18 more than doubled compared to the previous year. Especially in regional Queensland, we are paying more. The government is increasing its hidden tax, and guess what? We are seeing less spent on infrastructure.

Compared to 2015, we have seen over \$1 billion slashed from capital expenditure. Paying more and receiving less is what consumers can expect from this government when it comes to electricity. Then of course we have the Palaszczuk government's transfer of over \$1.5 billion from energy companies to general revenue. Queenslanders are quite right to ask if there is a link between the Treasurer ripping money from energy companies and expenditure being slashed.

Mr Bailey interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Minister, I have had to caution you already since I have been in this chair. If I have to call your name again, you will be warned.

Mr LAST: Will we see reductions in reliability or upgrades delayed simply because this government cannot manage Queensland's economy or will we see electricity prices increase even further? Either way, Queenslanders will be let down. This government and this minister oversaw service charges increase by 17 per cent in one year. How can anyone justify an increase of more than eight times the rate of inflation while expenditure on infrastructure decreases? That is a question the minister should answer.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any light at the end of the tunnel going forward. The Palaszczuk government announced a business case for hydro on the Burdekin River would be completed by July 2018 and, subject to the outcome, construction would begin in 2020. Almost a year after the report was due and two years after \$100 million was set aside, there is still no business case.

The development of solar farms was touted as a great way to bring down power costs in Queensland. This obviously has not happened and, instead, small businesses throughout the state, including in the Burdekin electorate, have been left unpaid by these projects that have gone bust. This government's plan to deal with electricity costs is not generating a result for Queenslanders; it is just increasing the resistance. A perfect example is a business in my electorate that relied on a diesel generator for their power in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie. That business is now off the grid because generating their own power via diesel power is more cost-effective than Queensland's overpriced power.

The LNP has given a commitment to regional Queensland to provide choice in their electricity provider. We understand that, just as we have seen in other states, competition reduces electricity costs for both households and businesses. I urge the minister and the government to do the right thing by regional Queensland and immediately implement the Queensland Competition Authority's recommendation to allow competition in regional areas. Until this is done, Queensland will continue to be kept in the dark on fair electricity prices and our farmers in particular will continue to suffer with these crippling power prices, which are having a significant impact on their businesses.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 9 titled *Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits* handed down by the Queensland Audit Office. These reports are absolutely crucial to ensure that our government entities are operating with good corporate governance. I want to place on record my thanks to the Queensland Audit Office for their professionalism in ensuring that these organisations are held to high standards for the benefit of all Queenslanders and to the standards that Queenslanders expect.

Organisations and sectors that rely on the energy sector include, but are no means limited to, everyday households; agriculture; hospitality; manufacturing; and, of course, tourism. I acknowledge the tourism minister, who is sitting behind me. Importantly, the energy sector is also an area of significant innovation in our economy. In Mount Ommaney we have many innovative businesses doing wonderful things with solar and battery such as Super Quick Electric, with whom I hosted an energy forum last year where local residents heard about substantial savings that could be made by getting solar and batteries installed in their homes. In fact, tomorrow I am visiting Redflow, a battery and solar manufacturing company in Seventeen Mile Rocks.

The importance of our energy assets and infrastructure in creating an innovative economy is impossible to understate. I also note that in Queensland we own our energy assets. Because we own our assets in Queensland, many Mount Ommaney residents have been able to lower their power bills by well over 20 per cent. As the government has partnered with Alinta Energy to provide strong competition in the energy sector, many residents have been taking advantage of the substantial discounts that Alinta have been offering. Others, like me, have been turning to our existing providers and asking them to match these discount offerings. I take this opportunity once again to say to all in Mount Ommaney that if they have not either looked at swapping providers or asked their existing provider for a substantial discount, in many cases like mine all it takes is a 10-minute phone call to secure a big concession and all they have to lose is dollars off their bill.

I have spoken before in this House about the importance of getting on board with renewables, as the Palaszczuk government has set a target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030. The Queensland Audit Office has identified the importance of the Powering Queensland Plan released in June 2017. The plan includes a number of measures at a cost of \$1.16 billion undertaken by the government by reinvesting the profits of energy generators. According to the QAO report, the measures are aimed at ensuring affordable, secure and sustainable energy, with the remaining measures putting downward pressure on retail prices. This includes providing electricity price relief by investing \$771 million to cover the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme, reducing the 2017-18 increase for the typical regional Queensland household from 7.1 per cent to 3.3 per cent and for the typical small business from 18.2 per cent to 4.1 per cent. As we now know, this has subsequently led to power price decreases across Queensland.

As part of the Powering Queensland Plan, the government is creating a new publicly owned CleanCo energy generator. CleanCo will secure a cleaner, more affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply for Queensland. It will support the growth of Queensland's renewable energy industry and increase competition in the wholesale electricity market, lowering electricity prices and facilitating a reliable and affordable transition to increased renewable energy. Part of the Powering Queensland Plan was delivering a \$386 million Powering North Queensland Plan to strengthen and diversify the north's energy supply including developing strategic transmission infrastructure in the north and north-west—

Mr Harper: Hear, hear! That's great.

Ms PUGH:—and commissioning a hydro-electric study to assess options for deploying hydro-electricity in the state. I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa, who is a great supporter of his local area. Further, through the Powering Queensland Plan the Queensland government has confirmed its commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. We are going to achieve that with the help of visionary small businesses like Super Quick Electric and Redflow, as I mentioned earlier. Thanks to businesses like these, the largest power plant in Queensland is our rooftops. It is an honour to be part of a government that has a plan to lower power prices, diversify revenues and achieve a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2020.

I am pleased to report that the Queensland Audit Office found that energy entities have strong end-of-year processes. This allows them to produce high-quality energy financial statements in a timely manner. I commend this report to the House.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's report on the Auditor-General's report into financial matters relating to energy. Labor has failed Queenslanders when it comes to electricity. Labor has loaded up more and more debt into state owned generators while at the same time using CS Energy and Stanwell as cash cows. It is clear that this Labor government's approach is to transfer the burden of its own poor decisions onto the people of Queensland.

In the last year Queensland state owned electricity assets generated profits of \$1.7 billion. That sounds okay apart from the fact that those profits came from the pockets of Queenslanders—Queenslanders who can ill afford the burden of more raids on their pockets. One-off \$50 sweeteners do not hide the fact that this government is using Queensland electricity bills to underwrite its poor financial management and reckless spending. Of great concern is the government strategy of piling as much debt as possible into government owned corporations. The committee heard that the debt-to-equity ratio of Queensland's public electricity sector was 76 per cent. Put simply, Queenslanders owe \$3 for every \$1 of public money in these entities. The higher the debt-to-equity ratio, the higher the risk.

The committee heard that one of the threats to the long-term viability of Queensland's energy generators is the rushed shift towards renewables. The fact is that public policy requiring a greater amount of renewables in generating capacity means that other power generation assets like coal-fired power plants may be worth less than they are now. Given that the government has decided to transfer existing renewable generation into a separate entity, this leaves the two entities that will only have coal generation assets in them in the form of CS Energy and Stanwell less financially stable over the long term. As the valuations of assets within CS Energy and Stanwell reduce in value, their respective debt-to-equity ratios will only increase.

It is pretty clear that a better course of action is to adopt the Productivity Commission recommendation of creating a diversified third generator. By maintaining a diversified generation base, as currently exists with CS Energy and Stanwell, we will maintain greater financial stability over the longer term. This is all the more important as Queensland's electricity generation capability transitions to a greater proportion of renewable technology, which the LNP supports. It is pretty clear that CleanCo is nothing but a Labor thought bubble. CleanCo's objective of 1,000 megawatt hours is already satisfied by the in excess of 1,100 megawatt hours of renewable generation that already exists within CS Energy and Stanwell, so CleanCo's mandate will see no additional renewable generation created.

The biggest single cost-of-living pressure on my constituents is their electricity bill. In my recent survey of Buderim residents, more than 50 per cent of residents expressed concerns about the cost of living and high electricity prices. High electricity prices were the biggest single cost-of-living pressure, with 33 per cent of residents in my electorate citing electricity as a significant burden.

Queensland's high cost of electricity means that elderly residents in Buderim retirement villages cannot afford to turn on their air conditioner on a hot summer day. It means that local sporting clubs like bowls clubs and hockey clubs increasingly have to scrimp and save just to keep the lights on. This is not some hollow political debate, and bickering between different levels of government is not going to fix the problem.

There is desperation across Queensland at the mere mention of electricity—desperation from cash strapped retirees, desperation from community groups just trying to get by and desperation from struggling businesses that are just trying to keep the doors open while the Queensland economy stagnates. We owe it to every single Queenslanders to put aside ideological arguments and do something tangible to ease the burden of crippling electricity costs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Logan, I suggest that if you want to contribute to this debate you put your name on the speaking list.



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (3.35 pm): There is no doubt, following the member for Buderim's contribution, that this House should realise the Labor Party has been using electricity in this state as a hidden tax. Let us have a look at some of the underlying figures that have come out of the energy audit that was carried out. We have income of \$10.7 billion that this Labor Party government has earned from electricity in this state—profits of \$1.7 billion. Generation in the poles and wires sector has assets of \$40.1 billion but it also has debts of \$37.2 billion. The Labor government has geared up the energy sector so far that it cannot possibly borrow any more money. That is what Labor governments do. They put states like Queensland in very awkward financial positions.

As has been mentioned before, one of the things mentioned in the Auditor-General's report is the construction of CleanCo. Some members have mentioned that already. CleanCo is the government's version of the LNP policy of constructing three generators instead of two, but it is going to mess it up. This will be a train wreck. The reason it will be a train wreck is that they have moved all of the renewable energy that CS Energy and Stanwell presently have into CleanCo. A few of those things generate electricity, but most of them take more electricity to generate—to pump the water up the hill in a pumped hydroscheme than they generate on the way out. Anybody who knows anything at all about generating electricity will tell you that it takes about 80 per cent more power to pump the water up a hill than it does to generate it coming down. In its brilliant mind, this government has now moved Swanbank E into CleanCo as well. It is going to have one of the most expensive forms of power generation—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! I notice that a number of interjections coming from across the chamber are coming from people who are not in their seats. That will cease or you will be warned.

Mr HART: One of the most expensive forms of power that you can generate, Swanbank E—and you can tell that because Swanbank E is not generating electricity today, it has not generated electricity all week and I suspect it has not generated electricity for months because it is expensive—has been moved into CleanCo by this government. There is no way in the wide world that CleanCo in its present form is going to be able to generate electricity at a saleable price. I am very interested to see what happens there. The next thing the government wants to do is to put 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy extra into CleanCo, and I accept that it is extra. One thousand megawatts extra at a cost of roughly \$3 million a megawatt, I would suggest, is \$3 billion. Where is this government going to find \$3 billion, because it geared up the electricity generators as far as they could possibly go?

The government cannot find that money. In fact, we cannot even find the \$200 million government members say they have allocated to starting CleanCo to start with. Those opposite will yell at us and scream and say that electricity prices have gone down. The only reason they have gone down is that this government is subsidising them. When this stops next year, electricity prices will go straight back up.

Let us look at wholesale electricity prices in this state over the last few years, and this is straight off an email that I will table in a minute. In 2006 the wholesale price for electricity was \$28 a megawatt. When we came to power in 2012, it was \$29 a megawatt. When we left, it was \$52 a megawatt. What is it now since the Labor Party have been in? In 2017 it was \$93 a megawatt.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, depicting average daily electricity prices, titled 'Data dashboard' [691].

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr HART: This is straight off an email. It was \$93 a megawatt. In 2018 it was \$72 a megawatt, in 2019 it was \$80 a megawatt, and today it is \$91 a megawatt. Wholesale electricity prices are through the roof in this state, and the Labor Party in this state is to blame for that. They have been using electricity as a hidden tax. It is time that this stopped and they showed some respect for the people of Queensland.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (3.40 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the committee's consideration of Auditor-General's report No. 9 for 2018-19 titled *Energy: 2017-18 results of financial audits*. I note that this report makes mention of the higher electricity costs for regional Queensland on page 4. On 26 March in this House, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy said—

... I want to talk about how well regional Queensland is doing under the Palaszczuk Labor government when it comes to power prices.

This is totally misleading and totally untrue. Electricity is being used as a tax—an ever-increasing tax—on regional Queenslanders by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Regional businesses are struggling to keep up with electricity prices. I refer to the headline in the *Balonne Beacon* that states 'Power bills cripple town'. This is what a motel owner, Keith Bauer, said about his power bill: it hit him like 'a punch in the face'. Mr Bauer's power bill usually sits at around \$4,500 when near to full occupancy at the Riverland. This quarter the bill was \$6,200, and this was during the quietest months of January and February when he had 50 per cent occupancy. For 20 years Mr Bauer has been running the Riverland motel and his electricity bills have tripled. Mr Bauer is outraged by this Labor government, which thinks that regional Queensland is doing well when it comes to power prices. They are so out of touch and it is happening under their watch. Regional consumers are being taxed, taxed and taxed again through electricity, and the bills are tripling.

There is so much more that needs to be done. I wish to read to the parliament from another email that I received from another local business, White Industries of Dalby. They stated—

I am writing to you in regards to the current charges our electricity supplier is putting before us with our power pricing, as part of the Queensland Tariff Review.

In short the current pricing for all Queensland foundries will change from 1st July 2020.

The last 10 years we have seen our electricity pricing rise by around 100%. The current proposal will see our power bill go from \$650 000 per year to approximately \$1.2 million.

We have been accepted into Round 2 of the Large Customer Adjust Program run by the Department ... but fear it will only affect a small amount of this increase.

We currently employ 57 staff here but with an increase like this we don't know if we have a future.

How out of touch is this Palaszczuk Labor government? When a power bill goes from \$650,000 per year to approximately \$1.2 million, there is no way that regional Queensland is doing well. White Industries is a foundry and a good one. It is a major employer and manufacturer in Dalby.

Mr Power interjected.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Warrego, can you pause for a moment. Minister, I do not want to have to call you again or you will be warned. Member for Logan, you are now on a warning. You have not stopped cross-chamber chatter for the entire time. If I call your name again, it will be to ask you to leave the chamber.

Ms LEAHY: We heard this week that this Labor government supports the manufacturing industry. That is rubbish. It certainly does not support it in Dalby.

I want to make another point in relation to the Queensland division of the Australian Foundry Institute. They have tried making contact with the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to discuss their concerns. To date, they have had no luck in organising a meeting with him. They cannot even get him to respond to their emails—not even a response to their emails. That is an appalling way to treat major employers and manufacturers in this state. They have been to the minister's electorate office because they have an urgent need for this meeting and they still cannot get a response.

When it comes to power prices, I can say that power prices and electricity are crippling regional businesses. This government is using electricity as a tax, a tax and a tax. Only the LNP is committed to driving down electricity prices for regional Queenslanders. Only the LNP will provide competition in the regional electricity markets so that those in the regions can enjoy what those in the south-east currently enjoy when it comes to competition and what it delivers in the regional electricity markets. The Palaszczuk Labor government is hell-bent on taxing regional businesses and regional residential customers, and we are paying through the nose for that tax through electricity.



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.45 pm): This report that we are talking about here today underlines yet again the fact that this government is using electricity as a secret tax on farmers, families and small businesses in my electorate and all over Queensland. It does not seem that long ago—in fact, it was only about six months ago—that we were in this chamber debating the previous year's financial results for the government owned power companies, and they showed that in the previous year profits had increased by 45 per cent to \$1.9 billion. This report shows that the government take from the government owned corporations for power was \$1.7 billion. It is down a little bit from the previous year, but it is still \$1.7 billion taken out of the pockets of families, small businesses and farmers all over my electorate and all over the state who cannot afford their power bills.

I have lost count of the number of times I have been told by primary producers that they feel sick every quarter when they get their power bill because they do not know what it is going to be, particularly in times of drought. We have been going through awful times of drought in the Scenic Rim and in other parts of the state. The drought means that farmers need to irrigate more to get their crops out of the ground. They do not have a choice of switching them off because the only way that many of them get income is by watering their crops.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: We know that fixed costs get some relief under droughts. I hear the minister chirping over there about the relief they might get for fixed costs, but it is only a small amount of relief when you take into account all of the network charges and demand charges that are placed on those growers just to get crops out of the ground.

When you consider those two years put together—the \$1.9 billion in 2016-17 and the \$1.7 billion in 2017-18—that is \$3.6 billion that has been ripped out of the Queensland economy by this government and sent to the Treasury coffers as a tax and spent in other parts of Queensland whilst families, farmers and small businesses struggle just to pay their bills and to keep the crops growing in the ground. This is at a time when wage growth in the private sector is very sluggish and business conditions are very, very tough, especially in regional Queensland and the agricultural sector where there has been a lot of impact from the drought. Fortunately, the wage restraint in the public sector is not that sluggish; in fact, wages have been growing quite steadily. For the government to put in place policies and allow government owned power companies to take so much money out of the economy—to slug farmers, families and small businesses to the tune of \$1.7 billion in a year—is an absolute disgrace.

We do not deny that government owned corporations should make a profit. In fact, it is common and over a longstanding period some profit has been returned from these companies to Treasury for the government. However, it is out of control and the 45 per cent increase the year before last is simply outrageous and it has not been corrected. It has come back a little bit, but it is still 1.7 big ones—\$1.7 billion—ripped out of the Queensland economy by this government through its secret power tax.

I call on the government to do something about it and stop the take because families and farmers, especially in my area, and people who use a lot of power—whether it is bakeries, small businesses or cafes—pay the network charges and the demand charges are finding that it is killing their businesses. These are people who want to get ahead and want to employ a few more people. They want to expand their companies. They want to expand their businesses. They are constantly stung by the network charges and the taxes that come from this mob opposite.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I do not care what the minister says about the other policies that could have been put in place. The fact is that \$1.7 billion is being taken by the government out of people's pockets in small business like Ants cafe and deli in Boonah. They took the initiative of expanding their business, of offering not just a fruit and veggie shop but a cafe that has ovens, freezers and things like that; it uses more power. They are developing their business, and they are an innovative small business. However, they are stung by the network and demand charges that are imposed and send money directly back to Treasury coffers. It is a huge burden on not only that small business but small businesses like them all across the state. If power bills keep going on this trajectory all of those businesses will face a very tough future. Some of them will be wiped out. I call on the government to stop the secret power tax.



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (3.50 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate on this very important report that affects a lot of my constituents and businesses in the wonderful electorate of Theodore. The Auditor-General tabled this report on 14 February 2019. It is very interesting looking through this report and seeing some of the issues that the member for Burleigh highlighted, especially when it comes to the extreme debt levels that the energy providers have put on Queenslanders. It is very concerning.

I was talking to one of my wonderful local businesses recently. He owns a corner store and is doing it very tough at the moment. Business is not booming. He has a lot of competition out there. Recently, another large supermarket chain set up in close proximity to his business. As he said, obviously that has taken business off him, but the day-to-day running costs of his business are extreme. He said, 'Mark, I find it very, very tough to survive.' He employs some wonderful young people in his business. He gives them a chance to get their first job, get themselves a little bit of pocket money to get their lives on track and on the way. Because of the way the cost of electricity in this state is gouging his profits, destroying his profit margins, he said to me, 'I'm not sure how long I can hold up this massive tide against my business.'

One of the lovely ladies near Oxenford was talking about Queensland being this absolute powerhouse of exports and minerals. I find it quite interesting as there was a great article in the *Courier-Mail* today by Steve Wardill, the state affairs editor. In this article he highlighted how, despite

the significant decline in the Australian dollar, over the same period the wholesale price of electricity has actually doubled. This has had severe impacts on the export commodities of this state. He goes on to say—

The figures show movements through the port—

of Townsville—


fell from 12.9 million tonnes in 2011/12 to 6.7 million tonnes in 2017-18.

This is a massive drop in export resources, something that drives and fuels our economy. The funny thing is, as Mr Wardill highlighted, the price of wholesale electricity has more than doubled since then and this is having a real impact on industries in our state, making it very hard for them to be competitive.

Those opposite talk about electricity asset sales, but back in 2007 the Labor Party sold wind energy assets for \$460 million. In 2007 they also sold the gas assets for \$268 million, PowerDirect for \$1.2 billion, Sun Gas for \$75 million, Sun Retail for \$1.2 billion and Allgas for \$535 million. It just shows who is actually the one selling the assets. It was not those on this side of the chamber at all; it was those on the other side. It was the members on the government benches, members of their political persuasion, who sold these assets. It is funny that the Labor Party members in this state keep on complaining about energy prices and assets sales yet they are the ones who sold the assets.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Just hold for a moment, member for Theodore. We are debating the Auditor-General's report from 2017-18; I remind you of that. You can now finish your contribution.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I certainly take your guidance. However, the issue remains that this government is price gouging my local small businesses and destroying their livelihoods and squeezing them out of existence.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.56 pm): I cannot resist making a contribution. We have seen a litany of opposition members trot out the usual lines: code for privatisation, price gouging and all that sort of nonsense. If honourable members go to the electorate of Angus Taylor or Michael McCormack where there is a privatised power market, they will pay \$900,000 a year more. It is as simple as that. The ideological obsession that the LNP has against public ownership has been on display for the last 45 minutes for all to see.


I just mark this point and it would be remiss of me if I did not. We heard most of those opposite talking in this chamber and trying to allege that power prices are going up by astronomical amounts under this government, but the contribution of the member for Burleigh was particularly noteworthy. He actually said during this debate that prices were falling. I look forward to us responding to inquiries on this particular matter when their own energy shadow spokesperson has said on the parliamentary record that power prices are falling in Queensland. It is probably the most sensible thing I have ever heard him say in this chamber. It is noteworthy to mark the spot on that basis alone. It is not too often I agree with the member for Burleigh. Maybe it is an important time to mark that in the chamber and on the parliamentary record. We look forward to referring back to his comments many times in the future.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.58 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the committee responsible for reporting on the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be varied from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to the Economics and Governance Committee and that the committee report by 21 June 2019; and the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 21 June 2019.


The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's report No. 16 of 2018-19 titled *Follow-up of maintenance of public schools* be referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1440, on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.59 pm), continuing: We all know that we can do better in the health and wellbeing stakes. The *Courier-Mail* reported last month on findings from a recent study presented by *The Lancet* medical journal that says that nearly one in six deaths in Australia can be attributed to poor diet. As the member for Nicklin noted in his contribution, there is temptation for us here with morning teas and cakes always on the offering. I gave a shout-out to the Cancer Council this morning. Their Biggest Morning Tea is coming up. I hope that every member is able to get involved in their community.

Cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and cancers caused by unhealthy eating killed more than 24,000 Australians in 2017. That is a death toll higher than deaths caused by smoking and traffic accidents combined. It is estimated that 70 per cent of Australians are overweight or obese. A significant proportion of Queensland Health's budget is being spent on what can only be described as a huge obesity problem in our country. Like the member for Mount Ommaney said, there are so many contributing and causal factors. My weight has always been a challenge for me—from my teenage years right up until today. It is a battle that many Australians and Queenslanders face. Our nation's battle with obesity accounts for a substantial proportion of preventable hospitalisations. In 2015 it was reported to have cost the Queensland economy an estimated \$12 billion.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to improving health. This bill focuses on those challenges facing Queenslanders that require complex, integrated and innovative solutions. As part of our objective to make Queensland the leading healthy state, the *Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities* report contains a target to increase the proportion of Queenslanders with a healthy body weight by 10 per cent by 2026. Consistent with the direction of that report, and to meet our government's commitment to a healthier Queensland, the bill will establish Health and Wellbeing Queensland as a statutory body that is focused on improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. Investing in prevention is better than trying to find a cure. HWQ will be empowered to act as a champion for change will be well placed to coordinate efforts across diverse sectors and foster the innovative thinking required to support the individual, community and environmental changes needed to reduce health inequities. We really need to see a significant cultural change in Australia. HWQ will help to strengthen linkages across sectors involved in illness prevention and health promotion, promote better alignment between federal, state and local jurisdictions, and increase shared responsibility across sectors.

I think it is very fair to say that we want to see an alignment between federal, state and local governments in how we work together to deliver for our communities. I know that the voters out there are thinking about that very thing. It has been spoken about a lot. We need to work better together. We have not seen that to date with this LNP government, particularly in the space around communities. When you look at their budget surplus of \$1.6 billion, you can see how ripped off people in the disability sector have been.

We also had the Heart Foundation in the parliament this week, and that was fantastic. They were promoting healthy heart checks. I encourage everyone in my community to check in with their GP to take the healthy heart test.

HWQ will facilitate the growing expectation for a new public health movement that focuses on building the capacity of people and communities to be a key force for social change in matters of health and wellbeing. It is all about prevention. Preventing and reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease requires more than a single intervention. The impacts of poor health continue to be addressed by the health system, but many of the underlying determinates of health sit outside that system. It requires cultural change to bring about population-wide sustainable improvements in health and wellbeing. It requires a new approach—a multi-pronged strategy delivered in partnership with sectors not traditionally associated with health care and health services.

Investing in prevention has huge benefits for individuals, the community, the health system and our economy. That is what Health and Wellness Queensland will deliver. HWQ will provide a new way of working by investing in innovative projects generated by local community partnerships to create environments that support the health and wellbeing of Queensland communities. HWQ will play a part

in working and partnering to reduce the burden of chronic disease in our communities. The bill provides that the functions of HWQ are to: facilitate and commission activities to prevent illness or promote health and wellbeing; and develop partnerships and collaborate across government and with entities such as businesses, industry organisations, community organisations, academia and local governments. It is about how we all come together as a community to solve this really big problem. HWQ will also look at how they provide grants to communities. We have myriad organisations in the Redlands that will be able to access this money to make my communities healthier and happier. HWQ will develop policies and advise the minister and government entities about illness prevention and promotion. It will go on science and facts, and I think that is really important. Most importantly, it will coordinate the exchange of information about activities to prevent illness and promote health and wellbeing.

HWQ's performance of these functions will contribute to the social change needed for Queenslanders to reduce their risk factors for chronic disease, reduce health inequity and improve overall health and wellbeing. This is a real step change for a better approach to healthier, happier Queenslanders through prevention rather than a cure. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. We all know that prevention is one of the best tools we have to reduce the growing burden on our health system. From an economic perspective, it improves the health of patients and delivers results. That is why it is outrageous that this government has wasted four years to debate this bill.

This bill aims to establish a health promotion agency, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as a statutory body. This was a 2015 election commitment. That is more than four years ago. Clearly, it was not a priority. It is a pity that Queenslanders were not told it was not a priority. The explanatory notes state that HWQ will help improve the health and wellbeing of Queensland residents by reducing risk factors associated with chronic diseases and health inequities. Professor Whiteman from the QIMR Berghofer Research Institute told the committee—

... there is a great commonality of purpose in the public health community that there is support for this agency but a hope that the establishment of it is grounded in reality.

HWQ will achieve its objectives by assisting and commissioning activities to prevent illness and promote health and wellbeing. It will work and develop partnerships with individual Queenslanders and a wide range of stakeholders from business, industry and community organisations, academics and local councils. It will develop policy, provide advice to government, coordinate information, deliver grants, monitor and evaluate relevant activities and establish a foundation to support HWQ.

It is clear that Queensland's health system is under extreme pressure. The demands on our health system have seen unacceptable blowouts and waiting periods for patients. My office is continually inundated with Gympie patients who are frustrated that they cannot be treated either locally or within a reasonable time frame. Mr Steven Vies of the Heart Foundation told the committee that—

... prevention must be given a greater priority and funding ... With 30 per cent of the total state budget consumed by health expenditure, we cannot continue on this trajectory. We need to do more than treat disease: we need to prevent it.

Queensland's Chief Health Officer acknowledged that the system faces public health challenges caused by our changing lifestyle and demographics. It is having a negative impact on patients' quality of life, the health system and our economy. *The health of Queenslanders 2018* report has identified that the factors contributing to this situation include an ageing population, high rates of obesity, an increasing chronic disease burden, the life expectancy and chronic disease burden of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the adverse effects of socio-economic factors.

One-third of the burden of disease is directly attributed to preventable risk factors. We are talking about poor nutrition, obesity, high blood pressure and smoking, which accounts for 43 per cent of Queensland deaths. The costs associated with these risk factors are significant for individuals and the community. Life expectancy in adults can be reduced by up to 10 years from chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Being overweight or obese frequently results in those diseases.

In 2015 it was estimated that obesity related illness cost the healthcare system \$756 million. When you add to that the cost of absenteeism, productivity losses, a reduction in wellbeing and early death, we are looking at an estimated impact of \$11.2 billion on the state's economy. The figures are so much higher when you drill down to factors such as socio-economically disadvantaged areas, remote regions and being Indigenous. There are large differences in the risk factors that lead to disease and premature death across the Queensland population.

Death rates from lifestyle related chronic conditions were 50 per cent higher in socio-economically disadvantaged areas compared to those from advantaged areas in 2015. They were 33 per cent higher for those from remote and very remote areas than for those in major cities in 2015. They were 70 per cent higher for Indigenous populations compared to non-Indigenous populations. Obesity rates were also out of proportion. They were 49 per cent higher in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, 35 per cent higher in remote areas, 39 per cent higher in very remote areas and 39 per cent higher among Indigenous Queenslanders.

The government has not made it clear whether Queensland Health's preventive health branch will continue to work under these new arrangements or whether it will be completely transferred to HWQ. What is concerning is that last year's budget of \$35.42 million represents a reduction of almost \$300,000 from the previous year, 2017-18. Too often we have seen that we have to judge the government on what it does and not what it says. At the same time as it cut the preventive health budget we are watching our public hospitals being pushed to breaking point, and patient care is suffering. Health was a basket case under the former Bligh government and is in bedlam under this one.

Professor Whiteman cautioned against too many competing interests and activities addressing preventive care issues. He told the committee—

... while the agency is being established, having the full support of government where it is fully funded to carry out its tasks ... we would advocate that in the short to medium term that is a better use of the funds that would be directed towards it than trying to establish a new brand in a crowded marketplace of other philanthropic agencies.

...

... it is getting harder and harder and we spend more money trying to bring in a little bit of money. It was really just to be cautionary about how realistic that might be.

The Public Health Association has also cautioned about the potential for conflicts of interest that can arise with partnerships with industry and commercial organisations in health. It is important that HWQ will not be just another government body competing in the same marketplace. More bureaucracy does not deliver better patient care. Preventive care is more important for the patients, our health system and our economy. The government cut the preventive health budget while at the same time we are watching our public hospitals being pushed to breaking point, and patient care is suffering. It is completely unacceptable. I do not oppose the bill.



Mrs MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (4.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. Our health system will impact almost everyone at some point in their lives, directly or indirectly, with the intention of providing a long and fulfilling life. The objective of this bill, through the creation of a statutory public health commission, seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reduce the risk factors for chronic disease and reduce health inequity.

Wellbeing is a complex combination of a person's physical, mental and emotional health and their social and economic circumstances. Improving our health and wellbeing not only improves our quality of life; it can have broader benefits for our society such as better productivity, happier families and reduced demand on health and social services. We know that the human and economic costs of not addressing these risk factors are significant for our state. This is something the Palaszczuk government has already begun to tackle.

In May 2016 the then health minister, Cameron Dick, launched *My health, Queensland's future: Advancing health 2026*. Advancing Health 2026 is a vision for the entire health sector and provides a framework for the government, Queensland Health and the broader health system to focus their efforts on addressing the challenges faced by all states and territories. The vision that Advancing Health 2026 is working to make a reality is simply that by 2026 Queenslanders will be among the healthiest people in the world.

Globally, health systems are under increasing pressure to improve health access, equity and quality, reduce costs of services, and provide services to the community that ultimately reduce hospitalisation and improve community health outcomes. The shift of focus from the acute hospital setting to a closer-to-home, wellness based model of care is one challenging all health services across the world. Delivering health care has its own set of challenges in Queensland—challenges of distance and a disperse population, challenges of meeting the healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and challenges of increasing demand. Meeting these challenges requires all our efforts to find new and innovative solutions. How do we do things differently to keep people well?

In recent decades substantial progress has been made in reducing early deaths, and Australia has moved up the life expectancy rankings amongst similarly developed nations. A sustained focus is needed to continue to reduce preventable diseases through lifestyle and behavioural change. Building more hospitals will not improve the health of the population unless it is supported with local and coordinated regional and statewide programs to improve the wellness of the population.

Some gains have been and are being made. For example, improved lifestyles are reducing the number of hospitalisations in Queensland for chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease, stroke, some cancers and some respiratory diseases. Death rates for lifestyle related chronic conditions are decreasing, which means that people are living longer and are able to contribute to community and family life for longer. Increasing the period of good health, wellness and vitality has the potential to delay the onset of illness and infirmity and potentially compress it to a very short period before death. If this can be achieved, health system costs will be constrained. However, as we know, this cannot be achieved through improvements in treatment alone.

While Health and Wellbeing Queensland will have a broad mandate to improve population health, initially the focus will be on reducing those risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. It was disappointing to hear a member opposite effectively shaming those who struggle with obesity, but obesity, low physical activity and poor nutrition are not simple things to address as they are in many cases influenced by social determinants—early years development, education, employment, housing and, of course, financial access to healthy food. This is particularly important. There are many people in my own electorate for whom access to affordable fruit and vegetables is difficult. I pay credit to organisations like Gailes Community House in my electorate, which operates Budget Grub Hub, with the support of Foodbank, allowing members of our community to stock their pantries with low-cost grocery items including some free items like bread, milk, fruit and vegetables.

Giving all Queenslanders equal opportunity to experience good health and wellbeing demands strategies that cross sectors and government, engage communities and businesses and empower individuals and families. The health system has a role in supporting Queenslanders to make healthy lifestyle choices. This is not only good for individual wellbeing; it is also a key foundation to Queensland's social fabric and economic prosperity. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. All members of this House recognise the importance of improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. As the Minister for Sport I have the privilege of seeing the positive outcomes of participation in an active lifestyle, whether on the local footy field or backyard cricket pitches, in gyms or in our high-performance sports programs. Being active and being smart about being active is so important. We all believe that all Queenslanders should have the opportunity to be active and stay healthy. The difference, I think, is whether people take a smart approach to achieving that goal.

Since January 2015 the Palaszczuk government has invested heavily in the sport and recreation sector. We have invested with a clear goal in mind. That goal is one that is shared by the authority envisaged by the bill we are debating and is a goal that delivers both economic and social benefits to Queensland.

Earlier today I spoke about the results of Sport Australia's most recent Ausplay research released this week. That revealed that many Queenslanders are missing out on the chance to live an active and healthy lifestyle—missing out on the chance to play sport. We heard that only about one-third of women in Australia are meeting Commonwealth physical activity health guidelines. We heard that the biggest barrier for women and girls participating in sport and active recreation was the ability to find the funds to pay for it.

The data shows that working people on minimum rates of pay in Australia are 30 per cent less likely to be involved in sport and recreation than those in wealthier households. As I said earlier today, the data shows that if you are a girl in one of those households you are a part of the 42 per cent of those who do not get to play. The aforementioned adverse outcomes are well-known socio-economic factors. That investment by government on behalf of all Queenslanders is about far more than an economic return, notwithstanding that there is one, because for our young people, women and girls and especially Indigenous Queenslanders participation in sport can make a real difference in their lives.

As the explanatory notes to the bill identify, the task before us is to take action to reduce the health inequities that Queenslanders face—inequities faced by the sorts of conditions that create barriers to participation like the fact that 1.7 million Australians earn under \$40,000, that we have increased casualisation that sees people working longer and longer and having less opportunity to be active and cuts to wages in particular. In recognition of its focus on addressing those health inequities, the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Queensland, of course, has my full support.

We also plan to make a contribution to the work of Health and Wellbeing Queensland through the development of Queensland's first-ever sport and recreation strategy. The strategy will enable all Queenslanders to reach their potential to be active, healthy and connected to their community. During our consultation on the strategy, one of the main priority areas we discussed was the impact that being involved in sport has on one's health outcomes and their wellbeing outcomes. All of the feedback that we heard—whether they were an athlete, whether they were an academic or whether they were a practitioner—was that if we take specific actions to help Queenslanders get moving earlier in life and keep them moving for longer they will be healthier. That is proven and it has also proven to be extremely cost effective.

As discussed, the investment strategy of Health and Wellbeing Queensland and an associated and accompanying sport and recreation strategy has to be place based and evidence based. It has been clear through the consultation on the sports strategy that different communities each require a different approach whilst underpinned by comprehensive evidence. I look forward to supporting the work of Health and Wellbeing Queensland and in ensuring that the sport and recreation strategy is designed to both amplify and align with its initiatives.

It is worth noting for the record though that the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Queensland does a very important thing in our state—that is, it fills a large gap. It is a large gap that was substantially created by the abolition of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency in 2014 under the administration of then prime minister Abbott—an institution whose charter was to remove barriers to childhood participation in physical activity, whose charter was to establish incentives in communities for physical activity, whose charter was to deliver a national social marketing campaign to get Australians moving.

The other contributor to that significant gap that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will fill was the dismantling of almost all of Queensland's health promotion effort under then premier Campbell Newman. We saw cuts to alcohol and drug programs, cuts to nutritional programs, cuts to sexual health advisers, cuts to outreach screening services and, of course, cuts to health lifestyle program coordinators. These represented cuts to services and programs when Queenslanders and Australians would have instead benefited from organisations that championed a change to healthy behaviours and a healthy lifestyle. When those who would have most benefited from strengthened linkages across sectors and agencies, those two governments turned their back on that opportunity and, as a result, there are countless individuals in this state and more broadly across the country who now suffer chronic illness, suffer poor diet and, in many cases, suffer the isolation that comes from not being a part of a sport and recreation club.

As the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulances Services, Steven Miles, indicated in his introductory speech, we do not need an agency to tell people to have more control over their lives. Instead, as a government we should effect the conditions in which people are born, grow up, live and work, and Minister Miles was right. That does take though a responsible authority to ensure that those outcomes—those conditions in which we are born, in which we grow up and in which we work—are being delivered and, further, where they are not, whatever the reasons might be, that there is a process of identifying appropriate interventions and a process of investing to remove those barriers.

In conclusion, the structure of the authority is appropriate given the task at hand. The board skill set as identified in the bill is appropriate for the task at hand. I am very confident that it will be a community focused and community representative board and therefore I am confident that its activities and its outcomes will be as well. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (4.24 pm): The Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019, as we have already heard, has at its core the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Queensland, HWQ, a new statutory body that takes a holistic approach to health promotion and is a very welcome step in the right direction for the thousands of Queenslanders living with chronic disease.


As the committee report reflects, there is a complex array of contributing risk factors that negatively impact on the health of Queenslanders, including socio-economic situations, access to education and resources including sport, and remoteness. Of course, our Indigenous communities are still suffering endemic inequity in health outcomes. This bill aims to address these issues using a multisector approach that works with education, employment, housing, the private sector, sports and the arts to tackle the underlying socio-economic, mental health and access factors contributing to chronic disease.

Industry stakeholders have shown their support for HWQ as it is an independent entity that allows for cross-sector collaboration within a local place based context while bringing Queensland in line with best practice models in other jurisdictions, particularly VicHealth and Healthway WA. Importantly, HWQ is dedicated to implementing long-term strategies—and they are what are really needed—that aim to build and strengthen health promotion plans within communities by addressing health inequity factors. They have also highlighted that the key to the success of this model will be in implementing evidence based decision-making based on needs assessment.

All stakeholders have agreed the board should be comprised of industry professionals with diverse lived experience, cultural backgrounds and professional experience across multiple sectors to ensure equal representation, vibrancy and clear direction into the future. The proposed transparency measures enable adequate oversight, especially during the early stages of establishing this body. Rather than creating an office within an existing government department, the structure of HWQ allows enough flexibility to control its own funding and implement long-term operative goals.

Acknowledging the underlying causes of poor health and chronic illness and giving local communities the means to tackle these endemic issues from a local and holistic viewpoint is essential and very relevant to our communities, including my own electorate, for creating lasting change through targeted intervention and prevention. The establishment of HWQ can assist in driving policy and resources to deliver solutions to these underlying causes as well as acknowledging that poor health is not an issue for individuals to deal with alone and that as a society we all have a role to play in the health of all Queenslanders.

Most importantly, this new body provides the mechanism for what has been needed and requested so often, and that is for our organisations to be able to partner without competing against one another trying to share in that one funding pool and for new and existing preventive programs such as the fabulous Life Education van, complete with the famous Healthy Harold, to potentially expand through those collaborations and secure longer term funding. I thank the committee, departments, agencies and submitters involved for their work. We all look forward to much better health for Queenslanders from this long-sought-after, holistic approach. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—Ind) (4.28 pm): I, too, rise this afternoon to say a few words in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill and foreshadow that I will not be opposing the bill. However, I want to echo the sentiments of a number of members in the House who have expressed concerns about the resources that have been put into this new statutory authority, because I am sure that many of my constituents across Mackay and the Whitsundays would be wondering perhaps if that sort of money could be better spent by increasing funding for programs such as Get in the Game, which was a great initiative of the former LNP government.

I acknowledge that the Palaszczuk Labor government has continued that program. I think a lot of people see us, as legislators, come here and have a robust debate and say that we do not agree on many things. One thing that both sides of the political divide agreed on was the Get in the Game concept. It was started by the LNP and then built on by the Labor Party. I think that a lot of sporting clubs across Queensland far and wide—from the big smoke to the bush—appreciate that program as a way of combating childhood obesity and those preventable chronic diseases that have been touched on by a number of members in the course of this debate.

A lot of us who are old enough will remember Norm of Life. Be in it. fame and his mate, Libby. I see the member for Gympie nodding. The member for Gregory's head has popped up like a little turtle in the Gooseponds of North Mackay. In all seriousness, back in the day that was a very good program that resonated with Queenslanders when, I dare say, people had the ABC and their own local commercial television station. As I recall, that campaign certainly hit the mark, because participation was king.

We have some great achievers in world sport at the Olympic level and the elite level. I say that as someone who advised the former Howard government on sport policy. Australia's history and Queensland's history is second to none. We punch way above our weight. Queensland punches way above its weight. We know what the Australian team achieves at Commonwealth Games and Olympics level. Sport is not just about winning gold medals; it is about making a difference in the community by addressing the scourge of these chronic preventable diseases. As a number of members have touched on, those diseases are particularly prevalent in battlers—those from low socio-economic backgrounds—and our First Australians, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I think that this \$30 million-odd could have been better spent on putting more money towards ramping up Get in the Game funding and on other promotional campaigns with an existing government department. A number of members have said that already and there are plenty thinking of it. More importantly, plenty of Queenslanders, who perhaps are following the proceedings in the House today by watching the live broadcast, are probably thinking, 'Yes, why aren't they doing that?'

I look at the member for Cairns and think of the Northern Pride and my great friend from Innisfail Ty Williams. I am sure the Northern Pride would have loved to have some government funding to go into the cape communities—


Mr Harper: A golfer too.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from my fellow North Queenslander the member for Thuringowa. He is a pretty handy golfer. I am sure his Uncle Sean at Wagga would concur with that, as well as his Auntie Stephanie. The Northern Pride is not even at the elite level, but I am sure the Northern Pride could go into the community to try to address the scourge of these diseases in countless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout the cape, the gulf and up in the Torres Strait. There is no doubt that the Northern Pride has the capacity, the interest and the desire to do that.

I also refer to the Broncos, the Cowboys and the Deadly Choices program. I acknowledge the great ambassadors there—my good friend Petero Cioniceva, Scotty Prince from Kalkadoon country, Preston Campbell, the boy from Tingha, and on it goes. Plenty of female athletes across different sports—softball and triathlon—have also donned that ambassadorship to make a difference.

We need to get kids off the couch. We need to get them off the lollies and the chocolates. We need to get them off the iPhones and the gadgets. The statistics show that one in four kids are obese and two out of three adults are obese. That is disgracefully embarrassing. Like a number of members in the chamber, I took the opportunity to mark Heart Week by not only getting my tricker checked but also getting my blood pressure checked. Whilst the results were not perfect, for now they are satisfactory. I thank Zoe Argeros and her colleagues from the Stroke Foundation for being on the parliamentary precinct this week and also their friends and partners at the Heart Foundation. They are doing good things for our community. They do a great job. Contrary to popular belief, most of us—if not all of us—in this chamber have a heart.

In conclusion, as I said, I will not be opposing the bill before the House. However, I question the resourcing of it and where this money is going. I will be keeping a close watch on it. As regional Queensland's only Independent MP, I think there would have been better avenues in terms of investing in sport—through sporting infrastructure, the Get in the Game program, including those vouchers to get battlers, kids, and Indigenous kids in particular, kids from the bush, kids from our regional and rural communities more involved in sport. How many parents out there, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, are making big sacrifices to get their kids to big carnivals? I look to the member for Cairns. Say it is a peninsula carnival. For some parents, just getting their kids to Barlow Park for athletics or Rugby League is a big imposition. We wonder why there are chubby kids running around. That is before I talk about kids being picked on at school. No-one in their right mind wants that. As legislators, we need to do something about it. The debate is about the priorities and the best way forward. As I say, I am not going to oppose the bill, but I have some concerns and they need to be noted in the House.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Health and Wellbeing Bill 2019. In doing so, I want to shine a light on new research from the World Health Organization that has found that breastfeeding reduces the risk of babies being overweight as a result of the hormones, nutrients and prebiotics in breastmilk, which changes a baby's gut bacteria.

The positive impact of breastfeeding on lowering the risk of death from infectious diseases in the first two years of life is now well established. There is also a mounting body of evidence that suggests that breastfeeding also plays a role in programming non-communicable disease risk later in life,

including protection against being overweight and obese in childhood. According to a World Health Organization study involving 16 countries, breastfeeding can cut the chances of a child becoming obese by up to 25 per cent. The more breastmilk a child receives, the lower their risk of obesity and diabetes in childhood and also later in life.

As a result, researchers are calling for more help and encouragement to women to breastfeed as well as to curb the marketing of formula milk, which misleads women into thinking that breast is not necessarily better. Breastmilk is believed to program babies to burn more fat efficiently in later life instead of storing it and gaining weight. Human milk—breastmilk—is specifically designed for human babies. In contrast, formula milk is thought to increase a baby's insulin levels compared to breastmilk, which may cause them to grow more and bigger fat cells. Formula milk also contains sugars that may lead to obesity. There is an increased risk of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes in babies whose exposure to breastmilk was brief or for those who were exposed to infant formula prior to three months of age.

When it comes to health outcomes, it has long been known that breastfeeding is important. Breastfeeding is the normal way to feed babies. However, 'normal' does not always mean that it is the most common way to feed babies, but it means that breastfeeding is the biological norm. Any other way of feeding a baby and the subsequent change in health outcomes has to be compared to breastfeeding. That means that there are no benefits to breastfeeding; rather, there are risks of not breastfeeding.

When it comes to health outcomes associated with infant feeding, the longer the total duration of breastfeeding and the longer the period of exclusive breastfeeding within the first six months of a baby's life the lower the risk. The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding for babies to six months of age and thereafter for breastfeeding to continue alongside suitable complementary foods for up to two years and beyond.

However, Australian breastfeeding statistics indicate that we are falling well short of these recommendations. Statistics gathered from the results of the 2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey indicate that 96 per cent of mothers initiate breastfeeding. Thereafter, exclusive breastfeeding rates drop off. Less than half, around 39 per cent, of babies are still being exclusively breastfed to three months and less than one-quarter, only 15 per cent, to five months.

Not breastfeeding or being breastfed for shorter lengths of time increases the risk of a whole raft of health issues for the child, including SIDS, gastrointestinal infections, respiratory infections, ear infections, necrotising enterocolitis in premature babies, sepsis in premature babies, dental malocclusions, overweight and obesity and a lower IQ. For the mother, not breastfeeding increases the risk of breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

There is also a strong evidence base about the many benefits of breastfeeding for the mother and her baby and that reinforces the need to increase the resources that are put into supporting women to begin and maintain breastfeeding for at least the first six months of the baby's life. It is estimated that early weaning adds around \$1 million to \$2 million to annual hospitalisation costs for gastrointestinal illness, respiratory and ear infections, eczema and NEC. By using these figures, savings across the Australian hospital system could be between \$60 million and \$120 million annually for these illnesses alone.


The study reinforced the need to put more resources into supporting women to breastfeed. We need both more specialist breastfeeding support for women after birth and more time for all professionals involved in antenatal and postnatal care to offer the support women are telling us they need. We know that in the postnatal period many women are saying they do not feel midwives and health professionals have the time to give them the support that would enable many more to continue breastfeeding. I take this opportunity to publicly thank the Australian Breastfeeding Association for all of the measures of support they provide to women, their partners and their babies to initiate breastfeeding and continue on their breastfeeding journey. In addition, infant feeding is a highly emotive subject because so many families have not breastfed or have experienced the trauma of trying very hard to breastfeed and not being able to. We need more support to help new mothers learn breastfeeding skills and have policies in place that help them continue breastfeeding through the baby's first year of life.

We also need to stop the inappropriate marketing of formula milk that may lead some mothers to believe it is as good for babies as breastmilk. Only a few weeks ago I saw an advertisement on TV for a toddler milk drink, which is completely unnecessary and makes mothers think that they need to supplement their child's diet with toddler milk drinks. Toddler milks and special and/or supplementary foods for toddlers are not required for healthy children. From 12 months of age and beyond toddlers

should be consuming family foods consistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Solid foods should provide an increasing proportion of the energy intake after 12 months of age. Children should be able to meet their nutritional requirements from eating a healthy diet without special toddler milk drinks. Toddler milk drinks are purely and simply marketing to parents who are concerned that their children's diet may be inadequate and a money grab that is only damaging to Australian women and their children.

In Australia, the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formulas agreement is a voluntary self-regulatory code of conduct between manufacturers and importers of infant formula. Although most formula manufacturers comply with these guidelines, when it comes to toddler, junior and growing-up milks for babies over 12 months there are no restrictions and I believe that this needs to change.

Breastfeeding protects against a range of diseases and therefore has the potential to alleviate costs to the healthcare system in both the short and long term. In fact, the Australian Medical Association said that the total value of breastfeeding to the community makes it one of the most cost-effective primary prevention measures available and well worth the support of the entire community. There are few other preventive health interventions that have proven permanent effects in reducing risk factors for chronic disease in such a variety of settings. More needs to be done to support families to breastfeed for longer. I hope that the health promotion agency that this bill will establish, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, will take the evidence on board and consider ways in which we can help support women in Queensland to initiate breastfeeding and continue on their breastfeeding journey with their babies. We can do this by ensuring that all health professionals have the tools and the knowledge to support future parents and current parents to breastfeed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. The LNP and I are very supportive of the bill. I thank the committee, the submitters and the groups that contributed to the consideration of the bill. The objective of the bill is to establish the health promotion agency, known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland, as a statutory body, which will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, reducing risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities.

The proposed functions of Health and Wellbeing Queensland are to facilitate and commission activities to prevent illness or promote health and wellbeing; to develop partnerships and collaborate across government and with entities such as businesses, industry organisations, community organisations, academics, local governments and individuals; to give grants for activities to further its objectives or carry out its functions; to monitor and evaluate activities to prevent illness or promote health and wellbeing; to develop policy and advise the minister and government entities about illness prevention or promotion of health and wellbeing; and to coordinate the exchange of information about activities to prevent illness or promote health and wellbeing. The bill also amends the Hospital Foundations Act 2018 to enable the establishment of a foundation to support Health and Wellbeing Queensland in the achievement of its objectives.

The health of Queenslanders 2018: report by the Chief Health Officer Queensland identified that the health system continues to face public health challenges, including high rates of obesity, an increasing chronic disease burden, disparity in the life expectancy and chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and the adverse effect of socio-economic factors. I would like to add mental illness there. I have not heard much emphasis today on mental illness. I would hope that Health and Wellbeing Queensland does have a focus that includes the awareness of mental health issues.

Many members have given their own personal story today. When I was in the military and I returned from my deployment to the Middle East I came back a different person. My wife scarcely recognised me in terms of my personality. In the Air Force we had a health promotions program, what one would call health education. My wife was able to identify exactly what was wrong with me and dragged me down to the doctor by my ear to get me some help. It is only because of that that I am able to be here today and be an effective member of parliament.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I absolutely encourage Health and Wellbeing Queensland to make sure it considers mental health awareness and suicide prevention because I think those are very important aspects of public health that need promotion. I acknowledge the 'hear, hears' I get from my colleagues in the chamber. I thank them for that. Combined with a growing and ageing population, these factors are negatively impacting the quality of life of Queenslanders, the capacity of the health system and the productivity of the economy. One third of the burden of disease is attributed to preventable risk factors such as poor nutrition, obesity, high blood pressure and smoking, which account for 43 per cent of

deaths in Queensland. I acknowledge the contribution of my honourable friend the member for Condamine when he spoke about cholesterol control and having quit smoking and the benefits he has experienced and just how hard that was. We all have risk factors. It is great to hear the individual stories of members.

The costs associated with these risk factors are significant for individuals and the community. In adults, being overweight or obese frequently results in chronic diseases such as type two diabetes, heart disease and cancer, which can reduce life expectancy by up to 10 years. It is estimated that obesity related illness had an estimated cost on the Queensland healthcare system of \$756 million in 2015. That is a staggering sum. When the additional costs of absenteeism from employment, losses to productivity, loss of wellbeing and early death are included, the total financial impact on the Queensland economy was estimated at \$11.2 billion. That truly is a staggering sum.

In socio-economically disadvantaged areas, the rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions were 50 per cent higher than those in advantaged areas in 2015. Remoteness is also a key factor in Queensland, with rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions in remote and very remote areas 33 per cent higher than in major cities in 2015. The disease and injury burden for Indigenous Queenslanders is 2.2 times that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders and rates of death due to lifestyle related chronic conditions is 70 per cent higher than in the non-Indigenous population. They are disappointing statistics for Indigenous populations.

My own electorate of Southern Downs is not that far from Brisbane. It is a maximum five-hour drive. It has fewer health services and higher incidences of heart disease, depression and chronic illnesses than a city electorate. Remoteness is something that ought to be taken into account. I would like to give a plug to Dr Rolf Gomes and Heart of Australia.

Mr Millar: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take that 'hear, hear!' from my honourable friend the member for Gregory. Heart of Australia operates a number of buses that tour Western Queensland and provide cardiology services to people who could not otherwise have them: busy farmers who put their health at risk by putting off visits to the doctor. I am sure that Dr Gomes would confirm that many lives have been saved through that marvellous service.

Mr Millar: The state government should fund that!

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. It would be lovely to see the state government fund that. There are large differences in risk factors that lead to diseases and premature death across the Queensland population. Obesity rates are 49 per cent higher in socio-economically disadvantaged areas of Queensland compared to in advantaged areas, 35 per cent higher in remote areas, 39 per cent higher in very remote areas of Queensland compared to in major cities and 39 per cent higher among Indigenous Queenslanders than non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

This bill provides that the Health and Wellbeing Queensland board will be comprised of up to 10 members, a chief executive officer and staff. The board is responsible to the minister for the management and performance of Health and Wellbeing Queensland. A maximum of four members of the board will be chief executives of government departments. The other members will be persons with knowledge, skills or experience in business or financial management, law, public health, academia, community service organisations, the not-for-profit sector or another area that the minister considers relevant or necessary to support the board in performing its functions. I suggest it would be a wonderful thing to have an advocate or expert in mental health on the board. I pay tribute to the member for Buderim who spoke earlier in the House about the importance of looking after the mental health of veterans, in particular. That would be a good thing to do.

The bill will ensure there is flexibility to enable the board to be made up of members who bring a range of experiences and backgrounds, such as experience as a consumer representative or advocate. The bill requires that at least one person on the board must be an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander. Board members will be appointed by the Governor in Council for periods not exceeding four years, although they but may be reappointed.

The cost is estimated to be \$32.955 million in 2019-20. Existing activities currently delivered by Queensland Health that are aimed at reducing chronic disease and improving nutritional and physical activity are to transition to Health and Wellbeing Queensland. However, it is unclear whether Queensland Health's preventive health branch will continue under the new arrangements. I hope that, in his summing-up, the minister will shed some light on that.

The sum of \$32.955 million is a significant amount of money. It is not at all a bad thing to devote a reasonable sum to this worthy objective. However, I urge the government to be careful in how the money is spent, to count the pennies and to not use the program as a way to splash money around. There are groups in the community that do fantastic work on the smell of an oily rag. It would be great to see that money spread as widely as possible, in the most efficient way possible, to get the maximum benefit for Queenslanders.

The only other thing I would say is that it took an awfully long time for the government to introduce the bill, but better late than never. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.51 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. I note that one of the main purposes of the bill is to establish a legislative framework for a statutory health promotion agency to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland. This follows our government's election commitment to establish a statutory public health commission to tackle Queensland's obesity and chronic disease rates to support Queenslanders right across our state. This is a worthy initiative, because we know that these strategies work. We know that the work of statutory public health commissions lead to better health outcomes for the communities within their jurisdiction. We know that the strategies and initiatives that they develop contribute to better health outcomes. Ultimately, that is a worthy goal and vision for the people of Queensland.

Chronic diseases can have dramatic and devastating effects on people's wellbeing and lifestyle. Those diseases can contribute to more significant health conditions if left untreated or not managed appropriately. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you are aware given your professional background, in many instances the impact of chronic disease can be avoided by people making good lifestyle choices around healthy living and exercise. In particular I note that chronic diseases such as diabetes, health disease and cancer have common risk factors including obesity, low physical activity, poor nutrition and smoking. Often those risk factors are caused by lifestyle related behaviours that, in turn, are influenced by social determinants of health, including early years development, education, employment and working conditions, housing, environment, infrastructure, access to affordable healthy food and access to and use of health services.

Health and Wellbeing Queensland will target its activities to places of need, perhaps due to their remoteness, the demographic make-up of their communities or socio-economic disadvantage. On that point, I note the great work being done by health providers in the Caboolture region. The Caboolture region has an unfortunate story, which is that it is one of the leaders in both our state and nation when it comes to some chronic health diseases. As I have mentioned previously, we know that that impacts on people's lifestyle, wellbeing and, of course, future health outcomes. Therefore, this bill is particularly relevant to the community that I represent in this parliament. I know that the people of Caboolture will be grateful for the additional support, strategies and initiatives that Health and Wellbeing Queensland will work on as part of its mission to improve wellbeing for all Queenslanders.

I wish to deviate to make a statement. Earlier today in the House the member for Mudgeeraba asked a question in relation to police evidence. In response, the Premier offered that if the member wanted more information she could ask me, the police minister, for that information. I have not had a request for more information from the member. However, in the interests of providing information, I can confirm police advice that State Crime Command is still investigating the matter. Further, in the interests of clarifying earlier advice to the Premier, I can advise that the police have undertaken an inquiry in relation to the matter, rather than an Ethical Standards Command review. However, police advise that as those investigations are ongoing the Queensland Police Service can make no further comment at this time about the investigation or any further commentary in relation to any exhibits that may be related to the investigation.

I return to the bill. This is a worthy initiative. I am very pleased to speak to this bill. It will provide great outcomes for the people of the Caboolture region. I am very happy to put my name on the record as a supporter of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019.



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (4.56 pm): I will make a short contribution to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. Preventive health is very important and there is one health board that does it fantastically well: the Central West Hospital and Health Service board. As part of its ongoing efforts, the board, its administrators, doctors and nurses do preventive health very well because distance is a big issue when it comes to receiving health care. I commend the Central West Hospital and Health Service board and acknowledge its ability to address preventive health.

I believe that preventive health is something that we must all do, but I am concerned that through this bill we will be spending \$35.42 million in the 2018-19 planned budget. A sum of \$35 million would go a long way in the seat of Gregory when it comes to health facilities. Last night I spoke about accessing renal dialysis in Emerald and Longreach so that people do not have to leave their loved ones and their homes to receive treatment in Rockhampton. Through this bill we will spend \$35 million on preventive health, which is important, but I hope we will not be spending a lot of that money on stress balls, pens, hats and other paraphernalia. We have to spend the money on health. We have to spend the money where it is needed.

Government members interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I take the interjections from those opposite. The member for Southern Downs talked about the Heart of Australia truck and Rolf Gomes. That program has been going for well over four or five years. In Western Queensland it does fantastic work analysing cardiac conditions. Because of the truck, people can have a stress test in Blackall, Tambo, Augathella or Blackwater. It can deliver specialist services to small communities, so people do not have to jump on a plane or get in their car to travel to Brisbane to see a specialist. In Western Queensland, the specialist goes to the people.

The last time I saw the Heart of Australia truck I was with the shadow health minister. When we turned up, we saw the Queensland government emblem on the back of the truck. Why is that emblem on the back of the truck? That is because it was the LNP government under Lawrence Springborg who funded such an important facility for regional and rural Queensland. The other government that is funding the Heart of Australia truck is the Morrison LNP federal government thanks to Barry O'Sullivan, the Senator in Queensland, who is able to get funding to keep that important asset.

A government member interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the other side. It is important. Having that sort of service in Western Queensland is important. We need that service. The arrogant talk from those on the other side is absolutely ridiculous. Come out here and tell us how we should do it out there. Do not laugh at people in Western Queensland when they want cardiac services. It shows that members opposite are just arrogant.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I call the member for Gregory. I ask the member to come back to the long title of the bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't need the assistance of those on my right.

Mr MILLAR: My concern with this, while it is needed, is that we are putting money into preventive health in the right way, that it is making an actual difference for people in regional and rural Queensland. We also need to ensure that we have the services in regional and rural Queensland. Yes, having preventive health is important, but having the actual services such as maternity and dialysis is important for people in Western Queensland. I will always stick up for people in western and regional Queensland. I always will fight for their right to have those services. They pay their taxes just as much as anybody else. They have a right to those services in that area. I will continue to fight for that.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the member opposite. They are always keen to blame the federal government for everything. We have a health minister. What is he picking up a cheque for? Stop blaming the federal government. You have been in government for more than four years. You have a responsibility to deliver these programs. From my understanding, dialysis is something that the Queensland government has to deliver. They delivered it in Rockhampton and Bowen but they cannot give it to Emerald or Longreach.

Mr Lister: Or Warwick.

Mr MILLAR: No. Stop blaming the federal government, because people out there are getting sick and tired of hearing the Labor government blame someone else for what is their fault. Just get on with the job and deliver the services. We understand that sometimes not all services can be delivered, but do not blame someone else for it.

Ms Grace: You are blaming us all the time.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection. It just shows the arrogance of the Labor government when it comes to delivering health in Western Queensland. Stop blaming the federal government.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am disappointed. This speech is totally irrelevant to the long title of the bill and only seeking the interjections of others to have a rant. It is very disappointing that this important bill is not being addressed.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate that you are responding to interactions, but I will bring the member back to the long title of the bill. I have given some latitude there, but I ask that you return to the long title of the bill.

Mr MILLAR: I thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Power: Do you know what it is about?

Mr MILLAR: It is about the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. It is about preventive health. It is about providing opportunities so people can have preventive health. I do know what it is about. I am trying to explain to those opposite and to the member who just interjected that preventive health is great but that we need the services to deal with health problems in regional and rural Queensland. That is where I am coming back to the bill. Yes, it is great—\$35 million. Let us push that forward. Certainly, the Central West Health and Hospital Board are doing a fantastic job in preventive health programs from Longreach to Birdsville to Bedourie in regional Queensland. They are doing a great job, but in Longreach and Emerald they also need health services such as renal dialysis.

I am being relevant to the bill. I understand what the bill is about. We can have all the preventive strategies in place, but if we are not delivering services to the people in Western Queensland it will not be fair on them. I ask that we also look at ensuring that services such as renal dialysis and maternity services are delivered to people in rural and regional Queensland.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.04 pm): I rise today in support of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. The bill also amends the Hospital Foundations Act 2018 to enable the establishment of a foundation to support Health and Wellbeing Queensland in achieving its objectives. In doing so I would like to acknowledge the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to the people of Queensland. This bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to establish a health promotion agency to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders and reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and health inequity.

The health of Queenslanders 2018: report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland identified that the health system continues to face public challenges including: high rates of obesity, increasing chronic disease burden, disparity in the life expectancy chronic disease burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the adverse effect of socio-economic factors. I acknowledge the Minister for Health, the Hon. Steven Miles; the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee; the committee secretariat; the committee chair, Leanne Linard; and committee members for their hard work in the examination of the bill.

As someone raised in a remote community on the Torres Strait, I have lived and worked for many years in health in a remote community setting. I have both personal and professional experience of the challenges of dealing with and addressing chronic health issues in remote communities. As a health worker, I worked hard to achieve positive health outcomes for my community; namely, the planning and delivery of health programs to target specific groups in child health, women's and men's health, sexual health, chronic disease and diabetes. There was the maintaining of health registers to ensure patient health checks were kept up to date and patients were called for regular reviews to avoid falling between the gaps.

Unfortunately I experienced the passing of many loved ones in my community. In my maiden speech I shared my experience with each passing as I felt like I had failed. I was passionate about making a difference in health in my community—and I still am today—not just for the benefit of my community but for the benefit of every person and community in the electorate of Cook. I firmly believe in the power to use health promotion as a vehicle to prevent chronic diseases and mortality rates for all people.

I worked hard to educate and to raise awareness for better health outcomes in my community, but I did not quite understand nor appreciate the much larger issues. Health is not an isolated issue. Being a health worker then with a strong passion to make a difference, I could not solve the larger issues of employment, housing, education or the high cost of living. I held the responsibility of my community on my shoulders, but I always felt everything was beyond me.

The World Health Organization through the Ottawa Charter identified that the health sector alone cannot ensure prerequisites and prospects for health. It is recognised that health promotion requires coordinated action by governments, health and other social and economic sectors, non-government and voluntary organisations, local authorities, industry and the media. I firmly believe that the establishment of an independent agency to work with people in communities is a game changer for health outcomes in Queensland.

The establishment of Health and Wellbeing Queensland will provide an exciting opportunity to provide long-term strategic leadership and direction on whole-of-government initiatives and partnerships to address the social determinants of health; to act as an independent champion; to engage with the diverse sectors engaged in health promotion; to add to the empirical base underlying health promotion policy in Queensland; and to foster the innovative thinking required to reduce health inequity.

This government understands the factors that, combined with a growing and ageing population, are negatively impacting the quality of life for Queenslanders, the capacity of the health system and the productivity of the Queensland economy. I think almost all of us in this House could say that we could all work a little harder to make healthier choices. We need to lead the way and help support our fellow Queenslanders. I stand here proud to represent a government investing in preventive health. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (5.10 pm): I too rise to address the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. This bill will establish a health promotion agency which, as the title suggests, will be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland. As other speakers before me have pointed out, it is no surprise that our health system is struggling not only because it is being overseen by a Labor government but because of high rates of obesity; increasing chronic disease; disparity in life expectancy and chronic disease burdens within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; adverse effects of socio-economic factors; and a very quickly growing and, indeed, ageing population.

Like the speaker before me, I too have had loved ones pass earlier than they should have because of decisions they have made—decisions that they could have made otherwise and their deaths prevented. Both a grandfather and a grandmother were chronic smokers. One died of throat cancer and the other of lung related diseases. I also had a cousin commit suicide at an incredibly young age, so I want to pick up on the point made by the member for Southern Downs—that it will be very important for Health and Wellbeing Queensland to pick up mental health as well. We all would agree that the promotion of healthy choices and the promotion of personal wellbeing is critical. I am willing to admit that I fall into one of those categories myself.

Mr Minnikin: You're a smoker?

Mr POWELL: I am not a smoker. I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. My weight is something that I struggle with on a daily basis. It is why every morning at 5.15 when I am down here I get up with my good colleagues the member for Burnett, the member Gympie and the member for Burleigh and we tackle a six- to eight-kilometre walk. It is why I try to get to the gym as frequently as possible. Yes, I toddle along and listen to health awareness programs including the one we had this week from the Heart Foundation and the Stroke Foundation. It might surprise many in this chamber that my health belies my weight, so much so that one trainer—and I will not use the exact phrase—once referred to me as the 'fit fat bloke'.

We all need to be doing more. It is my hope that this organisation will do a lot more to ensure that preventive chronic disease is addressed before it becomes chronic here in Queensland. I do share the concerns of others on this side of the House. I question whether a statutory agency and the costs involved in establishing one is required. I want to make sure that as much of the investment as possible gets out to the grassroots organisations that are at the front line in combating preventive chronic disease—that all of the investment goes towards ensuring that Queenslanders, regardless of their socio-economic status, regardless of their gender, regardless of where they are located in the state, are able to access those kinds of health and wellbeing services.

I want to spend a bit of time like others did, including the Minister for Sport, acknowledging the role that sport can play in ensuring that you maintain a healthy lifestyle. The electorate of Glass House, like many others, is blessed with an extraordinary range of sporting organisations. If you want to play Rugby League, there are clubs like the Stanley River Wolves and the Beerwah Bulldogs. If you want to play Rugby Union, there are clubs like the Maleny Bushrangers. We have soccer and cricket clubs at Maleny, Glass House Mountains, Wamuran and Palmwoods.

Tennis is literally everywhere in the electorate of Glass House. We even have croquet. We have netball clubs like Tibro's at Glass House Mountains, the Warriors at Woodford and one at Maleny. We have Little As at Maleny, Glass House Mountains and Wamuran. We have junior AFL at Elimbah, Palmwoods and Landsborough. All of those sporting organisations are there to engage our youngest people in ensuring that they have a healthy lifestyle and trying to embed within them the practices that will hopefully extend into their adulthood as well.


On that note, I want to point out that there is a significant need for investment in female facilities at these sporting organisations. My kids' local soccer club, which they have been involved in now for over 10 years, is no exception. The Palmwoods Warriors Football Club desperately needs female facilities. They have done a great job in attracting young girls to play soccer and to do so across the Sunshine Coast, but the lack of female-specific change rooms is creating a huge burden and we are seeing girls get to an age where they are walking away. That is replicated across the electorate of Glass House. It would be great to see the grant programs that were first initiated by the LNP such as Get in the Game and Get Playing expanded and focused on female facilities so that we can continue to provide those services.

I spoke to the member for Bundamba earlier today and acknowledged that I will need my passport stamped as I head into her electorate tomorrow afternoon to watch two of my children participate in the Queensland Christian Soccer Association state titles. My eldest boy, Dan, who just turned 18, will be representing the Sunshine Coast in the under-18s.

Mr McArdle: Are you the coach?

Mr POWELL: My middle daughter, Brielle, who will be turning 14 on Sunday, will be in the under-16 girls' team for the Sunshine Coast, which is actually coached not by me, member for Caloundra, but my wife, Taryn. It is a real family affair over the course of the long weekend at Redbank Plains. It will be great to see kids from around South-East Queensland participating in a sport they love, getting healthy and fit, and making wise decisions.

We need to be doing more. We need to be doing more as a parliament. The Labor government certainly needs to be doing more in terms of encouraging healthy activities and healthy choices. I do support the notion of Health and Wellbeing Queensland, but I again go back to what I said earlier. It must ensure that it does not become another bureaucracy. It must ensure that it does not exist for the sake of existing. It must deliver grants. It must deliver funding to those grassroots organisations that will ultimately deliver the education programs and the change programs that are required to change behaviours in people like me and others here in parliament who have acknowledged that they, too, fall into some of those risk categories. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.17 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. In picking up on some of the points raised by my colleague the member for Glass House, it is so very important that this new authority take a statewide view and perspective when it comes to health and wellbeing. I note that this new body will be contributing to improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, while reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and reducing health inequities.

I owned and operated a personal training business for some 10 years in Townsville. I have to say that that was probably some of the most satisfying work I have ever done. That really opened my eyes to some of the challenges that face us when it comes to addressing health issues, particularly obesity and preventive health. I was training people across all spectrums, from children to elderly clients. Exercise on its own will never cut it. There needs to be an education campaign and it needs to be based on nutrition and lifestyle and all of those factors holistically if you are going to address this problem. We can all go out and exercise, but if you do not have your head around some of those other fundamentals around healthy eating and lifestyle then exercise on its own will never cut it.

I remember training a veterans rowing crew who did not have a real history of exercise. They came to me in all shapes and sizes and with different illnesses. I took them to one of the biggest gyms in Townsville for the very first time. I got some pretty surprised looks when I walked in with this group, but they began an exercise program and over a period of about three months without exception every single one of those veteran rowers came to me and said that they were throwing away their blood pressure tablets and all the pills that they needed to get themselves through daily life. The difference that made to their life and has continued to this day because they all embraced the concept of health and wellbeing was phenomenal.

When we talk about health and wellbeing there is a real message there particularly for this authority in terms of how they get that out there and how they roll those programs out. I have lived in some of the remotest parts of Queensland. The more remote the community, the greater the challenge. Before I was elected I spent two years on Palm Island. Members would appreciate that there are some chronic illnesses and diseases in that community. When we look at their options for exercise and healthy eating on a place like Palm Island, we can appreciate the difficulties and the obstacles that we have to get over if we are going to roll this program out right across Queensland. It is absolutely imperative that this authority takes a global view of this issue and how they roll that out across this state. When we are talking about communities like Palm Island which do not have a lot of options in terms of exercise and healthy eating, it becomes very challenging. I can talk about the store on Palm Island. The availability of fresh fruit and vegetables, for example, is something we take for granted. We can go out and buy that every single day of the week. If you live on Palm Island or in the cape where I was stationed in a little place called Laura then you do not have that. That really reinforces the challenges of promoting healthy eating.

When it comes to children and activity, I think we have lost our way. I will give the House an example. I have a school in my electorate of 700-odd students. I walked in there some weeks ago and there would have been less than 10 bicycles on the school bike racks. Once upon a time there would have been 400 or 500 bicycles on the bike racks, but all of those students are now being driven to and from school. There is an obligation as a community, from the ground level up, to encourage children from that young age to do more exercise.

Exercise for a lot of kids is prohibitively expensive. I have a 10-year-old and a seven-year-old at home who play sport, and it costs a lot of money if they want to play soccer or football. That can really stymie opportunities for a lot of kids, particularly if they come from families who cannot afford those sorts of expenses. That needs to be looked at as well. Are we providing equal opportunities across the state for all kids if we are talking about increasing exercise?


When I was a personal trainer, I thought it would be good if GPs could prescribe exercise, if GPs could write out a script to send a person to a personal trainer or a gym instead of sending them to the chemist to buy more pills. Wouldn't that be something outside the square and wouldn't that contribute in the long run to a healthier community? I think that needs to be pursued by this authority when it is set up in terms of looking outside the square for options to increase physical activity and the incentives that we can provide in doing so.

My wife is a psychologist. I know that it is not specifically mentioned in this bill—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr LAST: I take the interjection. I am my wife's greatest challenge, but that is okay. The increasing number of kids whose psychological health is now suffering is really concerning and it should be concerning every single one of us in this place. Kids who are five, six and seven years old who are now going to a psychologist to seek counselling should be sounding alarm bells for each and every one of us in this place. I find it really difficult to grasp that kids of that age are having to get professional counselling over several months and in some cases years to deal with mental health issues, and that will manifest itself later on as they progress into their teens. That is something we need to be looking at as well. I know it is not necessarily a focus of this bill, but in terms of the bigger health picture I think we need to be looking at that as well as we go forward.

I support the bill and what it is doing. I hope it is not just setting up another bureaucracy. I would like to think that the money that is being used to establish this authority will filter down to all levels and give everyone equal opportunity in terms of health and wellbeing. I look forward to seeing how it rolls out.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise in support of the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill, finally brought to the chamber after four years of inaction from Labor, which has been covered at length by my colleagues. According to the Chief Health Officer's report last year, Queenslanders are living longer lives. However, 13 per cent of those extra years of life are lost due to ill health. GP presentations and admissions to hospitals have both increased in that time. Putting priority on preventive health is good for Queenslanders, both for their health and for our economy. Healthier Queenslanders take a big burden off our hospitals and doctors, increase productivity, reduce work absenteeism and it is what people want. It was a shame to see Labor reduce the preventive health budget in the 2018-19 budget, and again it makes me question their priorities.

The health of the people of the Gold Coast is pretty good compared to the rest of the state. I suspect this is because the Gold Coast is the best part of Queensland to live in and offers the best lifestyle. We have the lowest rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations, we have lower risk factors in children and adults, and we have a higher average age at death. There is always work to be done, and within preventable diseases and presentations there are three areas I would like to raise for increased focus.

Suicide rates have jumped in Queensland. They have increased statewide by 20 per cent over the last decade. The Queensland rate was 19 per cent higher than the national rate and 22 per cent higher for childhood suicides. My hope is that this new statutory body would see preventive mental health as a priority. Suicide and self-harm have become all too normalised, particularly with our younger people. I have spoken to many people, including friends of mine who have been personally affected, and we need better programs, campaigns and understanding to try to curb this trend. Whilst other diseases are on the decline, the suicide rate is the opposite. The lives of those left behind from suicide never recover. We must have this as a priority if we are trying to increase the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Whilst the Gold Coast is well below the state rate in terms of obesity, which is a fact exemplified by my esteemed colleagues in the House from the Gold Coast who are shining examples of health and fitness, our 20 per cent rate is still far too high.

Mr Power: What about Ray?

Mr O'CONNOR: I am not taking that interjection. Greater education in schools, ways to encourage kids and young adults into active lifestyles, and targeted approaches to older Australians is needed. Across Queensland it is estimated that 33,700 tonnes would need to be lost across all obese adults to bring them into a healthy weight range. The average obese adult would need to lose 29 kilos. That is a huge feat for most, and we need to see how we can make that less of a daunting task. Greater access for adults to sporting clubs, active spaces and even gyms is needed as well as reminders to all of us about what makes up a healthy diet.

The final area I would like to talk about and raise focus on is immunisations. We are still seeing rates well below the national average for immunisations and I am concerned about the ever-growing anti-vaxxer movement that is being fuelled by the internet and social media. My hope is that the health and wellbeing commission will help join the fight against the scaremongering of anti-vaxxers and get the truth of vaccinations out there. The number of conversations I have and messages and emails I get from people who have been swayed by their arguments is absolutely staggering. At the end of the day, vaccines work and that is the end of the argument. My hope is that with this bill the government can prioritise what will make a real difference to the health of Queenslanders—to cut out the politics and increase preventive action. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (5.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. There is no doubt that there is consensus around the chamber as to the importance of tackling the issues of chronic disease and what flows from those diseases. This bill has a history going back to the inquiry undertaken in June 2016 into whether a Queensland health promotion commission should be established. The report was tabled and there are a number of questions in the statement of reservations touching upon how the commission would function, the composition of the commission and how it would cover topics across a range of portfolios. This in part led to the bill in 2017 that lapsed when the parliament was dissolved.

The current bill came to the House in February this year and the committee reported to the House on 28 April 2019. The bill itself establishes Health and Wellbeing Queensland, with its functions listed at clause 11. Health and Wellbeing Queensland comprises up to 10 board members, as per clause 18. The board's functions are listed at clause 16, and the minister has the power to provide ministerial directions, as per clauses 13 and 14. Clause 43 provides that there must be an annual report that includes how the body performs its functions 'efficiently and effectively'. I will come back to that.

In the 2016 report, there was some debate about how the membership of the board should be appointed. Around the nation, there are a number of similar bodies. In Western Australia at that time, there was a seven-member board. The presiding member was appointed by the minister on nomination of the Premier, and the Premier in that state had to consult with other parties before making the nomination public. In Victoria, there is a 14-member board, and the minister appoints 11 members but three are nominated by the Victorian parliament from the major political parties coming to an agreement. I pose this question: if we have a situation here where there is strong consensus as to whether or not

the board should exist, can the minister in his reply touch upon whether consideration was given to a model that looked at a consensus approach in the parliament or across the parties within the parliament to strengthen the bonds to achieve the outcomes required?

In the 2016 report, there was also some debate as to where exactly the commission or body should be placed. There were some jurisdictions that said that DPC was the appropriate place to put the body. The reason for that was there was debate that, if it were placed within one particular portfolio, even though it would be important to that portfolio it may not be as important to other portfolios. That is why it was argued that DPC was a more appropriate place to put the body, given the position of that department across all government portfolios or departments.

I note that clause 18 attempts to overcome in some manner that question by appointing up to four 'chief executives', which I assume refers to the executives of the government department. However, the body will still sit within the health department and the risk still exists that its real reach across such critical portfolios as Education and Local Government will be reduced. I would like the minister to address how that particular issue can be overcome. The health department has that reach but it does not have oversight of the important portfolios of Education and Local Government that are identified within the report as being pivotal to the outcomes that are sought.

The other point is the funding question. Page 19 states that the start budget will be \$32.955 million for 2019-20, but as I read the report it seems those are existing moneys in the current budget that will be transferred from the current owner, shall we say, of those funds into the new body. That is not new money, as I understand it. Could the minister confirm that? I suspect those moneys currently sit with the Preventive Health Branch within Queensland Health. Will it be the case that the employees or members of that branch will transition into the new body? I think there are about 36 FTEs in that body. I am trying to establish whether or not the Preventive Health Branch will in fact close down and those public servants will operate again in the new entity and whether or not the moneys we are referring to on page 19 of the report that are being transferred are in fact moneys that are currently to be utilised by that branch but are to be moved into the new entity.

The report also refers to most of those moneys being utilised by way of grants. If the body is independent of the department, it will therefore have its own offices and current and ongoing running expenses. Wages are one, rent is another, and then there is electricity et cetera. I am trying to gain from the minister some idea of what proportion of the \$32.955 million will in fact be for grants. It will require a fairly large space to run an office of up to, say, 36 or 37 employees in Brisbane. The costs associated with that office will also have to be met—electricity, motor vehicles et cetera. I would like some concept of what will be the capacity to obtain moneys and what that gross amount will be.


Clause 43 of the bill states that the annual report must contain how effectively and efficiently the body performed its functions. I want to understand what process will be utilised to achieve that report. For example, Professor Whiteman of the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute is referred to in the report. The report said—

... the grant allocations should fund programs and projects that can be sustained long enough to be evaluated and achieve outcomes in communities. We do not support one-off short-term grants, and we need to minimise the perpetual cycle of pilot programs.

The question becomes: what is the base at which this particular body starts to calculate its success or otherwise? What are the components of obesity or chronic disease that we are looking at? In addition to that, how do we take into account other programs or funding from federal, local or other institutions to ensure that the outcome we get here reflects the input by way of grants from this body into the community? I only make the suggestion because the body has the potential to deliver great outcomes, but to do that the process and operation of the body must be one where outcomes can be measured. As I said, the start base as to what this body is looking at is very important.

The other point is whether this new body will publish some form of document that outlines what its five-year plan will be, what its KPIs will be and how it will measure its success. In addition to that, that document will then lead to accountability so that this parliament can review the content, the base and the outcomes and make a proper assessment along the way. For a body of this nature to be successful, the reporting of the outcome could be critical but that depends upon the base on which it starts being relevant and based upon information that can be made public to the community.

I do not for one second intend to run down this new body, but there is a lot of work to be done if this body is to drive success. What I do not want to see is a new body being established that simply replicates the current arrangements which sit inside Queensland Health. To get real outcomes that are measurable, a lot of hard work has to be undertaken. If that work is not undertaken, there is no way to properly assess the outcomes as being viable or not.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to speak about the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. It is good not to be guillotined off the speaking list of a bill for once. I appreciate the opportunity to speak. What concerns me most about this organisation is that it actually achieves the purpose for which it is being set up, and that is to ensure that the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders is improved. In relation to these grants, I am interested to know what are the KPIs; what sorts of organisations are getting them; is it for an investigation into the latest fad; or are we actually looking at some practical, long-term outcomes that will address the issues that exist?

Living in Toowoomba, we get a different view of the world to living in Brisbane. We all know that the further away people live from the 4000 postcode the shorter their life will be. That is complex when we look at it. It is really important that as the Queensland parliament we understand those complexities and we put in place mechanisms to deal with them. I would urge the minister to look at basing some of the staff who will run this organisation in regional and remote Queensland because they will get a different view of the world if they live in that environment. The government should do that if their objective truly is to get the outcome for the Indigenous communities, those of low socio-economic status and the people who are most affected by many of these chronic diseases. We know where they live; they live in regional Queensland and they deserve to have programs that are put together and implemented by people who understand their complex needs.

We have heard people talk about themselves and various things that they have tried to do. I have been fit in my life and I have been unfit in my life, and I can say that the lifestyle factors of being a politician do not necessarily align with the objectives of this bill. I would encourage everybody to take seriously their commitment to their own health and welfare.

The research and the grants that are provided by this organisation truly can make a difference. Every taxpayer has the government's hand in their pocket to pay for the burden of our health in Queensland. We have a health system that is overstretched and that is in a bit of chaos at the moment. Ultimately, if we all take responsibility for our own health we can take pressure off the system. It would be a good thing to get advice, education and programs implemented out there.


I can support this bill because I believe in what it is trying to achieve overall. What concerns me about the bill is that we do not need another bureaucracy telling people who live in regional, remote and provincial Queensland how to lead their lives, especially when they are based in Brisbane where they can catch nice public transport that is not available to the people in regional Queensland, where they can access hospital services that are not available in regional Queensland and where they can access programs that are not available in regional Queensland. If the government really wants to address these issues, we know from research where they are occurring.

This organisation, once it is established, needs to take very seriously its obligation to the people who live outside of the south-east corner. That is not in any way suggesting that it neglect the people in the south-east corner and the importance of their health and wellbeing. However, they do have better access to facilities. People might say, 'Get on to us via the internet.' However, there are places in regional Queensland where they cannot download things on the internet because the connection is so slow. If we are coming up with the latest and smartest app to try to help people control their own obesity, it needs to be able to work in places where people do not have the kind of coverage we get in the CBD of Brisbane.

I think this is a good idea, but the proof of the pudding will be in its implementation. Will we have a lot of well-meaning bureaucrats advising people thousands of kilometres away how best they can lead their life despite an inability to access services that those bureaucrats take for granted, or will we have an organisation that is providing funding where the problems are occurring and providing opportunities for people from those regions to get the services they need?

The Heart of Australia is a good example of such an idea. It was put together by Rolf Gomes. It is a great idea. Because the Heart of Australia van travels to regional and remote Queensland, people who live in those areas can receive the same cardiac services that are available in the CBD of Brisbane. Already it has saved hundreds of lives of people who would otherwise not have got those exams or understood their cardiac situation; they simply would have died. Instead, the good doctor can assess them in the same way as he would in the CBD using the equipment on the van. He can go out there, make that assessment and provide the services that are taken for granted by people who live in the south-east corner.

Whilst I support this bill and its objectives in principle, if we are truly going to prevent the poor health outcomes of regional and remote Queensland and we are truly going to reduce the pressures for the Indigenous community and for those of low socio-economic status, then we need to make sure those facilities are available. I commend the bill, but I am really interested in making sure it serves regional Queensland.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.46 pm): I rise to support the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019. In doing so, I would like to thank the health minister for his leadership in this important area. The bill will establish a health promotion agency, which will be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland. It will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders and it will work towards reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease and also the inequities in the health of different groups of Queenslanders.

Our health system in Queensland and no doubt throughout the country continues to face challenges in public health, particularly high rates of obesity, an increase in chronic disease, the adverse effect of socio-economic factors and also a disparity in the life expectancy and health outcomes of our first Australians. When these factors are combined with our growing and ageing population, the quality of life for Queenslanders is negatively impacted. This also leads to additional capacity requirements for the health system and there is an economic impact as well in terms of negative health outcomes that lead to a reduction in economic productivity. This is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on preventive measures, and the agency that this bill seeks to establish will help to achieve those aims.

I note here the savage cuts by the previous Newman LNP government. Preventive health was one of their greatest targets. They gutted preventive health like there was no tomorrow and stripped it out of the health system. It is good to see—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: An interjection from the member for Chatsworth? He is still here. He cannot get a question up in question time, but he goes for the interjection. Good on him! I give him 10 out of 10 for effort.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members.

Mr BAILEY: We have to give him credit; he is still in there giving it a go.

Preventive health was gutted by the previous government. It is good that the opposition is supporting this bill. However, we all know that it would be at risk under any future LNP government and the cuts that would come with it. One hopes that its members will learn—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. I know there are other speakers who want to have a go, but if we have to stop the clock that may not occur.

Mr BAILEY: One hopes that the opposition will learn from their bitter experience of losing government after one term. Cutting things like preventive health certainly contributed to their failure to be re-elected.

Investing in our people through investing in prevention has huge benefits not only for individuals but also for the wider community, the health system and the economy. Studies have also shown that for every dollar invested in public health interventions there is an average return of \$14. Improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders over the longer term will be an important step in managing future health expenditure and increasing the government's ability to continue to invest in new services and infrastructure. This is a sign of a government and a minister who are committed to a medium- to long-term health vision—not cuts to preventive health systems, not cuts to the rail system and not sacking people left, right and centre.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I draw you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need your help, member for Chatsworth. The minister has the call.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I certainly take your advice. This is about investing, not about cuts. That is the difference between this side and the other side when it comes to the health system.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, they are getting a little tetchy over there on the other side. It is frustrating when your colleagues have forgotten about you, but nonetheless he does continue to plug along. A key challenge to Queensland is the significant health inequity that is often related to a person's socio-economic status—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I will repeat that. A key challenge for Queensland is the significant health inequity that is often related to a person's socio-economic status, the remoteness of where they live and whether they are Indigenous. Queensland is one of the largest and most decentralised states, and we have the massive challenge of ensuring that all Queenslanders are able to live healthy lives. It is an alarming statistic that in socio-economically disadvantaged areas the rates of death due to some chronic conditions were 50 per cent higher than those in advantaged areas in 2015. As a large state with many regional and remote centres, the fact that the rates of death due to some chronic conditions in remote and very remote areas was 33 per cent higher than in major cities in 2015 is also something to be tackled head-on. I might add that, when you think about statistics like that in relation to regional and very remote areas, I think back to the savage cuts of the Newman LNP government and the impact they had. They really impacted—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Minister, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BAILEY: For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people levels of disease and injury are in fact 2.2 times that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders, and rates of death due to some chronic conditions are 70 per cent higher than the non-Indigenous population. They are very sobering and serious statistics that any government needs to address in terms of priorities and principles. I am proud to be part of a government that is doing that through this bill.

There are many factors that influence health outcomes for Indigenous people, including their connection to family, community and country; language and culture; racism; early childhood development; education; employment and income; housing and environment; infrastructure; interaction with government systems and services; law and justice; health status; and food security. It is imperative that we seek to address the disparities in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. There are a complex mix of factors which are part of our everyday lives that can influence health outcomes. These can include societal, environmental, socio-economic and biological factors. It is true to say that most Queenslanders enjoy good levels of health by national and international standards, but that is certainly not true for all Queenslanders. There are very large disparities when you go to different communities across this very vast and decentralised state.

The health gap will continue to widen unless we take steps to address the social factors that drive these disparities. We must take action to ensure that equitable health outcomes are achieved for all Queenslanders. Preventing and reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease requires more than a single intervention. The impacts of poor health continue to be addressed by the health system, but many of the underlying determinants of health sit outside the health system. To bring about population-wide sustainable improvements in health and wellbeing requires a new multistrategy approach delivered in partnership with sectors not traditionally associated with health or healthcare services. I note that in my own area of Transport and Main Roads our focus on active transport is a really important part of that service—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I will interrupt you there and ask you to take your seat, please. In accordance with the business program agreed to by the House, the question is that the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail



Dr MILES (5.56 pm): I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Steven Miles's amendments [\[692\]](#).

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The minister's amendment No. 4 is outside the long title of the bill and therefore requires leave of the House.

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 4, as circulated, be agreed to and clauses 1 to 62, as amended, and schedule 1 stand part of the bill.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 6, line 7, 'Act commences on a day'—

omit, insert—

Act, other than part 7, division 4, commences on a day

2 Clause 45 (Changes in criminal history must be disclosed)

Page 23, lines 2 and 3—

omit, insert—

(b) details adequate to identify the offence committed or alleged to have been committed;

(c) when the offence was committed or alleged to have been committed;

3 Clause 47 (Use of confidential information)

Page 24, line 19, ' , under'—

omit, insert—

under,

4 After clause 62

Page 30, after the table after line 8—

insert—

Division 4 Amendment of State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017

63 Act amended

This division amends the *State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017*.

64 Amendment of s 2 (Commencement)

Section 2—

insert—

(2) The *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 15DA does not apply to the provisions of this Act that commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 62, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 5 and the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

5 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Public Service Act 2008*—

omit, insert—

, the *Public Service Act 2008* and the *State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017*

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba North Electorate, Bus Service; Toowoomba Second Range Crossing



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.57 pm): I rise to speak about public transport in Toowoomba and the fact that our bus service is in urgent need of a review. Our bus service was changed a couple of years ago, and we receive nothing but complaints in the office about it being unreliable, inaccessible and at inconvenient times. I recently submitted a petition to the parliament from 630 frustrated residents from Highfields and Crows Nest—and that is just one bus route we have been having problems with.

The petition was meant to send a clear message to the minister asking him to review the bus service that we have in place. As part of that review—I know it is a new concept and we are not looking for a rigged survey out of head office—we are looking for someone to consult with the people of Toowoomba and the Highfields area so they can have some input into the bus service they need. It must include community consultation.

Some elderly members of the community are walking two kilometres from the bus stop. Members can imagine being in their 70s and trying to walk two kilometres from the bus stop when the bus used to go right past where they live. The changes to the network have made things so efficient that hardly anybody is using it anymore. It is very disappointing to see the changes to particularly the 950 bus service, which I hear about a lot. Some people in my community are aged and vulnerable. This is how they keep in touch with their friends and relatives. This is how they do their shopping and go to get their pension. This is a fundamental service. These people have the same rights as anybody else in Queensland to have a public transport system that they can use.

The other issue I raise today is for the same minister. The logistics and transport companies in Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and the surrounding regions are increasingly frustrated that this minister will not release the tolling rates for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. We all know what was in the business case: \$2 for cars, \$20 for a single and \$25 for a B-double. People are trying to get hauling contracts that are two, three, four or five years long, but they have no idea how much it will cost them to cross the range going forward. There is absolutely no reason for this minister to sit on his hands, do nothing and not tell the people of Toowoomba and the logistics companies what the toll will be. I urge the minister, in the interests of business and an efficient Queensland, to tell people what the toll will be so they can manage their businesses.

Griffith University, Teacher Education



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to celebrate 50 years of teacher education programs at the Mount Gravatt campus of Griffith University. Teacher education is one of the flagship areas of Griffith University in my electorate. More than 3,000 undergraduate places are offered annually in primary and secondary teacher education, adult and vocational education and training, autism studies, special needs education and early childhood education.

Over the past 50 years Griffith University has produced more than 40,000 education graduates, hundreds of whom I have had the pleasure of working with. The School of Education and Professional Studies is ranked in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject top 100 schools worldwide and has been for the past four years. Griffith graduates go on to be employed in the independent, Catholic and state education systems as well as internationally.

The original Mount Gravatt teachers college was established by the innovative Queensland education department to prepare teachers for service across the state. Working in the education profession for the past 24 years, including being a principal for the last 11 years, I know how important it is to ensure we train the best teachers for our young people. Teachers shape our students to become good citizens and provide the foundation for lifelong learning skills as young people navigate a fast paced technological world.

I would like to highlight key events for education in Queensland. They include the abolition of the scholarship examination in 1963 and the passage of the state Education Act in 1964, just a little before my time. This milestone marked the beginning of a new age in primary education. In August 1957 Queensland had only 37 state high schools and 34 secondary departments attached to those high schools. By 1980 the number of state secondary schools in Queensland had almost tripled, to 135 high schools and 68 secondary departments. Today the Palaszczuk government supports more than 1,400 schools and continues to lead the charge in developing initiatives to support Queensland's current and future teachers, including the new salary classifications for highly accomplished and lead teachers to help us to retain our best classroom educators.

I would like to congratulate Griffith University's School of Education and Professional Studies on reaching their 50th anniversary milestone. They have shaped many teachers' careers, and I look forward to working with them and continuing to share their legacy.

Gympie Electorate



Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (6.04 pm): The Gympie community is strengthened by the deep commitment to service of many of our residents, past and present. Anzac Day ceremonies last week were a wonderful testament to the value Gympie residents place on the service given by our Defence personnel over so many years. Services in townships and larger centres right across the region were bursting with locals wanting to commemorate those who had fought for our way of life in Australia. I was privileged to be able to commemorate with students at events at James Nash State High School and One Mile State School. I attended the lighting of the memorial flame, the dawn service in Gympie, the commemoration service at Normanby Hill Road, Southside, the Mary Street march and the service held in the Gympie rotunda. The poignancy and success of these events are due to the efforts of the Gympie RSL Sub-Branch president, Martin Muller. Services were also held in the Mary Valley and at Miva, Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Widgee and Wolvi.

On the weekend I attended Quota International Club of Gympie's 58th annual changeover lunch. Since the club started in 1961 it has remained a constant and active part of Gympie's proud history of volunteering and fundraising. The impressive list of groups they have supported shows that the club is about helping today and investing in the future. Congratulations to incoming office bearers Heather MacDonnell, Eunice McIntyre, Gayle O'Mara, Judy Dwyer, Noela Reisenleiter, Barbara Kingston and Dianne Malouf.


At last weekend's Gympie Show Ball we learned that almost \$50,000 was raised by showgirls Tania Clem and Myrella Corbet for our 131st Gympie Show, from 16 to 18 May. We all know that show societies have the largest number of volunteers, and our Gympie Show could not run without the strong support and many unpaid work hours of our volunteers.

Yesterday 100 people attended the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal business breakfast fundraiser. Congratulations to the committee, including chairman Adam Madill, Sharon O'Brien, Jess Riches, Sam Bradshaw, Major Brian Smith, Leanne Harrison and my wife, Michele. Others who made it a success include guest speaker Livio Regano, the Gympie RSL, Cooloola Christian College, Caitlyn Shadbolt, Cindy Vogels, Glenn Lane, Graham Engeman, Thea and Greig Nissen and Lieutenant Colonel David Godkin. The event raised \$11,670, which will help fund services for almost 100 people a day who seek their help. In the last years Salvos have provided 14,500 volunteer hours, 4,524 lunches, 1,552 showers, 1,577 breakfasts and 5,642 coffees. Gympie Salvos started in 1886 and is now into its 133rd year. Winston Churchill said—

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

These events give a snapshot of life in the Gympie region. They demonstrate the steadfast commitment that residents have in giving service back to our community.

Bulimba Electorate, Anzac Day


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.07 pm): As is the case in every community that is represented in this House, Anzac Day is a really special day in the Bulimba electorate. I want to say how proud I was to see that at the eight services and activities that occurred across the electorate on that day there were record crowds. Given that last year was the final year of the centenary of World War I, I think we all thought that we would not get crowds any bigger. In fact, they continued to grow. It is a wonderful thing for our former and current service men and women that so many people from our community come out to show their respect and commitment to continuing the legacy.

I want to acknowledge some of the people who have been responsible for those services. For the dawn service at Morningside and for the march down Oxford Street and the service in Bulimba Memorial Park I want to thank the Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch. Brian Daley OAM, the president of that branch, put so much work into making that a special occasion. For the Norman Park service I thank the Nashos, led by president Brian Besgrove and his wife, Margaret Besgrove, who has been the secretary for many years. I thank Margaret for all of her work in making that so special. It is her last year as secretary. She has left big shoes to fill for the people who will be running that service in the future and supporting our community.

At Camp Hill state school, thousands of people paid their respects and so many of our local schools were represented. I especially acknowledge Shane Groth, who had been the emcee at that event for many years. He had a character and personality of his own. We were all really sad to see that he passed away very suddenly only a couple of weeks before the Anzac ceremony. Although Paul Keene did an absolutely wonderful job, it was really poignant to see that service being conducted without Shane Groth.

There were services at the Bulimba Memorial Bowls Club where there are many members who served in Vietnam and ensuing conflicts and the Camp Hill Bowls Club, which is the heart of the local community. Suvla Street was celebrating its 10th anniversary of getting all of the neighbours together for the Anzac biscuit judging competition, which is hotly contested. Friends of Balmoral Cemetery ran a tour through Balmoral Cemetery of all of the veterans who are either buried or memorialised in that place. I want to acknowledge my colleagues Terri Butler, the federal member for Griffith, and Kara Cook, the councillor for Morningside. Together we treasure working with all of those people to make sure that Anzac Day is a day that we can all take part in and a day to remember that reminds us of who we are and why we are here.

Bribie Island Bridge, Pelicans

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (6.09 pm): In the past few weeks a great injustice has been done to the pelicans of Bribie Island Bridge. For decades these beautiful creatures have roosted safely and peacefully atop the lights spanning the length of the bridge. I want to quote the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association which recently put out a statement that said—

The lights on Bribie Bridge have been changed to more economical LEDs, but this has meant a change in the design which has destroyed the pelicans' roosting habitat.

The destruction of this long-standing and iconic 'welcome' on the Bridge to Bribie Island is a loss not only to an essential part of Bribie's character, but Bribie's natural assets.

BIEPA went on to say—

The pelicans are a protected species under:

- the Moreton Bay Marine Park;
- the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species;
- the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

These commitments by our governments protect Bribie Island's Fauna and Flora.

During the time the pelicans have been resident on Bribie Island, the light poles on the Bribie Bridge have become an integral part of their roosting habitat.


This habitat loss could have been avoided if due process in the decision making had been followed.

BIEPA summed up what our entire community is saying, and that is—

The roosting sites on the Bridge should be reinstated or alternative like-roosting sites provided.

That is what BIEPA said. What has happened here has attracted the attention of news channels, print media and radio. In fact, everybody is talking about this. Last Saturday around 1,000 people—not 10, not 100 but 1,000 people—gave up their Saturday morning to gather and march together across Bribie Island Bridge in protest of what has occurred. It was amazing to be part of and I thank each and every one of them for coming out in support of our pelicans and our community. I have spoken to TMR and I have been in touch with Minister Bailey's office about this. Whilst TMR has given me some assurances that it will look into this, my main concern is the time frame of it coming back to me by the end of May. That will be eight weeks to look at this. These types of issues need an immediate response, not a few months to work out what has been done and how to fix it. I ask the minister to pay urgent attention to what has happened here, talk to his department and do the right thing by the pelicans and our community of Bribie Island.

Bancroft Electorate, Education Funding and School Infrastructure


 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.12 pm): How refreshing it is to see federal Labor commit to the extra funding of schools in my electorate compared to the funding cuts that schools in my electorate have suffered under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government. The schools in North Lakes have been amongst the biggest and fastest growing in the state. North Lakes State College is a P-12 school with about 3,000 students over two campuses. Bounty Boulevard State School is the biggest P-6 school in the state. The Palaszczuk government has been actively supporting these schools through our investment in each of these schools. For example, there is the \$16.5 million multistorey Endeavour learning centre for North Lakes State College and we have added eight new classrooms to Bounty Boulevard State School at a cost of \$2.8 million. Let us not forget the \$5 million new hall that we built at Bounty Boulevard that opened last year, and I thank the Minister for Education for opening that. It is so refreshing to hear that federal Labor has said that it would invest in these schools under a Shorten Labor government. The Labor candidate for Petrie, Corinne Mulholland, announced that there would be \$400,000 of funding to upgrade facilities at these schools under a Shorten Labor government.

Mr Mellish: Great work.

Mr WHITING: That is great work. At Bounty Boulevard State School that money would be used to enclose the early learning space. It used to be the school hall, but only two sides of that are enclosed. It will be a bonus to see that enclosed. At North Lakes State College there will be \$300,000 to upgrade an outdoor space and help support its agricultural and horticultural programs. Not only that, both of these schools will benefit from federal Labor's Fair Go for Schools program. That program will deliver \$3.3 million to North Lakes State College over three years and \$1.2 million to Bounty Boulevard State School over three years. Let us compare that to the cuts that schools not only in my electorate but also throughout Australia have suffered under the LNP federal government. In 2013 the LNP promised that there would be no cuts to education and then it cut \$14 billion from public schools, and it has not just been schools. We know that it introduced a Medicare freeze which ripped \$3 billion out of the pockets of Australians and cut \$10 billion from other health programs and agencies.

I want to say thank you to federal Labor for putting education at the core of its promises to our community. I want to thank Corinne Mulholland for delivering this promise, because education is a central value in the North Lakes community. It is one of those things that unites everyone in our community. Our local schools will always be better off under Labor. While Scott Morrison and Luke Howarth have been looking after the top end of town, they have not been looking after the schools in North Lakes.

Kawana Electorate, Public Housing

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.15 pm): All Queenslanders deserve a roof over their heads. Public housing plays an important role for the most vulnerable in our society. There is nothing more satisfying in this job than helping a struggling family, a single mother or father with kids or those who are disadvantaged to secure public housing and put a roof over their heads. However, we must always remember that taxpayer funded public housing is a privilege, not a right. Unfortunately, we have a minority in our community who continue to play the system, engage in criminal activity and demonstrate utter contempt for their neighbours whilst vulnerable families who are homeless, or near homeless, are missing out.

When in government the LNP introduced a three-strikes policy, giving strikes for tenants who misbehaved before being evicted from their taxpayer funded homes if they did not change their behaviour. We also cut the time tenants could spend away from public housing without reason, restricting it to four weeks without permission. Both of these measures have now been scrapped by the Labor government. As a result, tenancy management plans have gone through the roof and taxpayers continue to be sluggish with a clean-up and repair bill of tens of millions of dollars.

In my electorate in Boorook Street, Buddina, one particular public housing tenant has been engaging in criminal activity and terrorising neighbours for well in excess of 12 months, so much so that he was sent to prison for five months in late 2018. I have lost count at the number of complaints from neighbours who will not let their children play outside and have witnessed disgusting and abusive behaviour from this tenant. Yet, despite sitting in a jail cell for a number of months, the department of housing held his tenancy and let his taxpayer funded unit sit vacant. Meanwhile, we have domestic violence victims with nowhere to go. We have mums and dads with kids living in their cars with nowhere to go and all the while, this tenant—who committed very serious offences, who terrorised his neighbours and who spent months in jail—got to walk back into his vacant public housing unit upon release from jail. The system is so broken under Labor that even the most serious breaches go unpunished.

Neighbours of a different public housing unit complex in Robe Street, Currimundi, have advised me that a drug lab was discovered by police only a couple of weeks ago. This should not have come as any surprise to the department of housing as I am informed that in 2018 police attended this particular unit 49 times and, to date in 2019, police have already attended the unit on 16 occasions. Such is the ineptitude of the Labor government that, under current laws, tenants like this who are found with drug labs can simply reapply for their housing. Neighbours have reported to me that this once quiet street in Currimundi is now rife with criminal activity. The community is living in fear. Kids cannot play in the street. Neighbours are now themselves taking the extreme step of purchasing CCTV cameras to ensure the safety of their children.

This Labor government has seemingly forgotten that taxpayer funded housing is a privilege, not a right. Vulnerable families remain homeless because this Labor government gives a slap on the wrist to those tenants who repeatedly cause damage, disrespect taxpayers and break the law. Criminals sitting in jail cells should not have public housing reserved. These people who cause distress to neighbours should be immediately evicted and lose their privilege of taxpayer funded housing permanently.

Redback Garrison



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (6.19 pm): Over the past year I have certainly picked up the vibe in this House that the adjournment debate is an opportunity to recognise the good work being done in our local communities and the state more broadly. In other words, we recognise the good guys.

Tonight, I would like to deviate a little bit from that formula and recognise the bad guys. This Saturday is 4 May, Star Wars Day. Tonight, we have in the gallery members of the Redback Garrison of the mighty 501st Legion—the world's largest and premier *Star Wars* costuming organisation that specifically costume as the bad guys, the stormtroopers, TIE pilots and other scum and villainy associated with that galaxy far, far away. Yes, I am outing myself as a *Star Wars* nerd, but I think those who heard me on ABC Radio last Star Wars Day probably already knew that.

As a child of the 1970s and 1980s, it was impossible to escape the influence of *Star Wars*. As a young girl maybe dreaming of Mark Hamill in the 1980s that gave way to a cultural cringe in the 1990s, being a geek and wielding a pretend light sabre was definitely not cool in high school back then. The release of the prequels and, finally, an income provided this *Star Wars* fan with the means to acquire the things that I never had the opportunity to have as a kid. As most people know, when I go in, I go all in. The 501st has allowed me the opportunity to travel the world and meet the people who inspired me as a child. I have trooped all over Australia and have gone to the biggest parades in California and New York. I got to meet Uncle George the Maker.

I have been a member of the 501st for 17 years. I was the first in Queensland, but now the state has over 200 members. I would like to take this opportunity to advise members of this House and the public more broadly that this is not just a geek thing to be mocked and derided. Since 2007, the Redback Garrison has raised over half a million dollars for local charities in Queensland—charities such as the Cancer Council, the Starlight Foundation, Hummingbird House, Make-a-Wish, Mates4Mates, the MS Society, the Pyjama Foundation, the RSPCA and many more.

On top of that, club members regularly visit children's wards in local hospitals and bring smiles to kids' faces when they are stuck in the wards. It is an amazing thing to see the look on kids' faces when you stick your head around the corner—the shock, surprise, delight, occasionally the fright but, overall, the joy. You cannot move for the photo opportunities. You are a genuine rock star for an hour. The simple beauty is that, with a plastic bucket on your head, no-one knows who you are.

This is a selfless group of people who bring smiles to people's faces by doing something that they enjoy. The next time people see a bunch of stormtroopers in their community events, I say to them to rock up, say 'Hi', and grab a photo. That is what they are there for. But make sure they put a gold coin in the bucket that one of them will invariably be holding. Yes, these are the bad guys, but they are bad guys doing good.

Chatsworth Electorate, Anti-Theft Initiative



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.22 pm): I rise to commend a wonderful community initiative that was held recently in my electorate of Chatsworth. This event was a great collaboration between the Carina Police Station, Carina Neighbourhood Watch and Westfield Carindale, which joined together to offer residents an opportunity to fit anti-theft screws to their numberplates free of charge.

Just a few weeks ago, I walked across the road from my electorate office to my electorate's iconic local shopping centre, Westfield Carindale, to see for myself this great initiative. I showed up to find cars lined up as far as the eye could see. In fact, I was so delighted to see so many community members who made it a priority to protect themselves from potential theft. Within about two hours, roughly 100 drivers came through the carpark to get their anti-theft screws fitted to their numberplates.

I want to thank all the fantastic Queensland Police Service officers and volunteers who were tirelessly fitting these screws to car after car. I tried my own luck at changing some of the screws, but I could not keep up with the experts. These police officers and volunteers were all over it.

While residents were waiting for their plates to get fitted, the police officers took a moment to educate the community on road safety and preventing crime. During the event, I was shown a pretty cool virtual reality experience that can be used with just a smart phone. This experience shows drivers the impact that speed has on our vision. It is impressive to see how technology can assist us to deliver the message of the importance of staying safe on the road.

This event highlights the importance of working together to reduce and deflect crime. After reports of motor vehicle licence plate thefts occurring within the boundaries of the Carina Police Station division earlier this year, the police were quick to create a proactive approach to prevent this offence from flourishing further. This is proof that events such as these can create a strong voice that stands up to criminals. I am proud of the residents of the Chatsworth electorate for getting on board with this proactive approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who made the event possible. Specifically, I would like to thank all the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, police men and women and Westfield staff, who showed a warm and enthusiastic community spirit. In particular, I would like to commend Senior Sergeant Brendon Jorgensen, who is the officer in charge of the Carina Police Station, and Ron Kreger from Carina Neighbourhood Watch One, for making this event a reality. I must also give credit to Westfield Carindale staff, who graciously agreed to fund the event and provided the location in the Westfield Carindale carpark.

I want to offer my thanks to Sergeant Jorgensen, who has been instrumental in keeping the Chatsworth community that I am proud to represent safe. He has always made the time to listen to local residents and action their concerns promptly. I say: job well done!

Redcliffe Electorate, Anzac Day; Moreton Bay Barge; Yabbey Road



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.25 pm): I rise to firstly acknowledge the moving Anzac Day services that were held at Redcliffe—the dawn service, the Woody Point Memorial Hall service and also the main service on Anzac Day. As always, the Redcliffe RSL sub-branch outdid themselves. The crowds were huge, particularly at the dawn service. It was really heartwarming to see the huge number of school students in uniform marching in the main service. It is wonderful to see those numbers growing each and every year. I want to acknowledge renowned poet Rupert McCall for a stirring poem that reflected on the Afghanistan war and those coming back.

As the member for Bancroft did—and he is sitting next to me in the chamber this evening—I also acknowledge the candidate and, hopefully, the member for Petrie for Labor, Corinne Mulholland, who has just announced that there will be an additional \$4 million of funding if a federal Labor government is elected on 18 May for the Moreton Bay barge. That will mean that the dredging can take place and the ramp will also be able to be built. This project will incentivise proponents. One party is already in discussions with the department through the expression of interest.

This is a really great announcement. There are so many thousands of people—locals, right across north Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast—who want to see the Redcliffe to Moreton Island barge back. We have so many tourists visiting from interstate and internationally who stand on the foreshore at Redcliffe and ask, ‘How do I get to that island?’ You have to say to them, ‘You have to go down to the Port of Brisbane and then get a barge from there.’ I am very grateful that we have a passenger service operating once a week during the summer, but we want this vehicular barge happening. I welcome this \$4 million announcement from federal Labor. I thank Corinne Mulholland for her advocacy and in working with me on this and, of course, the member for Bancroft who is also so supportive of this project.

Last but not least, I congratulate Yabbey Road on Redcliffe Parade that today was announced by the *Courier-Mail* as the No. 1 fish and chip shop in Brisbane. I acknowledge Alan and Kathy Bray. They have been going for four years. This shop is located right near Bee Gees Way. If people have not visited, I ask them to please come to Redcliffe to visit the shop. The fish and chips are incredible. They are renowned for their homemade mushy peas, which are a favourite of the British expats. The food is delicious. I congratulate Yabbey Road. They deserve to be No. 1. I encourage everyone to visit Redcliffe.

The House adjourned at 6.28 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, Palaszcuk, 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