



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS

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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 24 May 2019

A Bill for an Act to amend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013, the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Aboriginal Land Regulation 2011, the Electricity Act 1994, the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017, the Land Act 1994, the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017, the Land Regulation 2009, the Land Title Act 1994, the Land Title Regulation 2015, the Land Valuation Act 2010, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning Regulation 2017, the Right to Information Act 2009, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, the South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007, the Surveyors Act 2003, the Surveyors Regulation 2014, the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991, the Torres Strait Islander Land Regulation 2011, the Valuers Registration Act 1992, the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the Water Act 2000, the Water Regulation 2016 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006, the Public Service Act 2008, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

24 May 2019

*Tabled paper.* Letter, dated 24 May 2019, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 24 May 2019 [872].

### PRIVILEGE

#### Alleged Contempt of Parliament

**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I refer to testimony by Mr Lucas Dow, CEO of Adani Australia, at a hearing of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee on 4 March 2019. In recent days statements from spokespeople for Adani about the number of ongoing jobs at its mine reveal significantly lower numbers

compared to those in Mr Dow's testimony. These comments, along with the drastically lower jobs estimates in Adani's earlier economic modelling given as evidence under oath in the Queensland Land Court, demonstrate that Mr Dow has deliberately misled the committee in contempt of parliament. I will write to you about this matter and seek to have it referred to the Ethics Committee.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Maiwar. I will read your correspondence with interest.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Pius Primary School in Banyo in the electorate of Nudgee and Iona College in Lindum in the electorate of Lytton.

## PETITIONS

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

### Howard, Torbanlea, Pacific Haven and Burrum Town, School Zones and Transportation

**Mr Saunders**, from 455 petitioners, requesting the House to restructure the school catchment zones and school transportation arrangements affecting the communities of Howard, Torbanlea, Pacific Haven and Burrum Town [\[873\]](#).

### Nagoorin and Ubobo, Gladstone to Monto Road Upgrade

**Mr Boyce**, from 128 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the 4.5 km stretch of Gladstone to Monto Road between Nagoorin and Ubobo [\[874\]](#).

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

### Many Peaks and Kalpower, Gladstone to Monto Road Upgrade

**Mr Boyce**, from 755 petitioners, requesting the House to repair the dangerous section of Gladstone to Monto Road between Many Peaks and Kalpower [\[875, 876\]](#).

### Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park, Huts

**Mr Dametto**, from 1,124 petitioners, requesting the House to take all steps necessary to prevent the removal of huts located in Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park [\[877, 878\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

### Russell Island, Toll Bridge

From 777 petitioners, requesting the House to support the development of a Russell Island toll-bridge as a market-led proposal [\[879, 880\]](#).

### Bundaberg, Hospital

From 3,027 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding to build a new Level 5 hospital in Bundaberg [\[881, 882\]](#).

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

### Crown Land, Management

**Mr Lister**, from 614 petitioners, requesting the House to increase resources for the management of Queensland national parks, state forests and other crown lands [\[883\]](#).

### Warwick, Albion and Albert Streets Intersection

**Mr Lister**, from 123 petitioners, requesting the House to return the intersection of Albion and Albert Streets, Warwick, to its pre-2019 configuration and traffic arrangements, without any change to the current heavy vehicle access arrangements for Albert Street [\[884\]](#).

### Newborn Screening Tests

**Mr Janetzki**, from 777 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce the inclusion of screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency into the existing Newborn Screening (Guthrie test) to reduce preventable infant mortality [\[885\]](#).

### Adult Adoption

**Mr Dametto**, from 333 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise adult adoption in Queensland [\[886\]](#).

**Alice River Bridge, Repair**

**Mr Dametto**, from 432 petitioners, requesting the House to expedite repairs to the Alice River Bridge, west of Townsville [887].

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

**Termination of Pregnancy Act, Amendment**

From 708 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 to require the approval of two medical practitioners for any abortion [888].

**Mount Coot-tha Zipline**

From 1,820 petitioners, requesting the House to not approve the development of the zipline on Mount Coot-tha [889].

**Dog Breeding**

From 1,580 petitioners, requesting the House to review and amend the current legislation to curtail irresponsible breeding of puppies and to enforce mandatory standards [890].

Petitions received.

**TABLED PAPERS****PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)**

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

17 May 2019—

- [794](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72: Credentials and clinical privileges standard (version 5)
- [795](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72: Continuous quality improvement standard (version 4)
- [796](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72: Ethics standard (version 3)
- [797](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72: Information management standard (version 5)
- [798](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72: Patient care standard (version 6)
- [799](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72: Physical environment standard (version 6)

23 May 2019—

- [800](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 22, 56th Parliament, May 2019—Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2019

24 May 2019—

- [801](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Law Society of Western Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2019, No. 78
- [802](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Law Society of Western Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2019, No. 78, explanatory notes
- [803](#) Professional Standards Act 1997 (WA): The Law Society of Western Australia Scheme, [Refer Professional Standards (Law Society of Western Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 78 of 2019, and the Professional Standards Act 2004, section 14(3)]
- [804](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2019, No. 79
- [805](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2019, No. 79, explanatory notes
- [806](#) Professional Standards Act 2003 (VIC): Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme [Refer Professional Standards (Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 79 of 2019 and the Professional Standards Act 2004, section 14(3)]
- [807](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe) to an ePetition (3067-19), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,150 petitioners requesting the House to call a Commission of Inquiry into corruption within Queensland Local Government procurements, contracts and development approvals
- [808](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament, May 2019—Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry

27 May 2019—

- [809](#) Transmax Pty Ltd—Annual Report 2017-18

28 May 2019—

[810](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament—Job Creation Opportunities in Queensland Arising from the Establishment of an Australian Space Agency, government response

29 May 2019—

[811](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 20: 2018-19—Follow-up of Managing child safety information

[812](#) Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

[813](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham) to an ePetition (3051-18), sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 122 petitioners requesting the House to reinstate river improvement trust in Mackay and Isaac Regional Council local government areas

30 May 2019—

[814](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—Financial report for the 12 months ended 31 December 2018

[815](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—covering letter, dated 1 May 2019, from the Chair, Mr Dominic McGann, to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, regarding Queensland Music Festival audited accounts for the year ended December 2018

[816](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick) to an ePetition (3093-19), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 7,068 petitioners requesting the House to establish a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into and report on the process that led to the transfer of title of the Deebing Mission site from its use for traditional owners to foreign owned developers

[817](#) Response from the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors (Hon. O'Rourke) to an ePetition (3101-19), sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 415 petitioners requesting the House to provide support to keep open the parent-run charity Autism Behavioural Intervention Queensland ABIQ

[818](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath) to an ePetition (3086-19), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 380 petitioners requesting the House to appeal the sentence for former Ipswich City Council CEO, Mr Wulff, under s669A of Criminal Code 1899

[819](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath) to an ePetition (3055-18), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 304 petitioners requesting the House to affirm the freedom of organisations formed specifically to promote a particular worldview to only employ staff holding to that particular worldview be maintained and commit to it in legal practice

[820](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch) to an ePetition (3029-18), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 123 petitioners requesting the House to amend the Clean Air Act 1963 to eliminate any smoke and fume pollution emitting from residential premises with a land block size of less than 800 square metres

[821](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch) to an ePetition (3041-18), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,144 petitioners requesting the House to establish a regulation with the Brisbane City Council to ensure cultural heritage protection and to issue a repair and maintenance notice for the Broadway Hotel

[822](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (3076-19), sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 236 petitioners requesting the House to extend the 444 TransLink Bus Service from its current Moggill Terminus to the now-open Moggill District Sports Park at 3660 Moggill Road

[823](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3098-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 172 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the speed limit on the section of Shute Harbour Road between Tropic and Paluma Roads is reduced to 60km/h and to maintain Shute Harbour Road at four lanes

[824](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (3108-19), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 5,649 petitioners requesting the House to ensure the Taxi Subsidy Scheme and Lift Payment for Queensland National Disability Insurance Scheme participants does not end on 30 June 2019

6 June 2019—

[825](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe) to a paper petition (3132-19) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, and an ePetition (3112-19) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 59 and 98 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to construct and maintain a suitable enclosed swimming area at Moore Park Beach

[826](#) Ruling by Speaker—Notice of motion of disallowance, subordinate legislation held invalid by court

10 June 2019—

[827](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade and Investment Mission to Hong Kong and Chongqing, China by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), 6-10 May 2019

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Private Health Facilities Act 1999:

[828](#) Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72

[829](#) Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 72, explanatory notes

## Major Events Act 2014:

[830](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 400) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 73  
[831](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 400) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 73, explanatory notes

Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, Photo Identification Card Act 2008, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

[832](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 74  
[833](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 74, explanatory notes

## Aboriginal Land Act 1991:

[834](#) Aboriginal Land (Minjerribah) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2019, No. 75  
[835](#) Aboriginal Land (Minjerribah) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2019, No. 75, explanatory notes

## Fisheries Act 1994:

[836](#) Fisheries Declaration 2019, No. 76  
[837](#) Fisheries Declaration 2019, No. 76, explanatory notes

## Fisheries Act 1994:

[838](#) Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019, No. 77  
[839](#) Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019, No. 77, explanatory notes

Acquisition of Land Act 1967, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Electricity Act 1994, Explosives Act 1999, Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, Fossicking Act 1994, Gas Supply Act 2003, Geothermal Energy Act 2010, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Land Act 1994, Land Title Act 1994, Land Valuation Act 2010, Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Stock Route Management Act 2002, Surveyors Act 2003, Valuers Registration Act 1992, Vegetation Management Act 1999, Water Act 2000:

[840](#) Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 80  
[841](#) Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 80, explanatory notes

## Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Act 2017:

[842](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 81  
[843](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 81, explanatory notes

## Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003:

[844](#) Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 82  
[845](#) Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 82, explanatory notes

## Building Act 1975:

[846](#) Building (Cladding) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 83  
[847](#) Building (Cladding) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 83, explanatory notes

## Racing Integrity Act 2016:

[848](#) Racing Integrity (Exchange of Information) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 84  
[849](#) Racing Integrity (Exchange of Information) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 84, explanatory notes

## Liquor Act 1992:

[850](#) Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 85  
[851](#) Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 85, explanatory notes

## Gaming Machine Act 1991:

[852](#) Gaming Machine (Prescribed Liquor Licences) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 86  
[853](#) Gaming Machine (Prescribed Liquor Licences) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 86, explanatory notes

## Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Act 2017:

[854](#) Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) (Transitional) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 87  
[855](#) Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) (Transitional) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 87, explanatory notes

## Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019:

[856](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 88  
[857](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 88, explanatory notes

## Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

[858](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 89  
[859](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 89, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000:

- [860](#) Water Plan (Cape York) 2019, No. 90
- [861](#) Water Plan (Cape York) 2019, No. 90, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000:

- [862](#) Water (Cape York) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 91
- [863](#) Water (Cape York) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 91, explanatory notes

Electricity Act 1994:

- [864](#) Electricity (CleanCo) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 92
- [865](#) Electricity (CleanCo) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 92, explanatory notes

Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, Environmental Protection Act 1994, Forestry Act 1959, Marine Parks Act 2004, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Queensland Heritage Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [866](#) Environmental Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 93
- [867](#) Environmental Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 93, explanatory notes

Adoption Act 2009:

- [868](#) Adoption (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 94
- [869](#) Adoption (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 94, explanatory notes

#### REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

- [870](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to a Bill, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

#### **Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

Amendments made to Bill

##### **Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit*—

‘Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

*Insert*—

‘Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

#### MEMBER'S PAPER

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Coomera (Mr Crandon)—

- [871](#) Nonforming petition requesting maintenance, retention and heritage listing of the Pimpama Church built in 1882

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Budget**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): This afternoon the Treasurer will bring down her second budget and our government's fifth. It has one aim—backing Queensland jobs. These jobs will come from building the schools, roads and hospitals our state needs. There are five new schools—three in the fast-growing Sunshine Coast, another on the Gold Coast and the new Inner City South State Secondary College. That is in addition to eight already underway, including our new high school in Fortitude Valley which will open next year. There is a record investment in roads—the Bruce Highway at Caloundra, the Haughton River floodplain near Townsville, the M1, the Townsville Ring Road, the Mackay Ring Road and the Smithfield bypass near Cairns, all creating jobs, especially in regional Queensland.

The budget can only tell you how a government is delivering. It does not tell you the why. A few years ago I went to Mer Island in the Torres Strait, 2,000 kilometres from Brisbane. I saw the Mer Island Primary Health Care Centre. No-one complained, but I could see what they needed, and that is why they are getting a new healthcare centre.

In Brisbane on Sunday with Minister Miles I met Christie and Steven from Toowoomba. More than anything, they desperately wanted a family, and baby Isabel arrived at just 28 weeks. When I saw them on Sunday Isabel had been in hospital for 56 days, and they are very hopeful that they will take

their little girl home soon to Toowoomba. Isabel, her family and hundreds of thousands of Queensland families are the reason the Health budget this year is bigger and better than ever—a bigger budget, up almost a billion dollars on last year, with bigger and better hospitals delivering more nurses and continuing nurse navigators, more doctors, more paramedics and more health professionals, making Queenslanders better.

There is \$352.9 million for the Caboolture Hospital expansion and another \$46.6 million for its car park. There are upgrades across Queensland at Blackall, Sarina, Kingaroy, Townsville and Maryborough, the replacement of the Mer Island Primary Health Care Centre, as I said earlier, and a new mental health unit in Cairns.

We are building a new prison at Gatton worth \$620 million, creating 445 jobs in construction. Since we were elected we have created 199,000 jobs in Queensland, which is so close to that 200,000. Unemployment has fallen, exports continue to break records and retail spending is up. State final demand that measures the health of our economy shows Queensland outstripping every other mainland state due, as the ABS says, to our infrastructure building program started in last year's budget. All of these things show confidence in the Queensland economy and the leadership of the government.

We are not finished yet. We will stay the course. This afternoon, the Treasurer will reveal even more job-creating measures—the opposition might have to be a little bit patient—that will make us the envy of other states. Our job is clear: to back the jobs of every single person in this state, to build a brighter future for their children and to make Queensland an even better place for all of us.

### Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): My government is determined to ensure that Queensland maintains its position as an energy powerhouse. We are determined to strengthen Queensland's role as a home for heavy industry and we are determined to grow Queensland's record exports for decades to come. That is why we are determined to ensure that Queensland is at the leading edge of the development of a global hydrogen industry. That is why last month, with Minister for State Development Cameron Dick, I launched my government's \$19 million hydrogen strategy in Gladstone. The member for Gladstone was very happy that we went up there. This strategy is a road map to ensure that we capitalise on everything Queensland can bring to a global industry that is forecast to be worth over a quarter of a trillion dollars by 2026.

As members of this House from all parties learned during a hydrogen information seminar earlier this year, renewably produced hydrogen—or green hydrogen—is set to revolutionise transport, heavy industry and energy production. As I told more than 900 people at a CEDA event last Friday, a Queensland hydrogen industry can utilise our existing industrial strengths and underpin decades of growth in skilled jobs, especially across regional Queensland.

Last month I was in Japan where I signed a new memorandum of understanding with Joggmec, Japan's peak resources investment body. Last week, Minister Cameron Dick addressed an international hydrogen industry conference in Japan at the invitation of companies eager to learn what Australia, and in particular Queensland, has to offer. Japan is reliant on imported energy to meet so much of its domestic requirements. There is great interest about the potential to create this brand-new industry and, once again, hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs.

### Queensland Day; Barty, Ms A; Queen's Birthday Honours; Queensland Greats

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): What a great week for Queensland it has been! On Queensland Day we celebrated our 160th birthday and cheered Queensland to victory in game 1 of the State of Origin. Then we saw our very own Ash Barty win the French Open—the first time an Australian woman has won there in 46 years. Ash deserves our applause not only for this outstanding achievement but also because of the hard work and determination that went into it and her maturity, grace and demeanour on the court. Ash was trained from the age of four at the West Brisbane Tennis Centre at Richlands in my electorate—I am a bit biased—by Jim Joyce, who says that she showed incredible focus and concentration for someone so young. I congratulate Ash Barty, her family and her entire support team.

I also congratulate 150 Queenslanders who have been recognised this week in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours. Former prime minister Kevin Rudd and University of Queensland Emeritus Professor Maree Smith were awarded a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, recognising the highest degree of service to Australia.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** All 150 of this year's recipients have done our state proud. Finally, in this past week I also had the privilege of naming eight more Queensland Greats to join the prestigious list of individuals and organisations we acknowledge every year on Queensland Day. In the awards' 19th year, we continued the tradition of recognising Queensland's most generous contributors to our public life and wellbeing.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is very important because each year we recognise outstanding Queenslanders who contribute to our state. The Leader of the Opposition attended. Ministers from my government attended. Assistant minister Glenn Butcher was there as well as Melissa McMahon. This is where we recognise the outstanding contribution of these Queenslanders. Every single member of this parliament should show their gratitude, grace, respect and humility to people who have done outstanding service to this state.

This year's Queensland Greats are former police commissioner Bob Atkinson, cancer researcher Professor Judith Clements, ophthalmologist and former Wallaby captain Dr Mark Loane, community advocate and journalist Kay McGrath, and Indigenous advocate Patricia O'Connor. International philanthropist Chuck Feeney was named an honorary Queensland Great for his generosity to our state. Fraser Island conservationist, the late Dr John Sinclair, was awarded posthumously. His son Keith was so proud. He had tears in his eyes when he accepted that award. The institutional award went to the great Queensland Country Women's Association. Let us see if those opposite want to congratulate the Queensland Country Women's Association.

It was a moving and very special occasion. Again in the past week we have seen how Queenslanders can achieve greatness. The awards served to highlight that and inspire each and every one of us to give our best.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, this is just a general warning. If I continue to hear interjections that are designed to disrupt, I will warn you and I will send you from the chamber. When a member is not being provocative, I will not tolerate interjections of that manner.

### The Spit Master Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): When the Palaszczuk Labor government started the master planning process for the Southport Spit 18 months ago, we said that we wanted to strike the right balance for the Gold Coast. We wanted to protect the local environment and community values and pave the way for more local jobs. We wanted to turn conflict into consensus and by doing so trigger business investment in this much loved part of our state. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government has achieved with the final Spit Master Plan.

Last month, I joined the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the member for Gaven and leaders from Village Roadshow at Sea World to announce \$145 million of new public and private sector investment in The Spit. This investment includes \$60 million from the Palaszczuk government to begin implementing The Spit Master Plan, \$50 million from Village Roadshow for its new Atlantis precinct, including some of the best new theme park rides in the Southern Hemisphere, and a \$35 million contribution from the City of Gold Coast for transport and access improvements.

The government's \$60 million will be invested in job-creating projects that deliver improved public amenity and enhance the tourism experience. Projects identified in the master plan that will now be implemented include improvements to parklands and green areas, an underwater diving and snorkelling attraction, better boating facilities and parking and new boardwalks.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** These projects and more have the potential to create an estimated 1,800 jobs—that is right, member for Southport: 1,800 jobs—during the life of The Spit Master Plan improvement project and we expect 800 additional short-stay rooms to be made available in the years ahead. For the benefit of the member for Southport, I point out that that is \$60 million of new public investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government in this year's budget to support the implementation of The Spit Master Plan—\$60 million more than the LNP ever invested in The Spit. For employment, for the economy, for the Gold Coast and for Queensland, these are, without doubt, great outcomes.

The master plan has created a climate of certainty for business, ushering in an exciting new era of private investment for the region. In fact, Village Roadshow Theme Parks' CEO Clark Kirby said that the company had the confidence to make its substantial multimillion dollar investment because of the certainty delivered by the master plan.

The Gold Coast is one of Queensland's most important tourism destinations and our funding commitment will ensure The Spit Master Plan becomes a reality, finally giving the community the certainty it so rightly deserves. In conclusion, I thank all stakeholders and the Gold Coast community for their dedication to our new shared vision for the Southport Spit.

### Budget, Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Today the Palaszczuk government will deliver a record health budget for Queenslanders. It will see the largest ever investment in health care by any Queensland government. We will spend a total of \$19.2 billion—that is an almost \$930 million increase on last year's budget—to treat more people, build more hospitals and strengthen frontline services. From day 1, the Palaszczuk government has made health a priority. We are investing in hospitals and frontline staff right across the state to ensure every Queenslander has access to world-class health care, no matter where they live.

The bulk of our funding will go to Queensland's hospitals. We are improving and building better hospitals with a \$777.7 million infrastructure investment next year alone. Our health infrastructure budget will deliver projects that will ensure there are enough beds available to keep meeting increased demand as Queensland's population grows and ages. It includes funding for the redevelopment of Logan and Caboolture hospitals, two projects not just delivering better hospitals for people in our growth corridors but also thousands of jobs for Queenslanders. The Caboolture Hospital redevelopment project will support 1,048 jobs for Queenslanders. The Logan Hospital redevelopment will deliver 1,369 jobs in its construction. There are also funds to continue redeveloping Roma Hospital and upgrade the Gladstone Hospital emergency department, plus \$40.7 million for projects in the Rural and Regional Infrastructure Package which will benefit Blackall, Sarina and Kingaroy. There is \$27.9 million to complete a new Adolescent Extended Treatment Centre at the Prince Charles Hospital, two new youth adolescent Step Up, Step Down units in Logan and Caboolture and the refurbishment of two adolescent day program spaces in Logan and the Gold Coast.

Today we will see a health budget that addresses the growing demand for public health services across the state. Today we will see a health budget that continues to create more jobs for doctors, nurses, midwives and health professionals right across this state. Since 2015 we have hired 5,988 nurses, 2,020 doctors, 1,761 health professionals and 508 ambulance officers. This budget builds on those numbers and we expect to hire nearly 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 250 more health professionals and 200 more ambulance officers in the next financial year. We are also making 400 nurse navigator and 100 midwife positions permanent jobs with a \$147.5 million funding boost. We are delivering on more public mental health services, including almost \$62 million in initiatives to prevent suicide prevention. This year's Health budget reinforces our government's commitment to delivering high-quality health care to Queenslanders wherever they live.

### Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): The 2019-20 state budget is yet more proof of the Palaszczuk government's iron-clad commitment to education in this state. The Department of Education's total budget for 2019-20 is a record \$13.761 billion, an increase of \$789 million, or 6.1 per cent, on 2018-19. Some \$9.5 billion, or 69 per cent of the overall budget allocation, will be invested in our state schools, an increase of \$500 million, or 5.6 per cent, on the previous year. There is also \$293 million for early childhood education, up 8.2 per cent, or \$22 million, on the previous year.

The 2019-20 budget includes a record \$1.464 billion infrastructure spend which will deliver four new schools and provide for the refurbishment and expansion of existing schools from Cape York to Coolangatta. This infrastructure spend represents an over 55 per cent increase on last year's budget. New primary and special schools will be built at Palmview, a new secondary school will be built on target at Caloundra South and a new primary school will be built at Pimpama on the Gold Coast. These new state schools will enrol students for day 1 in 2021 along with the new Inner City South State Secondary College, which we are delivering in Dutton Park for Brisbane's inner southern suburbs. This investment will see the total number of new schools opened by our government since 2015 increase to 26.

The budget also includes funding for early works on a new secondary school at Palmview, which has been under active consideration for a number of years and is forecast to open in 2023. Following master planning of 35 inner city schools over the past 12 months, I am pleased that this year's budget includes funding to start bringing these master plans into action at eight schools: Toowong, Newmarket, Brisbane Central, New Farm, Morningside, Ithaca Creek, Windsor and Petrie Terrace state schools. This will see new and enhanced classrooms, libraries and outdoor and administration areas built at these schools that are fast growing in the inner city. It will be fantastic for those students.

The added benefit of our huge education infrastructure program is the jobs it will create in the building and construction industry. Our infrastructure program is expected to support around 4,200 jobs across our state. The 2019-20 budget also includes increased funding of \$100 million over four years for priority state school air-conditioning projects which, including our existing investment, will bring total funding to \$191 million over five years. This will include upgrades of air-conditioning units in schools in the Cooler Schools Zone and other priority school air-conditioning projects as identified through a review of state school air-conditioning needs.

The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to employ an additional 3,700 teachers over four years and we are delivering on that commitment. The budget includes additional funding to employ 1,000 additional teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides to cater for increased enrolments in our Queensland state schools. Included in this investment is a boost of at least 240 teachers and teacher aides to ensure students with a disability get the support they need. The 2019-20 budget means the Department of Education can continue to give Queensland kids a great start by providing a world-class education wherever they live in our great state.

### Budget, Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): Ninety-five lives have been lost on Queensland roads this year. My condolences, and I am sure those of every member of the House, go to the family and the friends affected and the communities that have been left devastated. I acknowledge too the brave work of our front-line first responders. A fortnight ago we witnessed one of the worst weeks in recent memory with 11 lives lost, including the tragic deaths of six children. These events have shocked communities and are an important reminder for all motorists to keep safety front of mind every time they drive.

On 31 May in Brisbane I attended the Fatality Free Friday event where we heard a courageous speech from Gold Coast parent Tegan Mitchell who lost her daughter to a preventable crash. The fatal five—speeding, distraction, alcohol and drugs, fatigue and not wearing a seatbelt—continue to be the major causes of death on our roads. This week's state budget will deliver an additional \$205 million over the next four years, boosting targeted road safety funding to \$900 million. This extra funding will pay for upgrades to fix some of the state's most dangerous roads and intersections where we know crashes are more likely to occur. It will fund safety and rope barriers, overtaking lanes, road widening and wider centre lines. We are reinvesting every dollar from our speed camera program into improving road safety. That is the law. This includes investing in driver safety campaigns like our recent Drive Smarter, Not Faster initiative, where one exercise helped reduce participants' speeding by 26 per cent.

We make no apologies whatsoever for making Queensland's roads safer. However, media commentary by some depicting the installation of new speed cameras as revenue raising has the real prospect of damaging the link between speeding and tragedies. Before speed cameras were introduced in 1997, the number of fatalities on Queensland roads was 11.16 per 100,000 Queenslanders. In 2018, that number had fallen by more than half to 4.89 fatalities per 100,000 Queenslanders. We need every effective measure on our roads to reduce speeding and fatalities.

Road safety is everyone's business and improving road safety should be a bipartisan effort. Our \$900 million commitment in this year's budget adds to key safety upgrades on the Bruce Highway and the Warrego Highway under agreements with the federal government. It is part of a record \$23 billion road and transport program that the Palaszczuk government is delivering over the next four years to deliver the safe transport infrastructure that Queensland needs. While we are delivering more road safety funding than ever before, we all still have a collective role to play in making our roads safer.

### Electricity Prices

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government knows that every dollar counts when it comes to the cost of living. I am pleased to advise the House that in regional Queensland electricity prices are heading the same way as the Blues in this year's State of Origin series: down! From 1 July, a typical household will

pay \$62 a year less and a small business will pay \$144 less. This is the second year in a row that the independent Queensland Competition Authority has recommended a price cut. Bills fell this year and will fall again from 1 July, meaning that all up over two years a small business will have saved \$230 and a typical household will have saved \$82. The fall for a typical regional household represented a 4.4 per cent decrease and for small businesses a 5.8 per cent drop on the current 2018-19 prices.

This shows that our Affordable Energy Plan is delivering for Queensland families. It is our renewable energy that is keeping prices down. In fact, the QCA's own report notes that about 5,200 megawatts of new renewable generation is entering the National Electricity Market, with more than 1,350 megawatts committed in the Queensland market. The report also notes that the newly announced and publicly owned clean energy generator, CleanCo, will contribute to reducing price volatility and will drive down wholesale prices in the future. That renewable energy powerhouse in Queensland is pushing down prices, meaning cheap, clean, renewable power and lower prices, while at the same time addressing climate change.

As I have said before, the Palaszczuk government's Affordable Energy Plan is delivering for regional Queenslanders. I remind honourable members of just what we have been delivering. We have delivered a two-year cap on electricity price rises to average inflation, but we are doing better than that. We have delivered two annual \$50 dividends for households from the dividends of Queensland's publicly owned electricity assets, that is, assets that Queensland mums and dads own. We have delivered a \$75 EasyPay reward for regional households and \$120 for small businesses that sign up for Ergon Energy's direct debit and monthly eBilling. We have delivered interest-free loans and grants for solar and battery storage systems and rebates for consumers to buy energy-efficient appliances. Our positive and consistent energy policies are delivering for all Queensland families, particularly in our regional communities.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

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

### Budget, Sport; Digital Projects Dashboard

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.03 am): The 2019 sporting season is looking great for Queensland sports fans. Ash Barty is the French Open Champion, Queenslanders playing in the Matildas are proving to be stiff competition at the World Cup and we have seen a great start to the 2019 State of Origin series.

Cricket and AFL fans have also been given cause to celebrate with the news that our beloved Gabba is set to receive some TLC in this year's budget. The \$35 million funding injection to be announced today repays fans for their loyalty to the Lions and the Queensland and Australian cricket teams. The upgrades to fan facilities will ensure that when fans turn up to the Gabba they will have a quintessentially Queensland experience. Entry through the turnstiles will be quicker and easier and with upgraded TVs throughout the stadium fans will not miss a second of the action when they visit the new bars and food outlets. Not only will the Gabba play its traditional role hosting the first test match of the series against Pakistan in November; the new upgrades have secured the return of the first Ashes test in 2021 to its rightful home at the Gabba. We will make sure the upgrades are up to withstanding even the Barmy Army.

Nobody can say that the Palaszczuk government has not gone to bat for Queenslanders in this year's budget. In fact, the Palaszczuk government has hit it for a six. I will update the House on Release 4, implemented on 7 September 2018, renaming the ICT Dashboard as the Digital Projects Dashboard. The upgraded dashboard will assist the ICT sector, agencies and Queenslanders to observe the staged approach to approvals and the allocation of budgets for all ICT projects. The Palaszczuk government has continued to improve the quality, clarity and availability of information on the Digital Projects Dashboard. It is now the nation-leading resource for the provision of information on government ICT projects, far ahead of New South Wales and Victoria and light years ahead of the federal government's reporting for ICT projects.

In our last update to the dashboard we added new information fields for all projects. We did this to provide even greater clarity for Queenslanders on ICT projects being delivered by our government. The update included new fields to indicate project scope change, cost re-evaluation and delivery time changes over the life of the project. For those reviewing the information on the Digital Projects Dashboard, it is important to consider all the information about a project on the dashboard, as it has been carefully designed to provide context. The life of a project may include many stages that affect estimated expenditure and timeframes. The project scope may change over time due to, for example,

a policy change. An example of that is the FOPATS project in the Department of Housing and Public Works. After the 2015 election, the government was no longer privatising social housing and, therefore, the project needed to change to meet business need and public asset retention. A staged approach is taken, starting with the development of a minimum viable product and then varied as opportunities are identified. As a result, the project commencement allocation will, in most cases, be lower than the current approved budget.

ICT projects are managed to ensure the product meets business needs and to take account of policy and agency developments as the project progresses and is managed in terms of costs. Project commencement allocation reflects the initial scope of a project, but projects tend to progress from a minimum viable product. The project commencement allocation assumes an unchanging policy environment and does not account for scope changes reflecting policy changes during the project's life. Projects can run over several years, with dependencies between multiple tranches of work. Funding may be allocated to a project in two or more financial years, leading to changes in the reported approved budget, not scope change.

Variances often occur in building and construction capital projects. Variances are an occurrence that are carefully and closely managed to handle changes to scope, and our digital projects are no different. The Queensland Government Chief Information Office manages the Digital Projects Dashboard, providing advice to support agencies on project management and assurance for the 150 digital and ICT enabled initiatives across government. We will continue to ensure that a structured, effective and consistent approach for portfolio, program and project management is adopted across the Queensland government.

### Small Business Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): The last week of May delivered another fantastic Queensland Small Business Week, with a record number of events—more than 270—held across Queensland, covering more regional areas than ever before from Goondiwindi to Mount Isa and up to the Torres Strait. Businesses had the opportunity to celebrate, access support and mentoring and be inspired about the contribution they are making in every one of our Queensland communities.

During the week I had the privilege of meeting many small business owners across our great state. I had the pleasure of joining the member for Cairns to visit Andrew from Trinity Engineering and Consulting, which was one of our 19 successful businesses to share in over \$850,000 in the latest Business Growth Fund grants. Collectively these Queensland businesses expect to create 70 more jobs thanks to our grants. The week also provided the perfect opportunity to join with Jobs Queensland, CCIQ and Loganholme small business Cabinets Online—and I was joined by the member for Macalister—to launch the Workforce Planning Connect tool. Not only was Cabinets Online another Business Growth Fund success story; they have been working with Jobs Queensland and CCIQ to road-test a new toolkit for small business. This is a free resource that is now available to help small businesses plan for the future and to make sure that they have the right people with the right skills in the right positions to grow their business.

During the week, with the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra, I also met with many Townsville small businesses who are still working hard to get back on their feet after the devastating floods—small business like Cheapa 4 U Crane Hire. I met with owner Tony whose business was flooded but because he is located just outside of the Townsville local government area previous grants had not been available. As we said in the immediate aftermath of these floods, we are here for the long haul to help businesses. That is why I was very pleased to announce an additional \$10 million in resilience funding for small business recovery, with new grants of up to \$10,000 now open for areas including those outside of Townsville, providing much needed support to businesses like Tony's.

We closed out the week at the Taste and Trade event at the iconic Boggo Road jail. I was proud to announce a special grant for artisan producers opening in July. It was a delight to celebrate our annual Queensland Small Business Week and shine a spotlight on a sector that is the very backbone of our economy and a key contributor to the more than 199,000 jobs created since we were elected.

### Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.11 am): In just seven months Queenslanders have now returned more than 542 million containers through the Container Refund Scheme. Since the

Palaszczuk government introduced the scheme in November last year, mums and dads, community groups and school students have proven how much they want to recycle, and these figures are proof of their great work.

Over \$54 million in refund payments has now been paid to individuals, community groups and charities. This is 35 per cent more than was forecast for this period. Suffice to say, the popularity of the scheme has exceeded expectations. The great news for Queensland is that around 640 new jobs have been created as a result of the scheme around the state, many in small businesses in regional areas.

More than 275 container refund points are now operating across the state. In the last month alone new sites have opened at Hervey Bay, Cooroy, Yamanto, Atherton, Boyne Island, Sandgate, Dalby and Beaudesert. In addition, more than 180,000 Queenslanders have registered for a scheme ID, enabling them to have a refund paid directly into their bank account.

More than 3,500 community groups, schools, charities and sports clubs have also registered for a scheme ID, allowing others to donate their container refunds to the group of their choice. I am pleased that CoEx has reported to government that interest in refund point operations continues to grow, with the network of container refund points also expanding so they are accessible to as many Queenslanders as possible. Services are also being streamlined so customers are benefiting from faster, more accessible refunds.

I want to thank the community for their support of the scheme. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of the container refund point operators, many of whom are small businesses, and CoEx staff who have contributed to the success of the scheme to date. Over half a billion containers returned is an incredible effort. It is obvious that Queenslanders want to recycle more, and the Container Refund Scheme is just one way that the Palaszczuk government is supporting the community to do just that.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Office of the Information Commissioner, Reports

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.13 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table two reports by the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland titled *Follow-up of report No. 3 of 2014-15: audit of Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's implementation of recommendations compliance with right to information and information privacy* and *Follow-up of report No. 4 of 2016-17: audit of Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's implementation of recommendations compliance with right to information and information privacy*. The committee chair is required to table these reports under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the reports to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Office of the Information Commissioner: Follow-up of Report No. 3 of 2014-15: Audit of Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's implementation of recommendations Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy [\[891\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Office of the Information Commissioner: Follow-up of Report No. 4 of 2016-17: Audit of Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's implementation of recommendations Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy [\[892\]](#).

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Reports

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.14 am): I table Ethics Committee report No. 186 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 15 November 2018 relating to an alleged contempt of parliament*.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 186, 56th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 15 November 2018 relating to an alleged contempt of Parliament [\[893\]](#).

I advise the House that the Ethics Committee has attached to this report the submissions received in respect of, and an extract of minutes relevant to, the inquiry to comply with standing order 211B.

I also table Ethics Committee report No. 187 titled *Report on a right of reply No. 36* and Ethics Committee report No. 188 titled *Report on a right of reply No. 37*.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 187, 56th Parliament—Report on a Right of Reply No. 36 [\[894\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 188, 56th Parliament—Report on a Right of Reply No. 37 [\[895\]](#).

I advise the House that the Ethics Committee has attached an extract of minutes relevant to the committee's considerations of reports No. 187 and No. 188 to the respective reports to comply with the intent of standing order 211B as recommended by the House and the CLA. I commend the reports and the committee's recommendations to the House.

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

### Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 22 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 February and 29 March 2019*.

*Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 22, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 February and 29 March 2019* [\[896\]](#).

The objective of the regulation is to exempt certain information from being shared under the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018. I commend our report to the House.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received a notification from the member for Mudgeeraba advising of her absence from 8 to 15 June 2019. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

### Adani Carmichael Mine

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.16 am): My first question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's public comments that she is fed up with her own government's inability to make a decision on the Adani Carmichael Mine. Will the Premier detail whether she is fed up with the regional MP revolt against the city-centric cabinet, fed up with the member for Woodridge's desire to be Treasurer or fed up with the 1,500 jobs that have been delayed?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition. The only thing I am fed up with at the moment is the opposition.

**Mr Dick:** The member for Clayfield is fed up with the member for Everton.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Exactly. I take that interjection. We are unsure who the shadow Treasurer is. We are unsure whether it is the member for Everton or the member for Clayfield. Our Treasurer writes an opinion piece and we expect the shadow Treasurer to write an opinion piece—but no. Welcome back, member for Clayfield!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Let's bring it down please, members.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Today is a good day. Today is the fifth budget that will be handed down by the government. I know how hard the Treasurer has worked. It is her second budget. What we know very clearly is that the people of Queensland want jobs. They want jobs. Everything that we do in government is focused on people. We will be backing Queensland jobs in this budget. We will be backing jobs no matter where people live in this great state.

**Mr Bleijie:** How good is Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is something that Scott Morrison cannot say in the State of Origin. He cannot say those words in the State of Origin. We went to the last election focused on jobs, education and health. We will honour our commitment to ensure that Queenslanders have secure, long-term jobs. We will ensure that families, no matter where they live in this great state of ours, have access to good,

quality health services. As I said in my ministerial statement, it is about those families who travel from Hervey Bay and Toowoomba to our state-of-the-art hospitals to get the best service when it comes to issues such as premature births, and it is fundamentally about a record education budget that ensures—

**Mr Bleijie:** Every education budget is a record budget.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I know those opposite do not like it because they closed schools.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are building schools. The Fortitude Valley state school—

*(Time expired)*

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is also to the Premier. I refer to comments made by former Labor Party president Bob Gibbs that the Adani issue has become a disgraceful example of incompetent government. Does the Premier accept responsibility for her government's alleged disgraceful incompetence?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will not be listening to Bob Gibbs, just like I hope they will not be listening to Campbell Newman, though we know that they do listen to Campbell Newman. We know how much they love Campbell Newman. He just will not go away.

**Ms Grace:** That is some good advice.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. We will get on with the job of backing Queenslanders and delivering for Queenslanders. I would like to finish my contribution about the former Fortitude Valley state school. Yesterday when Minister Grace, the Deputy Premier and I stood there, 150 to 200 people were working on that site, including 15 apprentices. Those opposite—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under 118(b), relevance. The Premier may want to answer the previous question but we have moved on to the next question, which had nothing to do with what the Premier is now speaking about. The question related to Bob Gibbs' comment about this incompetent Labor government. The Premier cannot now add to a previous answer which she did not feel she finished in time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, under standing order 118(b) I ask you to come back to the question that was asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to talk about competence, because there is no clearer distinction between the government and the opposition when it comes to attitudes towards education, health and jobs. As I was saying, they had the 'for sale' sign up to close the Fortitude Valley state school. There are 150 to 200 workers on site and year 7s will start there next year. It is all about delivering and backing Queenslanders, which we will continue to do.

It does not matter where we go in this state, time and time again I am so impressed with the individuals and families that I meet who come up to me and say how they are receiving good treatment in our hospitals and how they are attending schools that we are building to cater for growth. I see that the member for Gladstone is nodding. In relation to the Calliope state high school, the land was for sale. The other day the assistant minister, Minister Grace and I dropped by. The building is coming out of the ground and the school will be open next year. I will be there to cut the ribbon with the minister and the assistant minister because we get on with the job and deliver.

Those opposite fundamentally have no track record when it comes to jobs in this state. There is no clearer contrast: they sacked 14,000 people. The other night a man approached me on Caxton Street and said, 'You changed my life because you saved my job.' Those opposite wanted to take that job away—

*(Time expired)*

### **North Queensland, Resource Projects**

**Mr STEWART:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier please update the House on opportunities to grow long-term resource projects in North Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In Townsville and regional Queensland we value people's jobs. Those opposite cut health professionals—

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections are designed to disrupt the speaker on her feet.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Those opposite cut health professionals in Townsville. I remember standing outside the Townsville Hospital at a rally where nurses lost their jobs. I remember standing next to TAFE teachers who told me that their jobs were on the line under the former government. What we are very clearly doing is investing in Townsville. Mr Speaker, if you do not believe me, go and see the Townsville stadium rising out of the ground.

**Ms Trad:** They never backed it!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Those opposite had to be dragged to it. I will be there next week as the roof starts to go on the Townsville stadium, and of course we will back Townsville. I recently had the opportunity to speak to Peter Prentice from Agripower. This is a really exciting project happening for Townsville. Agripower mines silica from the old nickel mine at Greenvale. We know that Greenvale is already the prospective home of the Sconi mine. Agripower is already processing 240,000 tonnes of silica fertiliser per year through the Charters Towers plant. They know there is a deposit of up to two billion tonnes. It will be the world's largest deposit. It has a 200-year mine life. It has been determined that it will be a coordinated project, and over the next two years if everything goes to plan then that mine—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Resource jobs were lost under those opposite. We are also upgrading the port of Townsville with a \$193 million upgrade. We know that channel widening is very important to the people of Townsville. We are investing in schools and infrastructure, ensuring that we put in place opportunities for jobs in the future such as the expansion of the zinc refinery. Once again we are securing and adding local jobs and utilising renewables to bring down their cost of electricity by 30 per cent. Once again heavy industry is powering this state with the support of the Queensland government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southport, I would like you to use members' correct titles in this place and I ask you to cease your injections.

### **Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships**

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to comments made by Labor power broker Bill Ludwig that the Treasurer will be lucky to hold her own seat and the 'no comment' provided by the member for Woodridge when he was asked by the media whether he had confidence in the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer advise if this budget will be her last?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for Health! Minister for State Development! I will wait for silence, members.

**Ms TRAD:** If ever there was a defining difference between what we on this side of the parliament got into politics for and what those on the other side of this chamber got into politics for, it is that question. It is all about them, all about the person, all about the cheap politics, all about the player, not about the ball, all about the politics. It is never about the policy and it is never about Queenslanders. When it comes to the LNP, it is never about Queenslanders. It is not about working Queenslanders, it is not about sick Queenslanders, it is not about Queenslanders who need an education, it is not about Queenslanders with a disability; it is about the cheap politics. Let me say this—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will direct your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** It is an honour and a privilege for any person to be elected to this chamber. Being able to deliver for Queenslanders through serving on the government and the treasury benches and being able to deliver to Queenslanders no matter where they live is the greatest honour of all. When those opposite came into government they squandered that. They promised and then they broke their

promises. I am pleased to say that on this side of the House we back Queensland jobs. They cut Queensland jobs. This budget will be all about backing Queensland jobs, not cutting them like those opposite did and not being very proud about signing the pink slips for 14,000 Queenslanders, many of them in regional Queensland.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** We have presided over 199,000 additional jobs in our economy through five consecutive budgets and five surpluses. That is a record that each and every person on this side of the House is proud of. We are proud to work for Queenslanders, not for petty politics.

### Budget, Cairns and Far North Queensland

**Mr HEALY:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on what today's budget will deliver for Cairns and Far North Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Cairns for the question. Of course, we know how important the Cairns economy is locally and how important employment growth is there as well. Cairns unemployment is currently at 4.8 per cent, down from 6.2 per cent a year ago. We are going to continue to back Cairns and to back Cairns jobs.

I had the great pleasure just recently when I was in Cairns and had the opportunity to go and visit Norweld, which is a great local company employing local people and apprentices and expanding into overseas countries. In fact, their premises have had to expand. It is great to see good local companies working hard. I was able to meet with the managers and the staff and talk to the young people on the factory floor. They love their job. They love working for the company. They are going to stay there for many years. A couple of them had actually returned home to Cairns. They love living in Cairns, and that is what it is all about: giving people long-term, secure jobs, something that those opposite can never back because, as the Deputy Premier said, all they did was sack.

We also know that the budget is really important for Cairns. The Cairns Convention Centre has been announced previously, but this week I will be meeting with the Cairns MPs to actually look at the plans for that convention centre and to get construction started as soon as possible. I know that is a very important issue. I know that you, Mr Speaker, have raised many times how important the Cairns Convention Centre is for the area.

There will also be \$46.3 million over the next year for the Smithfield bypass. I know that is the pride and joy of the member for Barron River and is something that will alleviate congestion. There is \$70 million over the next year for the Cairns Shipping Development Project, something that Minister Dick is very much committed to along with the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, in relation to the Mossman Mill. Our money is on the table ready to go. We need that money from the federal government. A lot of jobs are at stake here. For operational purposes they talked about it during the election campaign. We now want to see the money on the table to save, secure and expand that Mossman Mill.

Of course, another \$10.5 million will be invested in the \$86.4 million new mental health facility and operating theatre at Cairns Hospital. In the Torres Strait the member for Cook will be very pleased that \$15 million out of the—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next questioner, I remind members who are on a warning under the standing orders that there are to be no interjections.

### Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, Palaszczuk Labor Government Cabinet

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the public call by Labor's Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors for a cabinet reshuffle to get more regional representation, and I ask: will the Premier sack her minister for breaking cabinet solidarity, or will she—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my right.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that offensive. I did not make that statement and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Moggill, the minister has found parts of your question offensive. I ask that you rephrase your question. I will allow you to ask your question again. You will need to withdraw in the first instance.

**Dr ROWAN:** I withdraw. My question is to the Premier. I refer to the public call by Labor's Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors for a cabinet reshuffle to get more regional representation, and I ask: will the Premier reshuffle her city-centric cabinet?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. I am taking advice from the table. I ask you to sit there in silence. Member for Moggill, if there is a disputation about the facts of the question—and that appears to be the case from the member for Mundingburra—you will need to substantiate the facts as they pertain to your question or I will have to move on to the next questioner.

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Premier, and I table a copy of an article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 22 May 2019, titled 'Premier goes bush, Palaszczuk push to shore up regions' [897].

I refer to the public call by Labor's Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors to get more regional representation, and I ask: will the Premier reshuffle her city-centric cabinet?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mundingburra, I am yet to review the tabled paper. I will have a look at that tabled paper. Based on the tabled paper—there is a news article which relates to the member's question—the question is valid and I will ask the Premier to answer the question, but I will give some latitude in terms of the response provided.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The minister has said that she disputes that in relation to a matter of privilege, so she will be writing to you about that, Mr Speaker. There are no plans to reshuffle. The ministers are working hard; the backbench is working hard; and my assistant ministers, who are mainly in regional parts of this state, are also working incredibly hard, delivering on our promises that we took to the last election. It is my very clear—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am advised that there is no direct quote here from the minister. If the member is deliberately misleading the House, I am quite sure that the minister will write and refer that. There is obviously a reshuffle on board in the opposition. In fact, perhaps we should get the former treasurer back for presiding over the highest deficit Queensland ever had.

**Ms Trad:** You could have asked a budget question on budget day, that's for sure!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I also take the interjection from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. It is budget day. Are there any questions about the budget, because it is so good? Take for example the new prison in Gatton creating jobs. I look forward to hearing what the member for Lockyer says about the new prison in Gatton. I would like to see him knock back those jobs. He should be singing our praises from the rooftops. We will continue to back Queenslanders. The opposition sacked Queenslanders. The Treasurer will hand down the budget this afternoon. It is not long for those opposite to wait. It might be a long time for the shadow Treasurer, the member for Everton, in terms of whether or not he will be replaced in the very near future.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Theodore, I did not want to interrupt the Premier as you were trying to with your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

## Budget, North Queensland

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the state budget will deliver jobs in North Queensland through further developing the north-west minerals province?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. We on this side of the House have been incredibly hardworking in terms of making sure that we have an attractive investment prospect in the north-west minerals province. I acknowledge the work of my cabinet colleagues the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and the Minister for State Development, who have been incredibly active in progressing the north-west minerals province strategy with industry and with the community to ensure we have jobs in regional Queensland.

On Sunday I was very pleased to join with the member for Thuringowa—

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

**Ms TRAD:**—the member for Mundingburra and the member for Townsville to announce that in this year's budget the Palaszczuk Labor government will invest money to make it easier to get minerals from pit to port. We will continue our investment of more than \$350 million in repairing and upgrading the Mount Isa to Townsville railway line. We will also partner with the Port of Townsville to ensure there is a new common-user facility at the port so that trucks do not stop at Stuart and then truck in 12 kilometres through the city to the port to get minerals to market.

Further, we will invest \$80 million over four years to provide concessional access to those people using the rail line to get product to market. Investment of over half a billion dollars in the north-west minerals province over the next four years makes it absolutely attractive to global investors. That is what Labor governments do. Contrast that with what those opposite had in store for the port of Townsville. The port of Townsville had no investment under those opposite. The only thing in the future for the port of Townsville under the Liberal National Party of Queensland was a 'for sale' sign. The port of Townsville would have been up for sale, courtesy of Campbell Newman and the member for Nanango. That is their track record. We believe that we should be investing in our economic infrastructure because that creates jobs. We should be investing in our economic infrastructure in the regions because our exports are booming. That means jobs. On this side of the House, every single day Labor will be backing jobs, not cutting jobs like those opposite did.

### **Adani Carmichael Mine**

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the public statement made by failed Labor candidate Mike Brunker—and I table a copy of that article—that if the Premier cannot make a captain's call—

*Tabled paper. Article from the Courier-Mail, dated 21 May 2019, titled 'Former Labor candidate calls for Premier to decide on Adani or leave' [898].*

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Local Government, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked repeatedly that questions be heard in silence. Member, can you start your question again?

**Mr LAST:** I refer to the public statement made by failed Labor candidate Mike Brunker that if the Premier cannot make a captain's call on Adani the party should consider changing leaders. Has the Premier's position on Adani only now changed because her own job is under threat?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, the Coordinator-General has set clear time frames for decisions to be made. The first one of those has gone—that is, the finch management plan. The second one is the groundwater plan, due on Thursday.

### **Budget, Infrastructure**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. I refer the minister to recent budget announcements, and I ask: could the minister please advise how the budget will support jobs by delivering the infrastructure that Queensland needs, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Maryborough—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question and for his strong support for the government's economic plan and our investment in infrastructure in regional Queensland. There is good news for Queensland in the state budget as our government builds for the future. As I said earlier today, there is \$60 million in the budget to implement The Spit Master Plan; more than \$600 million for a new men's prison in the Lockyer Valley, delivering 400 construction jobs and 500 permanent jobs when operational; \$1.4 billion to build, renew and refurbish Queensland state schools; and a \$500 million investment to boost mineral freight exports on the Mount Isa rail line. We can already see how the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in infrastructure to build the infrastructure that our state needs for the future.

I was interested to read an article in yesterday's *Courier-Mail* about alternative plans for infrastructure and the budget. It was not written by the Leader of the Opposition or the shadow Treasurer but by the member for Clayfield. The Leader of the Opposition could not find one frontbencher

to write 600 words about their alternative vision for the budget. Their go-to man was the member for Clayfield. Welcome back, 'Mr Strong Choices'! The member for Clayfield reminds me of Tom Hanks in *Castaway*. He finally returns and discovers that no-one remembers who he is and no-one cares. Of course, it makes the member for Everton Wilson the volleyball—lost overboard and drifting away!

The LNP seems very happy to replace the member for Everton with the member for Clayfield, and why not? The only contribution of the member for Everton to budget policy in this state was that it was irrelevant and irresponsible to have a debt plan. That is what they think. What is next? How about they bring back a leader of the opposition from outside parliament, someone like Campbell Newman? How good is Campbell Newman? When the member for Clayfield was finished, unemployment was up and economic growth was in a spiral dive into the abyss. Labor will continue to deliver for Queensland. Our Premier will continue to deliver for Queensland. This afternoon our Treasurer will deliver for Queensland, as do all members of this government. That is the difference between the LNP and Labor: we back Queenslanders, we back Queensland jobs and we back our great state.

### **Townsville Enterprise, Galilee Basin Pledge**

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the member for Rockhampton's concerns that people think Labor are anti jobs and that his own job may be lost at the next election. Will the Premier act on the member for Rockhampton's concerns and today sign Townsville Enterprise's Galilee Basin Pledge to generate more than 15,000 direct jobs for Queenslanders?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Maroochydore. Isn't it interesting that the member wants to talk about jobs? She was—

**Mr Bleijie:** It was the member for Rockhampton talking about jobs.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, the member for Maroochydore was part of a government that sacked 14,000 people. I know that the member for Rockhampton stands up for jobs in his area. I expect nothing less from every single government member. I say again: those on the other side of the House have zero credibility when talking about jobs. Their record says it all. Everything they did in government is still remembered.

I want to finish the story of the man who approached me at the pub in Caxton Street. He told me that under the LNP he was going to lose his job and it meant the world to him that his job was saved under our government. He now has a job for his family. The member for Everton can sit there and laugh—

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

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

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are also warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Everton sat at the cabinet table and made these decisions. The LNP brought down the worst budget Queensland has ever seen—the Newman-Nicholls budget, that very first budget. He is still sitting there laughing because he knows exactly the damage the former LNP government did to this state. He can keep smiling, because it was our government that saved a school in his electorate. He can thank me any day of the week. If it were not for this government, it would be gone.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The Premier was asked about whether she would sign Townsville Enterprise's Galilee Basin Pledge to generate those jobs for Queenslanders in the regions.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I ask you to come back to the question as asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am always happy to talk about jobs. Let me finish with this: 199,000 jobs. That is our record.

### **Nurse Navigators**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on the status of the Palaszczuk government's successful nurse navigator program?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Jordan for what is an excellent and important question. She is a passionate advocate for health care in her electorate and right around the state, as are all members on this side of the House.

Being sick can be daunting enough—especially if you are really sick and especially if you are caring for a sick child. While our 90,000 health workers go to work every day to do their best for Queenslanders, the health system can be complex for people to navigate. That is why I am so proud of our commitment today to make our 400 nurse navigators permanent and to make that program permanent. The nurse navigator program is an Australian first. It is about our government saying that nurses are best placed to guide patients on what can be a complex journey, that nurses are best placed to help people coordinate their travel, their appointments, their specialists, their scans and their blood tests so that they can focus on getting well.

Today we announce an extra \$116.8 million to bring our total commitment to \$398 million. The first nurse navigator I met was at Gladstone Hospital. I think the member for Gladstone was there with me. We met Sue, who was helping Jed and his family get better. Jed was just a little toddler who needed to spend months at the Queensland Children's Hospital. As well as juggling all of his appointments, tests and everything else, Sue helped organise school enrolments in Brisbane for Jed's siblings so that the family could travel to Brisbane together without having their studies interrupted. That really brought home to me how important this program is, particularly for regional Queenslanders. Our nurse navigators are the most skilled and most experienced nurses.

We on this side of the House love our nurses and midwives, unlike those opposite—the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Treasurer and the shadow shadow Treasurer, all of whom sacked nurses. We have employed the nurses they sacked and many more. They sacked 4,400 health workers, 1,800 of them nurses and midwives. We have brought them back—and more. We have now employed 5,988 more nurses and midwives than when those opposite were in charge. We will keep going in this year's budget.

### Department of Environment and Science

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. I refer to the minister's public comments that her role was to ensure 'the department, as the regulator, does their job free of criticism and free of being bullied'. Will the minister reveal whether her role has been compromised after the Premier's public declaration of being 'fed up' with the Adani project delays and the ordering of the Coordinator-General to intervene?

**Ms ENOCH:** No.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time. I have given you enough opportunity today.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 10.57 am.*

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my right.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, you are warned under the standing orders.

### Labour Hire Licensing Scheme

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister provide an update on the implementation of the labour hire licensing scheme?

**Mr Crisafulli:** Yes or no will do.

**Ms GRACE:** I will not take instructions from the member for Broadwater as to how I answer questions. I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. I know that there are labour hire workers in her electorate, as there are in all electorates. We want to make sure they are all looked after.

This government was the first in Australia to introduce labour hire licensing to protect vulnerable workers and raise standards in that industry. These new laws have finally regulated a sector that was left unregulated for too long. It was a big reason wage theft was so rampant in this state. The LNP opposite fought us every step of the way, ignoring the fact that, even though we want secure, direct

employment jobs, a large section of our workforce works in labour hire and under other temporary arrangements. They were totally ignored by the federal government. That saw wage theft and the continuation of the stagnation of wages in this state which is damaging our economy.

The scheme commenced over 12 months ago on 16 April. There are now a total of 3,141 licensed labour hire providers in Queensland, and that far exceeds our original expectations and shows that labour hire providers are fully aware of their legal obligations to be licensed and are ready to get on with business. We have weeded out the dodgy operators who were affecting those who were doing the right thing in the economy and we are getting accolade after accolade from those right across industries. Whether it is mining or resources, whether it is fruit and vegetable growers or whether it is the manufacturing sector, they are so happy that we have laws now so that when they engage a labour hire operator they know that they are doing the right thing and that those who were dodgy have been weeded out.

We have testimonials from the president of the Mareeba District Fruit & Vegetable Growers, the Bowen growers association, the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers and the president of the Lockyer Valley Growers all saying that these laws were long overdue and that they have resulted in a real turnaround in that industry. In terms of other results, WorkCover reports that the number of premium holders in the labour hire industry are also up and that almost half a million dollars in extra premiums have been collected and the number of uninsured claims are down, putting less pressure on our wonderful WorkCover system. These Labor laws have done a great job in this state and workers are enjoying better conditions. We can always be sure that it will be a Labor government that provides benefits for workers.

### **Adani Carmichael Mine, Groundwater Plan**

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is directed to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. Last week the minister's department was handed advice from seven of Australia's leading groundwater experts, including one of the top advisers to Queensland's Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment. I now table this advice which called Adani's groundwater plan severely flawed and warned that it is 'unsuitable and unlikely' to protect the ancient sacred Doongmabulla Springs from extinction.

*Tabled paper. Document, dated 30 May 2019, titled 'Position Paper by Concerned Scientists, Deficiencies in the scientific assessment of the Carmichael Mine impacts to the Doongmabulla Springs' [899].*

Will the minister guarantee that this advice will be properly considered and reflected in Thursday's decision on Adani's groundwater management plan?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before asking the minister to answer the question, member for Maiwar, that is a very lengthy preamble. I will allow the question, but I am giving you fair warning for your next opportunity.

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. I want to be very clear though that the role of the regulator—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms ENOCH:** I also thank the member for a question that was not just a yes or no question. That is very useful and I appreciate that. For the member's benefit, the role of the regulator under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 is absolutely free from political interference. The role of the regulator will be to consider all relevant information and it has been collecting that information from various sources, as I understand it, including the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, which also provided information to the then federal minister for environment.

There has been some further work done with regard to Adani's responsibilities under its environmental authorities, in particular with regard to groundwater, and of course the regulator will consider all of the relevant information before making its decision, which is an independent decision free from political interference. It will make that decision and it will make that decision whether to approve the current management plan or not on 31 May, as has been outlined in the time lines set by the Coordinator-General. In terms of that information, I know that the regulator has been looking at all available information to be able to make its decision.

### **Budget, Gold Coast Infrastructure**

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on measures in this year's state budget to deliver infrastructure for growing communities in my electorate and the neighbouring northern Gold Coast suburbs?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Macalister for her question as she is a fierce advocate for her constituents, but in this very fast growing area we have seen real pressure in terms of the M1. We all know that not a single new dollar was spent on the M1 under the previous government and we have had four upgrades fully funded under the Palaszczuk Labor government both on the Gold Coast and at the merge. However, what we also find is because of that growth the pressure at some of these interchanges has been very significant, and this is something that we have been looking at.

I am very happy to announce that, on top of the fact that we have done exit 45 at Coomera—started and finished under this government—exit 57 in terms of the Oxenford interchange is in consultation at the moment which will significantly improve that interchange.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I can hear those opposite screaming and interjecting because they do not like to see action on the M1. Consultation is underway for the \$25 million upgrade of exit 57 at Oxenford, and there has been a record of action under this government. I am very pleased that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the Premier have approved in today's budget action on the interchanges at Yatala South and at Pimpama—that is, exits 41 and 49. There is a commitment of \$96 million by this Palaszczuk Labor government to upgrade the interchanges at both of those areas, and we have put up our full 50 per cent of the cost.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time under standing order 253A. I am advised that you are under a warning. That means no interjections.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 11.05 am.*

**Mr BAILEY:** Much has been said about the funding model for the M1. The federal government has consistently said 50-50. That is its view. We have put up our 50 per cent for the interchanges to get it going. Its current commitment is only 25 per cent. I call on it to match the state Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment under a 50-50 program on the interchanges to get these interchanges done. In terms of exit 41 and exit 49, a lot of pressure needs to happen. The money is in the budget today. The federal LNP needs to come in and match our commitment to those people in that growing area of the Gold Coast, and those opposite should also support us if they were sincere. This is on top of our commitment to this growing area of new rail stations at Pimpama and at Helensvale North as part of our expansion of the rail system. With Cross River Rail coming, we are trying to get people in this growth sector onto rail.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** With the expansion of the Ormeau park-and-ride, which I announced the other day, there will be 110 extra spaces at the Ormeau train station, with up to 390 spaces. There will be additional spaces at the park-and-ride at Coomera. Labor governments invest in public transport. They invest in the M1, they invest in jobs and this budget will be good for all of those things.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Theodore, you can also leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Theodore withdrew from the chamber at 11.07 am.*

### Federal Election, Member for Inala

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the regional MP revolt and the damning comments about the Palaszczuk government by former Labor president Bob Gibbs, failed Labor candidate Mike Brunker, the members for Keppel and Rockhampton, the Minister for Communities and nearly three out of four Queenslanders voting for anyone but Labor in the federal election. Will the Premier rule out fleeing the state to become Queensland's next Agent-General in London?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Local Government, I ask you to leave the chamber for the remainder of question time. I have made myself clear: if you are on a warning, there are to be no interjections.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Sandgate withdrew from the chamber at 11.08 am.*

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question because there has been a little scuttlebutt going around the opposition, but I can absolutely rule it out. I will definitely not be going to London. The Agent-General, Linda Apelt, is doing a fine job. In fact, her contract has been extended. I love being Premier of this state. There is no greater honour and privilege than to be the Premier of Queensland and I will continue doing this job as long as the people of Queensland want me to do this job.

### Energy Policy

**Mr KING:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Can the minister update the House on Queensland's electricity policy and any alternative policy?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for his question. The return of the federal government negates neither the responsibility nor the willingness of this government to meet its commitments to Queensland families. The Morrison government is hell-bent on the privatisation of Queensland's assets through its big-stick legislation. There is no doubt that this government has run two election campaigns against privatisation and we will continue to stand up so that Queensland families can continue to own their assets.

Our energy policy is driving prices down. As for Morrison, all he has is chaos and confusion. He is for renewables one day, and walking back from that the next. He puts a national energy guarantee before cabinet, and deposes a leader after cabinet. He is attempting to underwrite coal-fired power stations here, there, and everywhere. He is legislating for the privatisation of assets one day and hiding the privatisation for an election another day. We have also just heard of nuclear in your backyard, nuclear in Bundaberg, nuclear across the state.

The people of Queensland have said one thing consistently: no to privatisation. They have done that for a very good reason. Queensland electricity prices have consistently and overwhelmingly remained below those of the east coast mainland states. The leader of the state opposition needs to respect the wishes of Queenslanders and reject her Canberra cronies' big-stick energy policy. We have to ask: does she wear maroon or is she going to don a blue jersey, like the member for Wide Bay? The member for Wide Bay wants to sell our electricity assets and increase our electricity prices, just like has occurred in New South Wales.

If the member for Nanango does not speak out against the privatisation of our energy assets, we will know where she stands. Only one year ago in her budget reply speech she promised that the LNP would embrace renewable energy. This lasted 0.6 of a millisecond. We know that she backflipped on renewables.

The member for Nanango has a very clear opportunity to stand for something now and that is to reject the big stick, reject the sale of Queensland's power assets. It is time for her to stand for something—for anything.

### Budget, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer to a media report that the Treasurer was ringing around Labor backbenchers offering budget sweeteners. Is the Treasurer pork-barrelling with taxpayers' money in a desperate bid to shore up her own position?

**Ms TRAD:** No.

### Building and Construction Industry

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is encouraging investment and employment of Queenslanders in the construction industry?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. The Palaszczuk government is building Queensland. As today's budget will show, secure, well-paid jobs for Queenslanders are our No. 1 priority. It is a fact that you cannot employ a Queenslander if your

business does not get paid. That is why we have changed the rules, and will continue to change the rules, in construction in Queensland to ensure that tradies and their small businesses get paid. What does getting paid deliver to a small-business tradie? It delivers confidence to employ more Queenslanders.

We are in a confidence-rebuilding process in the construction industry. In three short years, those opposite tore down confidence in the construction industry. It is quick and easy to wreck things, like the LNP does, but it takes longer to rebuild. After those opposite broke it, we are rebuilding confidence in the construction industry. We are investing in a massive capital program and changing the rules to create confidence.

I will take the House through what the Palaszczuk government has done to rebuild confidence in the Queensland construction industry. Under the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, we have reintroduced financial oversight mechanisms. There is a new requirement for licensees to provide annual reports to the commission. We now see the stringent reporting of decreases in net tangible assets and the commission has the power, the access and the information that it needs to look into the financial health of those licensees.

I am pleased to update the House that the commission has been working with 765 of the state's largest construction licensees to assess their compliance with the financial rules. The results of that work are in. Over the past couple of months, after financial reviews of only 269 of those licensees, more than \$122 million worth of capital has been injected into the Queensland construction industry. We are only halfway. With the backing of this government's capital injection, the construction industry has created 266,800 full-time jobs across the state with a third of those in regional Queensland. This is what happens when you focus on building confidence rather than on breaking things.

Today, we heard what those opposite wanted to do in the construction industry. They wanted to sell off schools. They wanted to close them. In stark contrast, under the Queensland education minister, there is a \$1.46 billion school construction program in Queensland, with 26 of them being built since we were elected in 2015.

The plan of the members opposite was to give away the \$16 billion Housing portfolio. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$1.6 billion to build 5½ thousand new social and affordable homes including, for the benefit of the member for Rockhampton, in his region. This government is investing \$27 million to construct a new adolescent health facility at Prince Charles Hospital after those opposite closed the Barrett centre.

### **Member for Keppel, Palaszczuk Labor Government Cabinet**

**Ms LEAHY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the demand of the member for Keppel that the regions must be better represented in cabinet and that Labor's state parliamentary wing needs to have a good hard look at themselves in the mirror. Will the Premier act on the demands of the member for Keppel and reshuffle her city-centric cabinet, or does the Premier refuse to look in the mirror?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired. I remind the following members that they have been warned: the members for Burleigh, Gregory, Toowoomba South, Glass House, Southern Downs, Buderim, Nicklin, Kawana and Morayfield. I remind those members that they are under warnings under the standing orders.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Resumed from 28 March (see p. 835).

### **Second Reading**

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.17 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I introduced the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill into parliament on 28 March 2019. The bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for examination. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their examination of the bill and I would also like to thank the stakeholders who made submissions. I am pleased to inform the House that, on 13 May 2019, the committee tabled its report and recommended that the bill be passed. I welcome the recommendation of the committee.

I would also like to foreshadow that I will be proposing amendments to be moved in consideration in detail. These amendments will ensure consistency with the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. This will ensure that consistency is retained in relation to the operation of the blue card and yellow card systems in Queensland.

These amendments will elevate additional offences to the list of serious offences and disqualifying offences under the Disability Services Act and introduce new arrangements for yellow card applicants and cardholders charged or convicted of a serious offence. In addition, the amendments will ensure that the bill commences operation on 1 July 2019 to coincide with the commencement of the jurisdiction of the NDIS commission in Queensland.

This bill ensures that disability legislation in Queensland continues to be fit for purpose and supports the implementation of the NDIS in Queensland. This bill progresses urgent and critical amendments and ensures that Queensland legislation can operate alongside relevant Commonwealth legislation to support the operation of the NDIS.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring people with disability in Queensland can access quality services in safe environments. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will have an important role in ensuring quality and safeguards under the NDIS. The NDIS commission will be responsible for the oversight of registered NDIS providers, including registering providers in Queensland, monitoring and enforcing compliance and managing complaints about NDIS services. The bill makes relevant changes to reflect the new roles and responsibilities of the NDIS commission. The bill also ensures that existing protections are maintained under the Disability Services Act for disability services that will continue to be provided outside of the NDIS.

People who receive disability services funded or provided by the Queensland government will continue to be protected by robust quality and safeguards under Queensland legislation. I want to make clear that existing safeguards will be maintained for people with disability receiving services in Queensland. The bill also reflects the roles and responsibilities of Queensland under the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. While the NDIS commission will have the primary responsibility for registering and monitoring service providers under the NDIS, states and territories will remain responsible for some aspects of the quality and safeguarding framework. For example, the Queensland government will retain responsibility for the authorisation of the use of restrictive practices. Queensland has a strong legislative framework in place and the bill before the House will ensure those standards are maintained. It will continue to be the case that a service provider will only be authorised to use a restrictive practice if it is necessary to prevent harm to the adult or others and is the least restrictive way of ensuring the safety of the adult or others. In addition, any use will need to comply with the positive behaviour support plan for the adult and accord with the relevant approval or consent.

The Palaszczuk government will also retain responsibility for worker screening. The existing yellow card system will continue to operate pending finalisation of national negotiation and further legislative changes to support implementation of a nationally consistent NDIS worker screening check. The bill strengthens existing safeguards in the yellow card system by expanding the range of offences that disqualify a person from working with people with disability. The additional offences elevated to disqualifying as introduced in this bill are broadly consistent with the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill will expand the range of disqualifying offences to include bestiality, murder and rape of an adult. The offences of kidnapping of a child, kidnapping for ransom of a child, child stealing and abduction of children under 16 will also be disqualifying where they are not committed in a familial context.

As I foreshadowed earlier, the Palaszczuk government will move amendments during consideration in detail to make further changes to the serious and disqualifying offences in the Disability Services Act and to how charges and convictions for serious offences are managed. These changes are necessary to ensure consistency with the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. I will move during consideration in detail to introduce a new framework for dealing with people charged and convicted of a serious offence. The amendments will ensure that a person charged or convicted of a serious offence will not be able to start or continue working with people with disability until they have been given a yellow card. If a yellow card holder is charged with a serious offence, their card will be automatically suspended and an applicant will have their application withdrawn.

This new framework will apply to all serious offences. I will move amendments during consideration in detail to elevate servitude offences where the victim is an adult and manslaughter to serious offences. In addition, I will move amendments during consideration in detail to escalate a

number of other offences to disqualifying: attempt to murder; conspiring to murder; torture of a child; attempt to commit rape of an adult; assault with intent to commit rape of an adult; choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting; cruelty to children under 16; trafficking in children; Commonwealth servitude offences if the victim is a child; and Commonwealth domestic trafficking in children offences.

The effect of this amendment is that a person will be automatically and permanently excluded from holding a yellow card if they have a conviction for one of these offences and have been sentenced to a period of imprisonment. A cardholder charged with one of these new offences will have their card automatically suspended, preventing them from working with people with disability. These amendments to be moved during consideration in detail are necessary to ensure consistency between the yellow card and the blue card system is maintained. This consistency supports the operation of the exemption process that operates between the two systems to reduce duplication of screening and minimise red tape.

Queensland has agreed to implement a nationally consistent worker screening check for the NDIS. Further legislative amendment will be required to support implementation of this nationally consistent system, but in the meantime these changes maintain consistency of safeguards with the blue card system and ensure a robust worker screening process for individuals working with people with disability. The bill provides flexibility for regulations to increase the scope of screening required to enable Queensland to begin transitioning to the new NDIS worker screening check.

The bill before the House also make amendments to clarify, in the context of the NDIS, when a death must be reported to a coroner or police officer and when community visitors will visit NDIS participants. I was pleased to see that submissions to the parliamentary committee were generally supportive of the continuation of the coronial jurisdiction for deaths in care and the community visitor program under the NDIS. However, a number of submissions did raise concerns about the scope of the revised definitions of 'death in care' under the Coroners Act and 'visitable site' under the Public Guardian Act. In particular, there was a concern that these proposed new definitions are too narrow.

I want to be clear that the intention of the bill, as far as it is possible to do so at this early stage of the NDIS, is to continue the original scope of the 'death in care' and 'visitable site' definitions as they were prior to Queensland's transition to the NDIS. Prior to transition to the NDIS, the definitions of 'death in care' and 'visitable site' included persons with disability living in accommodation provided or funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. Typically, this included people who were in receipt of a very high level of support and care and were living in a residential facility. For Queensland's transition to the NDIS, the Disability Services and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 amended the definitions of 'death in care' and 'visitable site' to effectively extend to any NDIS participant. These current definitions are too broad.

In 2016 it was not possible to align particular NDIS supports with the existing definitions of 'death in care' or 'visitable site'. This was because the NDIS rules, upon which the proposed definitions in the bill rely, had not yet been developed. The bill has identified certain classes of support in the NDIS legislative framework, called relevant class of supports, that most closely align with the high levels of support and care originally covered by the coroner's jurisdiction for deaths in care and the community visitor program. Overall, the government is satisfied that the proposed definitions of 'death in care' and 'visitable site' best meet the policy intention of the amendments in the bill, which is to replicate, as closely as possible as it is to do so, the original, or pre-NDIS, scope of coronial and community visitor jurisdiction for people with disability.

In conclusion, the amendments made by this bill and the government's proposed amendments for consideration in detail will ensure that Queensland's legislative framework supports the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission commencing operation in Queensland from 1 July 2010. I again extend my thanks to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for its examination of the bill and the stakeholders who assisted the process with their submissions. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.29 am): As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for communities and shadow minister for disability services and seniors, I rise to address the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. I confirm that the Liberal National Party will not be opposing this important piece of legislation in Queensland. On 28 March 2019, the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke, introduced this legislation into the Queensland parliament. It was subsequently referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for detailed consideration. With the

parliamentary committee having delivered its report, the Palaszczuk Labor government is now seeking the passage of this legislation. I note, however, that this is the last sitting week left in which to pass this legislation before the urgent and critical deadline of 1 July 2019, when the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be fully operational here in Queensland. This Labor government has had literally years to get ready for the full transition by 1 July 2019. Therefore, leaving this to the last minute is simply unacceptable and I will be expanding further on this shortly.

As anyone in the disability sector—be it service providers, carers, family members or, most importantly, patients—knows, the National Disability Insurance Scheme presents the most significant and fundamental shift this nation has seen in terms of how services for people with a disability are both funded and provided. Commencing in 2010, the Productivity Commission undertook a public inquiry into the establishment of a long-term disability care and support scheme. One of the key findings from the commission was how the existing system of disability support is ‘underfunded, unfair, fragmented, and inefficient, and gives people with a disability little choice and no certainty of access to appropriate supports’. Hence one of the key aims underpinning the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as articulated in the bill’s explanatory notes, has been to enable participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of essential supports.

I am proud to say that from day one the Liberal National Party has been steadfast in providing its unequivocal bipartisan support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Indeed, the legislation before us today fundamentally builds upon the foundations laid by the former Newman Liberal National Party government to deliver this fundamental shift in both philosophy and service delivery for Queenslanders living with a disability. To that end, I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the former Liberal National Party member for Aspley, Tracy Davis. As the minister for communities, child safety and disability services in the previous Newman Liberal National Party government, the former member for Aspley was instrumental in ensuring that the fundamental groundwork was laid for Queensland’s transition to and long-term implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme here in Queensland. It was the former Liberal National Party government that signed Queensland onto the NDIS in 2013, including making an \$868 million commitment as part of the NDIS implementation.

On a personal note, I know just how passionate former minister Davis was about delivering for Queenslanders with a disability. For the former member for Aspley, it was very important that, as a government, we provided the best framework so that eligible Queenslanders with a disability could self-direct their funding and provide greater flexibility in the lead-up to the full NDIS implementation. I thank Tracy Davis not only for her sheer determination in ensuring the best outcomes for Queenslanders living with a disability but also for the more positive reforms she ushered in during her time as minister for communities, child safety and disability services.

To examine the greater detail of this legislation, the explanatory notes state that the purpose of the bill is to—

1. ensure that Queensland has made all urgent and critical amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS Commission from 1 July 2019;
2. ensure that the DSA operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, in particular in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening;
3. ensure that existing quality and safeguards under the DSA continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the DSA that will be outside of the NDIS;
4. strengthen the operation of Queensland’s disability worker screening system (the yellow card system) during the transition to new NDIS worker screening;
5. amend the Coroners Act to ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to the State Coroner;
6. amend the PGA to ensure that community visitors (adult) and (child) must continue to visit visitable sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect the participants’ rights and interests; and
7. enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS Commission to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner’s functions under the NDIS Act.

As the current Queensland Labor minister outlined in her introductory speech, in order for Queensland to become a participatory jurisdiction from 1 July 2019 it is necessary to ensure that Queensland has the essential legislative framework in place to support the operation of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. I note that, during the transition to the NDIS, Queensland’s quality and safeguards will continue to apply to NDIS registered providers. With the passage of this legislation, the responsibility for the oversight of NDIS registered providers will transfer to the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission from 1 July 2019. Importantly, it must be noted that Queensland will continue

to remain responsible for implementing aspects of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, including administering a worker screening system, authorising the use of restrictive practices and operating a community visitor function.

I note the committee's examination of the bill. I place on record my thanks to all committee members, including my LNP colleagues the member for Pumicestone and the member for Currumbin, for their work, especially given the short time frame provided. I also note that during the committee hearings there was broad stakeholder support for the legislation. I specifically thank the six organisations that took the time to make a submission to the committee and contributed to the public hearing: the Office of the Public Guardian, People with Disability Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, Queensland Advocacy Inc., the Office of the Public Advocate and the AEIOU Foundation.

However, at this point I believe it is worth reflecting on the fact that, for a bill that affects an entire sector comprising some 90,000 eligible participants for the NDIS, only a handful of submissions were received. In reflecting on this, during the public hearing of 29 April this year Ms Elizabeth Bianchi, the Executive Director of Legal Policy and Legislation from the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, said—

One of the reasons we are considering for why there may be a lower number of submissions is that the bill is quite technical in nature.

She later stated—

It is fairly technical in its approach and it is really about ensuring that one legislative framework lines up with another one and that they do not bump into one another.

While I can certainly appreciate the technical nature of this legislation and the fact that there was, on the whole, broad support from stakeholders who submitted to the committee, nevertheless I believe that the low number of submissions is of some concern and is even evidence of—as expressed by others in this sector—potential poor communication by the Palaszczuk Labor government contributing to a transition in Queensland that sometimes continues to be referred to as confusing and chaotic.

Whilst acknowledging the broad stakeholder support for the bill, it must be said that two key issues were consistently raised across stakeholder submissions. A key change proposed in the bill relates to the definitions of 'visitable sites' and 'death in care', that is, places where community visitors can visit and places where if the death of a person occurs it is reported to the Queensland Police Service or the state Coroner. By way of background, to support the initial transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2016, amendments were made that significantly expanded the definition of 'death in care' with respect to NDIS participants, effectively including any NDIS participant living in a residential service. The amendments contained within the bill will see a narrowing of this definition, limiting it to the death of an NDIS participant not living in a private dwelling or an aged-care facility and receiving or entitled to receive a relevant class of supports from a registered NDIS provider. Whilst acknowledging, as per the explanatory notes, that such a narrowing of the definition is necessary in order to be consistent with the original scope of coronial jurisdiction for deaths in care of people with disability in that it is focused on those people in receipt of high levels of support and care, nevertheless the stakeholders—those at the forefront of our disability sector—have expressed their concerns.

Queensland Advocacy Inc. and Queenslanders with Disability Network in their respective submissions made clear their concerns with regard to the narrowing of this definition and that they consider the exclusion of deaths in private dwellings or aged-care facilities as not being appropriate and that these deaths should remain encompassed in this jurisdiction. It was further put to the parliamentary committee that all deaths of persons with disability in aged-care facilities should be covered, particularly having regard to the significant number of young people with disability who live in aged-care facilities whose primary disability support needs are often overlooked and not met.

Further concerns have been raised by the Public Advocate that, as the NDIS does not in its view have strong working definitions for what is referred to as the 'relevant class of supports' in the definition of a death in care, potential issues may arise and effectively leave the class of supports open to interpretation. For its part, the parliamentary committee in its report noted these stakeholder concerns regarding the proposed definition of 'death in care' and acknowledged the potential confusion that could arise by service providers unsure of when a death must be reported to the coroner in Queensland. On this issue the committee concluded—

The committee sees value in continuing consultation and education with service providers in the disability sector about when a death is a reportable *death in care* under the Coroners Act.

I believe for the benefit not just of those stakeholders but of the sector at large it would be appreciated if the minister could articulate how she intends to address these concerns and ensure there is sufficient ongoing consultation and education to ensure providers are aware of the change in definitions and what that entails.

The other issue widely canvassed by stakeholders that I wish to note in my contribution today has been that of restrictive practices. As set out in part 6 of the Disability Services Act 2006—

**restrictive practice** means any of the following practices used to respond to the behaviour of an adult with an intellectual or cognitive disability that causes harm to the adult or others—

- (a) containing or secluding the adult;
- (b) using chemical, mechanical or physical restraint on the adult;
- (c) restricting access of the adult.

I note that, through their respective submissions, Queensland Advocacy Inc., Queenslanders with Disability Network and People with Disability Australia all oppose state-specific restrictive practices and broadly advocate for the elimination of restrictive practices altogether. I do, however, note that support is there in the sector for a consistent national framework that again aims to eliminate the use of restrictive practices. However, it has been agreed that the Commonwealth, states and territories will regulate the requirements for NDIS providers who use restrictive practices until such time as a nationally consistent approach can be developed.

As I conclude my contribution today, I would like to reflect on the significance of this scheme and the importance of getting it right as we approach the deadline of 1 July 2019. For years now, thousands of Queenslanders, their loved ones, and their service and support providers have had to contend with a transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme that, under the stewardship of this Labor government, has sadly been at times somewhat suboptimal. That is simply a fact.

It is a fact that Labor only signed the NDIS bilateral agreement after significant and inexcusable delays. Were it not for the sustained pressure from the Liberal National Party, Queensland's transition to the NDIS would have been at significant risk altogether. It is a fact that the Queensland Audit Office last year found that fewer than 60 per cent of all people eligible for the NDIS in Queensland were likely to be in the program by the time it reaches its full rollout. It is also a fact that Queensland is locked in to pay its full \$2 billion per year commitment regardless.

In a related area, it is unfortunately a fact that, under this Labor government, there was a significant decision to tell the families of 38 residents at the Halwyn Centre at Red Hill in November last year that it would be forcing these residents out. There was widespread concern at the time, but I know that there is relief that the Labor government has reversed its original decision.

It is a fact that, at the metaphorical 10 minutes to midnight, it is only now that this Labor government is bringing this legislation before the parliament—legislation that is urgent and critical. The minister's introductory speech, the explanatory notes and even the committee's report are all littered with the words 'urgent' and 'critical' amendments. Whilst it may indeed be the case that the legislation is urgent and critical, it is simply not good enough that the Labor government saw fit to leave it until the last minute. It is yet further evidence of a Labor government that essentially has its priorities all wrong. In contrast, the Liberal National Party remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting Queenslanders with a disability and that includes holding Labor to account for its rollout of the NDIS in Queensland, particularly as we approach 1 July 2019.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors, I have had, and continue to have, the distinct pleasure of visiting and assisting some truly inspiring disability service providers, individuals and organisations across this great state. I have been fortunate to see firsthand the incredible work being done by groups such as the Endeavour Foundation, Queenslanders with Disability Network, the National Disability and Carer Alliance and the Queensland Disability Advisory Council, just to name a few, as they help Queenslanders prepare and transition to the full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. That is not to mention the amazing work being done regularly by disability support groups in my own electorate including Help Enterprises and the McIntyre Centre Riding for Disabled.

There is no question that we are reaching a crucial time in our state's transition and participation as part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It is as exciting as it is transformative. However, as we reach such a crucial milestone, it is incumbent upon the Palaszczuk Labor government to show greater care and diligence in its rollout and implementation so that Queenslanders of all abilities receive the supports they deserve.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the amendments as foreshadowed to be moved during consideration in detail by the minister. I thank the minister and her department for the opportunity to receive a briefing on those amendments. The Liberal National Party supports the intent of those amendments that will be moved later today.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (11.45 am): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. This bill was referred to our committee, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, by the CLA, and it was a pleasure to play a small part in its progression through the House. While fairly technical in nature, this bill is the next important step in transitioning Queensland to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, a scheme that will change the way that disability services are funded and delivered—a social reform the likes of which we have not seen since the introduction of Medicare and compulsory superannuation, both of which equally sought to give peace of mind that vital services and income would be there when people needed them most.

Since July 2016, transitional arrangements for the NDIS have been implemented in Queensland under a bilateral agreement between the Queensland and the Commonwealth governments. The bill is designed to implement the urgent amendments necessary to facilitate Queensland becoming a participating jurisdiction in the NDIS in July 2019. In practical terms, this means that from 1 July this year responsibility for providing disability services, including funding, will move from the Queensland government to the NDIS. To manage service delivery from 1 July, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will commence operation in Queensland, and the amendments before us provide the necessary legislative framework to support the operation of that Commonwealth commission in our jurisdiction.

The bill seeks to ensure harmony between our state based Disability Services Act 2006 and the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, particularly in relation to the use of restrictive practices and worker screening. In addition, the bill amends the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure reporting of deaths of certain NDIS participants to the coroner and the Public Guardian Act 2014 to ensure community visitors can monitor services delivered to vulnerable people with disability.

During our bill inquiry, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors explained to the committee that significant detail on the administration of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework that supports the scheme is contained in the Commonwealth NDIS rules. Two are of particular relevance to the bill: the NDIS (Practice Standards—Worker Screening) Rules 2018 and the NDIS (Restrictive Practices and Behaviour Support) Rules 2018. These rules set out the national requirements for NDIS service providers in relation to worker screening and restrictive practices.

Submissions received by the committee raised a number of issues in regard to these rules. The first of these is the use of restrictive practices. The definition of 'restrictive practice' includes the containing or secluding of an adult; using chemical, mechanical or physical restraint; or restricting access of the adult. Queensland Advocacy Inc. and Queenslanders with Disability Network in their submissions set out their support for a consistent national framework that aims to eliminate the use of such practices. The Commonwealth, states and territories have agreed that states and territories will regulate the requirements for NDIS providers who use restrictive practices until a nationally consistent approach is developed. I believe this is definitely the best course of action.

Submitters also raised concerns in regard to the narrowing of the scope of the amended definition of 'death in care' contained in the bill. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, which has responsibility for amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 contained in the bill, advised that the relevant classes of support that apply to the definition of 'death in care' align with the support and care arrangements that would have been captured under the original—pre-NDIS—scope of a coroner's jurisdiction for deaths in care. The committee noted both stakeholder concerns about the proposed definition of 'death in care' and comments made by the Public Advocate about public confusion among service providers about when a death must be reported to the coroner in our report, and raised the value of continuing consultation and education with service providers in this regard.

Submitters raised similar concerns about the proposed definition of 'visitable site'. The Queenslanders with Disability Network and the Office of the Public Advocate were concerned that the proposed definition of 'visitable site' may lead to fewer protections and safeguards for vulnerable people. The department advised that the classes of support contained in the bill broadly align with the types of support and care arrangements that would have been captured under the original pre-NDIS scope of a visitable site. The department further advised there is continuing flexibility to prescribe other places as visitable sites should the need arise. I thank the minister for her comments with regard to the issues that were raised during our consultation.

The transition to full implementation of the NDIS is not without its complexities. Questions such as the estimated number of people who will receive NDIS funding and their needs is not known, as eligibility is broader than the previous state funding model. Also, the intergovernmental agreement for full scheme operation is currently being negotiated and agreement with some Commonwealth NDIS rules has not been finalised. How the service provider market will respond to emerging consumer needs under the NDIS is still evolving. Undoubtedly, the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a complex national regulatory system and the transition process itself is complex, but we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition to ensure its success. Queenslanders with disability deserve services that continue to be subject to a robust quality and safeguards framework. This bill seeks to achieve that.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the minister and her department for their assistance during our inquiry and for their management of this complex transition process. I know they have been working incredibly hard. I think they are the unsung heroes of this complex process, so I thank them very much. I also acknowledge my fellow committee members: the deputy chair and member for Currumbin; my colleagues the members for Maryborough and Cairns; and the members for Hinchinbrook and Pumicestone for their contributions during the committee inquiry, as well as our committee secretariat and Hansard. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (11.51 am): On 28 March this year the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill was introduced by Minister O'Rourke, the honourable member for Mundingburra, who nominated the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill. But, in what is becoming a regular practice, the bill was moved over to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for consideration. Here we have yet another bill that was flicked to the EESBC due to the poor management of business in the House under this incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government.

With a reporting date of 13 May, and squeezed between Easter and Anzac Day, the committee had less than seven weeks to scrutinise the legislation. That may explain in part why there were only six submissions received. They were from the Office of the Public Guardian, People with Disability Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, Queensland Advocacy Inc., the Office of the Public Advocate and the AEIOU Foundation. I thank fellow committee members, the secretariat and all six submitters for their flexibility during the brief investigation of this bill. The committee only made one recommendation, and that was that the bill be passed.

As the honourable member for Moggill has already noted, with an NDIS start in Queensland of 1 July, this inept government has left it until the last possible sitting date to debate legislation that is of critical importance to countless Queenslanders and their families.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** In listening to the noise in the House, one would not think this is a very important bill to those opposite. This bill marks Queensland's next step in transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It will see the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission commence operation in this state from 1 July. The departmental briefing states that the NDIS 'represents a fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered'. As stated in the explanatory notes—

A key aim of the NDIS is to enable participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of supports.

To fully implement the scheme, legislation is required. This follows the Transition Bilateral Agreement, which commenced in Queensland on 1 July 2016. By working closely with the Commonwealth, Queensland's quality and safeguards framework has continued during this transition. This framework includes the criminal history screening of disability service workers—the yellow card system—the regulation of restrictive practices, complaints management processes, the Community Visitor Program and coronial jurisdiction for deaths in care. A new entity, the NDIS commission, will be formed with specific roles and responsibilities.

Without doubt, people with disabilities are a highly vulnerable group and the range of disabilities is vast. Some people have multiple complex health problems that require a complicated, personally tailored care plan. Many are not able to vocalise their needs, and therefore the filling in of forms is prohibitive. That is where advocates in organisations such as the Queenslanders with Disabilities Network and others play such a vital role.

Only two witnesses were able to attend our public hearing: the Public Advocate, Ms Mary Burgess, and Ms Michelle Moss from QDN. I thank them for their time and their invaluable input. They raised concerns about the general implementation of a project of this scale and the time it will take to

transition. Ms Burgess was keen to see that the safeguards currently in place to protect this cohort are maintained, and she had specific concerns around safeguards for people under the Coroners Act and the Public Guardian Act. New definitions of 'visitable site' and reportable 'death in care' were also raised as key issues. Ms Burgess stated—

Under the new definition, a person receiving NDIS funded services will be only eligible for visits, or to have a death reported, if they are receiving a limited class of support under the NDIS.

She continued—

Issues arise with this definition due to the way the listed classes of support are defined and applied in practice under the NDIS. The NDIS has not developed strong working definitions of the services that are included under each class of support and it leaves them open to variable interpretation, meaning that one NDIS recipient could potentially receive a support under a particular class of NDIS support and another receive that same support but it is categorised differently, depending on who their planner was.

Ms Burgess also raised the high figure of 53 per cent of deaths that have been reviewed as being avoidable and preventable and concerns around the level 3 accreditation that remains in the definition as to whether accommodation providers maintain their accreditation when they can get NDIS funding without it. At page 8 of the public hearing transcript the Queenslanders with Disabilities Network expressed concern that as of 30 June there will still be a considerable number of Queenslanders who are not in the scheme and that no-one knows what the market will look like and the different arrangements that people will have in place. Ms Moss stated that the bilateral agreement identified 90,000 Queenslanders with disability who are eligible for the scheme and that 45,000 of these are estimated to have received state or Commonwealth funded services. That leaves 45,000 who have not received funded supports before, hence the concern over the unknown factor of how the scheme will cope given the huge extra numbers involved.

At the end of December last year 35,491 people had approved plans for the NDIS. That is a gap of over 54,000 more people to find and allocate plans for. All of these plans cost money. It is pretty clear that this debt-ridden, reckless Labor state government has not prepared well enough, and agencies and advocates have every cause for concern as the scheme rolls out. Ms Moss said that a lot of people have been denied access on their first application attempt due to barriers, challenges and administrative paperwork. QDN also noted there has been consistent and historical underfunding of disability services across decades. We know who has been in power for most of the last 20 years: Labor governments. Labor MPs all bang on about supporting those amongst us who are vulnerable—

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order!

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order!

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! Minister, you are warned under the standing orders. I had called order a number of times.

**Mrs STUCKEY**: Labor MPs all bang on about supporting those amongst us who are vulnerable, but these are hollow words indeed when we look at past funding. In fact, under the LNP the 2014-15 state budget allocated a record \$1.46 billion for disability services in Queensland because, unlike the Bligh Labor government, which severely underfunded disability services, we recognised our responsibility to assist people with disabilities. Another example of Labor's callous disregard for this group of people was evident when Premier Palaszczuk decided to cut the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, which enabled some 10,000 Queenslanders to access low cab fares. Only after intense lobbying from the LNP and 13 disability organisations did Labor reverse this heartless decision. Whenever Labor members want to abrogate their duties and responsibilities they point the finger at someone else, usually the federal government. They cannot manage money—never have and never will.

**Government members**: Ha, ha!

**Mrs STUCKEY**: I am married to a GP who has patients who are receiving disability support services—and I note on the record that members opposite are laughing. I hope that my husband, who is listening, will tell his patients what they are doing.

**Mr FURNER**: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member has been consistently straying from this bill. I ask you to bring the member back on relevance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Thank you for your advice. Member, under standing order 118 I ask that you return to the long title of the bill, please.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Many patients have questions and are fearful of their future assistance packages and allocations. With significant changes like the NDIS and the challenges of huge transitions such as this I was keen to know that no-one currently receiving disability services will be worse off, which is why I asked the department to clarify the situation. The departmental assistant director-general, Ms Helen Ferguson, told the committee—

If someone is not eligible for the NDIS and they are under the age of 65 in Queensland and they have been receiving supports from the department under the Disability Services Act until now, they are eligible to receive what we call continuity of support.

I was pleased to hear that. This bill might be technical in nature but, given the sensitivity of this topic, I imagine members will stray from the narrow scope of the bill as they share some stories of the challenges that people with disabilities face. I hope some latitude will be given. We have all heard from anxious and exhausted family members and carers of the daily trials they experience and the uncertainty of future support of their loved ones. If the NDIS, which was agreed to in 2013 by an LNP state government and a Labor federal government, is rolled out effectively it has real potential to change the lives of people with disabilities for the better and give them a form of independence that most, if not all, of us in this House treat as the norm.

Whilst the government deserves to be reprimanded for not managing the business of the House well, I found the exercise of considering this bill and the life changes it has the potential to make enlightening. It made me walk a mile or two in the shoes of those less physically or mentally capable than me, which is good for my soul. All of us need to spread the word in our electorates about the rollout of the NDIS and help those in need to access it. I want to put on record how disgusted I was at the interjections from those opposite when I was making a genuine heartfelt contribution.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. The National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** A key aim of the NDIS is to enable participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of supports.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, will I wait until the member finishes her outrage?

**Mrs Stuckey:** I am being bullied by this minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Member for Currumbin, you have had your turn at speaking.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have just been accused of something that is completely wrong. I know that you are the Deputy Speaker at the moment. I ask that you control the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for your advice, Minister. I will, as Deputy Speaker, continue to do my very best to control the House. We will move on now to the member who has the call.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I am not sure where I was up to, so I might just start from the beginning. I rise to contribute to the debate on the disability—

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** She is at it again, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, you are now warned.

**Mrs GILBERT:** The National Disability Insurance Scheme, NDIS, represents a fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered. A key aim of the NDIS is to enable participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of supports. As part of the transition to the NDIS, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors has been progressing a whole-of-government legislative review to ensure that Queensland has the necessary legislation in place to support full scheme implementation of the NDIS from 1 July this year.

NDIS in my community was rolled out in the second tranche of service changeover. The department worked with their clients for a smooth transition. There were mixed feelings within families of potential new clients of NDIS. Some parents of adults with disability were afraid of the new system. They had always been told by the department what they were entitled to and how it would be delivered. Although the packages that they were getting were not always tailored or most suitable for their child, they valued having someone else to guide them through the world of raising a child to adulthood with a disability. They were afraid of change. On the other hand, young parents at a playgroup for children with disabilities were excited about being able to build a package that met the needs of their child to help shape a meaningful future that reflected their child's personality and talents.

During the transition to the NDIS, Queensland's quality and safeguards framework continued to apply to the NDIS participants. From 1 July 2019 Queensland will become a participating jurisdiction, meaning that the functions and powers of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission become operational in Queensland. The bill makes legislative changes to reflect new roles and responsibilities of the Queensland government, the National Disability Insurance Agency and the NDIS commission.

The NDIS, as we all know, services one of the most vulnerable group of people in our community. It is necessary to put as many protections in place as possible to ensure their safety. That is why legislation to commence operations of nationally consistent NDIS worker screening in Queensland is included in this bill. By 30 June this year there are expected to be 50,000 Queenslanders with a disability who have transitioned to the NDIS. The many service providers who have a long history in the disability service arena and the newcomers providing an opportunity for a rich variety of choice will be able to be registered by the NDIS commission. The commission will have the sole oversight and responsibility for registered providers. Queensland, though, will still have oversight of worker screening and authorisation of the use of restrictive practices and operating the community visitor function.

In my region there are quality service providers who are working in disability services. At the end of the day each service is only as good as the quality of its workers. One such service is the Endeavour Foundation, which provides supported living and runs workshops giving adults a range of employment opportunities with supported skill development. An Endeavour volunteer, Kathryn Andrews, breaks down barriers in the community to involve disabled adults in mainstream experiences. There are monthly discos and involvement in the local Rugby League and soccer competitions. Bec Nicol and her team have been running a supportive kitchen for a number of years teaching cooking skills. There are many integrated services such as Engedi, Multicap, Life Without Barriers and Blue Care just to name a few. Crossroad Arts, a multidisciplined arts studio, is engaging people with disability in many expressions of art. Their productions feature in Mackay's famous Festival of Arts.

As I have said, services are only as good as the workers involved. The worker screening in Queensland is one of the most robust in Australia. Once the NDIS worker screening is in place, the clearance will be portable across the country. Worker screening information will be shared across jurisdictions and service providers. This will benefit services in remote, rural and regional centres. They will have access to the same information as major centres. People who have been excluded through the screening process will not be able to hide within the system by relocating to different areas of the country. These changes are necessary. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise to speak to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019, introduced on 28 March 2019 by the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, of which I am a member, for detailed consideration. From the outset, I thank my fellow committee members, the committee secretariat and Hansard reporters for their work on the bill that was introduced by the minister as urgent and critical. I acknowledge and thank the six organisations that made submissions to the committee, including the Office of the Public Guardian, People with Disability Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, Queensland Advocacy Inc., the Office of the Public Advocate and the AEIOU Foundation. I also thank the departmental officials in Disability Services who worked on putting this bill together and for their contribution during its consideration.

Delivering the very best National Disability Insurance Scheme we can in Queensland has always been the focus of the LNP. We led the introduction of the NDIS in Queensland during the LNP's term in government and continue to provide bipartisan support to this fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered. As I said, I am proud that the LNP has a long and strong history of supporting the NDIS in Queensland. The LNP government made significant progress from 2012 towards the full rollout of the NDIS, with over 1,140 people moved on to the Your Life Your

Choice self-direction program, a concept central to the NDIS. The LNP reached an arrangement with the NDIA to begin sharing information to progress this scheme towards a smooth transition. In fact, the LNP government brought the National Disability Insurance Agency to Queensland so that Queenslanders would be well placed for the scheme come 1 July 2019.

In government, the LNP signed the heads of agreement with the Commonwealth. Under the leadership of the then minister for disability services, Tracy Davis, the LNP set the groundwork to prepare this state for full transition to the NDIS.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Members to my right, the member is not taking your interjections.

**Mrs WILSON:** I also acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the former minister, Tracy Davis, as she played a fundamental role in getting Queensland ready for the NDIS. She was dedicated and hardworking, and we thank her for what she did so passionately during her time in office.

I contrast the work and the commitment of the LNP with the NDIS to what took place with this Labor government taking over a year to finalise arrangements with the Commonwealth government on a bilateral agreement. Most of the argy-bargy on the bilateral agreement had already been done by the LNP, but it took another year plus some for this government to show that Queenslanders with disability were in fact important enough that it could sign off on such a significant document to progress the rollout of the NDIS in this state. Is it any wonder that before the House today we are dealing with urgent and critical amendments when a couple of weeks are left to full transition?

This bill introduces a second tranche of legislative changes to prepare for the NDIS and seeks to amend five acts. Most of the amendments are to the Disability Services Act 2006; however, the bill also amends the Coroners Act 2003, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. This bill has seven objectives. The first is to ensure that Queensland has made all urgent and critical amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019.

The first tranche of legislative changes to prepare for a full rollout of the NDIS on 1 July were made by the LNP when in government to ensure that there were better quality, positive behaviour support plans developed to implement it; to ensure that red tape was reduced so that service providers could get on with the job of providing quality care and support to their clients; and to ensure that there were effective and efficient monitoring systems to provide data on the use of restrictive practices and outcomes for clients. Whilst at that stage the approach to regulate the restrictive practices under the NDIS was still under development, former minister Tracy Davis ensured that changes made were implemented with an eye to the NDIS.

The first stage of the amendments was provided by the LNP to identify essential elements to facilitate the transition from 1 April 2014, while the second stage that we are dealing with today seeks to make the necessary amendments needed for the full scheme come 1 July 2019. These second stage amendments were forecast by the former LNP minister in 2014, but it would not have been left to the last minute to be introduced under the LNP's watch. With around two weeks until 1 July, when the NDIS will be rolled out fully in the state, finally Labor has started to work on what are now urgent and critical changes to Queensland legislation to support a full transition.

The second objective of the bill is to ensure that the DSA operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislation framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, in particular in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening. I note that in her introductory speech the minister said—

I am proud to say that Queensland has one of the strongest quality and safeguard systems for people with disability in Australia.

The minister failed to add that the strength and the quality of the safeguard systems in place is largely due to the work undertaken during the LNP's time in government, because our focus was squarely on the NDIS. The minister likes to take credit where credit is not due. Perhaps this is synonymous with her time over the past years as disability minister.

The other objectives of the bill will: ensure that existing quality and safeguards under the DSA continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the DSA that will be outside of the NDIS; strengthen the operations of the Queensland disability worker screening system, the yellow card

system, during transition to the new NDIS worker screening; amend the Coroners Act to ensure that the death of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to the State Coroner; amend the PGA to ensure that community visitors, adult and child, continue to visit visitable sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect the participants' rights and interests; and enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commission to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner's function under the NDIS Act.

Queenslanders with disability have waited patiently for the NDIS to become fully operational in this state. Again, waiting until the eleventh hour to implement these amendments is unsatisfactory and this Labor government needs to do much better. We on this side have a strong history of delivering better outcomes for Queenslanders with disability and will support the bill to ensure that Queensland has the most robust legislation in place to cement the foundation work commenced under our watch.

We hope that from this point forward the state government will keep its eye on the ball and not let it drop, because this transition is just too important to get wrong. We are on the cusp of a time of great change for people with disability that will have far-reaching effects not only for participants but also for their families, their carers, the disability sector and a raft of other providers that will join the scheme. For so many years people with disability have wanted a system that provides them with access to service reflective of their needs—a system that enables them to achieve their personal goals and aspirations and that allows them the choice and control over the support and services they wish to engage.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.18 pm): The Palaszczuk government wants to ensure that Queensland is a place where people with disability have equal access to opportunities and can contribute to and participate in all that our beautiful state has to offer. This bill will support Queensland's next step in transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Since 2016 Queensland has been a host jurisdiction under the NDIS Act 2013, which supports the gradual transition of Queenslanders into the NDIS. The Queensland government is committed to ensuring a smooth transition to full scheme operation of the NDIS. We are also committed to ensuring that Queenslanders with disability continue to receive disability services that are subject to a robust quality and safeguards framework. This bill is the next stage of reform to support Queensland's full scheme implementation of the NDIS in Queensland.

In rising today to speak to this bill I want to highlight the underspends, staffing caps, excessive paperwork and a 'plague of contractors' that have undermined the effectiveness and original design of the NDIS. This great national enterprise cannot be capped, cut or delayed or put at the mercy of consultants who know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

It is a great relief to me, to members of the community with a disability and to their carers that the Palaszczuk government stepped in to ensure that the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for NDIS participants continues over the coming year. A further \$6 million has been committed in 2019-20 to continue the subsidy payment. Taxi subsidies were expected to transition to the NDIS funding arrangement by now, but under the Morrison government this has not happened. We will not allow thousands of Queenslanders to be left stranded, so we have stepped in to ensure this does not happen. We want to ensure that people with special needs continue to receive this support so they can undertake everyday activities and stay connected with family and friends.

The Palaszczuk government understands how important it is for all Queenslanders to have access to transport. Queensland has already invested significant amounts under the NDIS funding arrangement, and Canberra must fix the gaps. We will continue to work over the coming year to ensure the NDIS agreement delivers proper affordable transport options for Queenslanders in the longer term. The Taxi Subsidy Scheme provides a co-contribution of up to \$25 per trip for people with severe disabilities who are unable to use other forms of subsidised passenger transport. The budget commitment continues the same level of investment in the TSS as in 2018-19. This is in addition to \$15.7 million to continue the TSS for non-NDIS eligible members.

Scott Morrison and the LNP need to meet their responsibilities under the NDIS, including providing proper support for participants. The Palaszczuk government will also allocate \$6.8 million in 2019-20 to continue incentive payments for drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis to give priority to TSS members. A lift payment of \$20 is provided to taxidrivers for each eligible wheelchair accessible taxi trip involving transportation of a TSS member who is required to travel in a wheelchair.

The Palaszczuk government has been working closely with people with a disability and their representatives as well as the taxi industry and transport stakeholders. We have listened to the concerns of Queensland NDIS participants, their families and carers, disability advocacy organisations

and transport providers. We have also strongly advocated on behalf of Queensland participants to resolve these issues with the NDIA and the federal government. However, disappointingly, these issues have not yet been resolved by the Morrison government. I call on the member for Capricornia and Minister Matthew Canavan to fund plans fairly for Central Queenslanders by providing adequate transport.

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

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. I was a part of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee that had the opportunity to spend some time going through this bill. Two things that struck me were the technicality of the bill and the amount of time we had to pull it apart. That timeframe may be reflected in the fact that there were only six submissions made to the committee's inquiry.

The bill makes amendments to ensure that Queensland legislation works in conjunction with Commonwealth legislation in terms of implementing the full scheme operation of the NDIS from 1 July this year. That is probably why the inquiry process was rushed a little: to ensure the scheme will be up and running on that date.

New roles and responsibilities under the national framework have been identified in this bill. It contains amendments to state legislation relating to quality safeguards. It also puts more responsibility for restrictive practices back onto the state and deals with worker screening, the yellow card. The yellow card system is being brought into line with the blue card system—I note the recent amendments made to blue cards—to ensure that our most vulnerable people receiving services under the NDIS are being looked after.

Disability services in regional areas affect me and others in my electorate and other parts of regional Queensland. Family members of mine were born with disabilities. Before the NDIS it was hard to get services. At one stage we treated most people with disability in the same way. There was not a lot of latitude to personalise systems and programs to ensure people received the best possible care.

The changes in the bill reflect the roles and responsibilities of the NDIA, the NDIS commission and the Queensland government once Queensland is a participating jurisdiction from 1 July 2019. The bill clarifies that the Queensland government will have a reduced role in funding disability services at full scheme and will retain limited quality and safeguards functions for registered NDIS providers. The bill also makes changes to the way restrictive practices are used to manage people with disabilities with challenging behaviour—everything from restricting their movement to using chemicals and drugs to sedate them at times.

In terms of worker screening, consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the bill will include the offences of bestiality, kidnapping of a child, kidnapping for ransom of a child, child stealing, and abduction of a child under 16 as disqualifying offences for people applying for a yellow card to work with people with disabilities. The bill also makes changes to legislation relating to how deaths in care are reviewed by the Coroner. Amendments to the Coroners Act will provide a framework for reporting certain deaths to the State Coroner and how they will be investigated.

We need to ensure that everyone within the NDIS framework—those currently being looked after by parts of the department of communities and other agencies—experiences a smooth transition to full scheme operation on 1 July. The KAP will be supporting the bill. The opposition indicated today that it also will be supporting the bill. We would have liked to see it implemented sooner. I, as a member of the committee, would have liked more time to go through the bill as it is so technical. If what we are trying to achieve here is ensuring that the people who need these services are looked after then I have no problem supporting this bill. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. The National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a fundamental change to how services for people with a disability are funded and delivered. During transition to the NDIS, Queensland's quality and safeguards have continued to apply, including

worker screening for disability workers, the yellow card system; the regulation of restricted practices; complaints management processes; the monitoring of investigations; the community visitor program under the Public Guardian Act 2014; and the coronial jurisdiction for deaths in care under the Coroners Act 2003.

The introduction of the NDIS has created a jobs boost in the individual support area for people caring for those with a disability. The NDIS client is able to choose who cares for them and has control as to how their individual funding is used. This has created an opportunity for disadvantaged jobseekers to undertake formal training to gain nationally recognised and vocational qualifications through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which aims to bring much needed job market opportunities and skills support to the Rockhampton region, with all participants graduating job ready upon completion of the 17-week program.

I recently visited Multicap Rockhampton and met with Janeen Freeman, who is the regional manager, to discuss this great program and meet with the first 15 participants taking part in the program and I was able to congratulate them on their journey within the disability services sector. The Palaszczuk government has provided more than \$93,000 to Multicap through Skilling Queenslanders for Work to provide this training to 30 participants to gain the skills to support the health and community sector. I shared a story of when I first arrived in Rockhampton working for the department of housing in terms of the shortage of suitable housing for people with disability. It became a priority for me to secure additional funding for four-bedroom dwellings as either four-bedroom detached housing or two-by-two bedroom duplex accommodation for some of our most vulnerable. Over the next few years I was able to provide about a dozen new dwellings that were used for housing with shared support for up to four tenants.

I also understand the importance of the role of the disability support worker and I know that it takes a special person to work and genuinely care for the client. It was my pleasure to meet such a wonderful group. There are numerous support organisations providing services to people with disability in my area. I know that Multicap has been delivering services and support to people with disabilities, particularly those with high and complex support needs, for over 55 years. It currently has over 900 highly skilled staff who support over 1,500 people across Queensland and northern New South Wales. The range of services it provides include supported independent living, short-term accommodation, centre based and community programs, assisted employment, social support activities, positive behaviour support and emergency accommodation responses. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak briefly to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. This bill is about supporting the start of the operation of the NDIS commission in less than a month's time from 1 July. The bill will ensure that all urgent and critical amendments are made to relevant legislation, including that the Disability Services Act 2006 operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, in particular in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening, and that existing quality and safeguards apply to regulated disability services that will be outside of the NDIS. The bill will also strengthen the operation of the yellow card system, the disability worker screening system, during the changeover. The bill will also amend the Coroners Act 2003 so that the deaths of certain NDIS participants are reported to the State Coroner and amend the Public Guardian Act 2014 to ensure that community visitors continue to visit relevant sites to protect the rights and interests of certain NDIS participants. It will also permit information sharing with the NDIS commission.

This bill is a sensible and necessary step in Queensland's transition to the Disability Insurance Scheme. All of us understand that it is crucial that no Queenslander living with a disability is made worse off as a result of the transition to the NDIS. This bill will help to ensure that Queensland's accountability frameworks remain in place as the transition continues. Unfortunately, we have repeatedly seen and heard of those living with disabilities put at risk because of this government's incompetence and neglect. This transition has been beset with problems solely because of government incompetence. Less than a year ago we learnt that, through gross incompetence and a gross oversight, hundreds of NDIS letters were sent to deceased family members in December 2017, leaving their families and supporters traumatised. Less than a year ago we learnt that there was a two-year gap in cabinet briefings of any NDIS updates. Two years ago! How is it that no-one noticed that the progress of the NDIS had not been brought to cabinet? What is going on around the cabinet table?

Consequently, this has led to transition issues that are now being addressed. This management of the transition is putting our most vulnerable at risk as a result. We are seeing those at risk of homelessness being unable to secure NDIS or state funding in time. We are seeing services such as

the Queensland Narrating Service no longer being funded and being at risk of closure. Then we have the fiasco of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, which the government decided to cut from 30 June. Queensland was the only state going to do this at the time. It was either incompetence or penny pinching.

The axing of the scheme coincided with the NDIS rollout even though the NDIS does not replicate the subsidy and every other state has agreed to maintain its own taxi subsidy schemes. Yet again the government did not fix this oversight until the last minute and only after much public protest and 13 disability organisations calling out its callous cut. We are talking about a program that provides half the cost of a taxi, up to a maximum subsidy of \$25 per journey, as well as a \$20 lift payment to drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis. This is being used by 10,000 Queenslanders. Thankfully, the program was extended for another 12 months. The NDIS was meant to make people with disabilities more independent. The government's threat to axe the Taxi Subsidy Scheme would have done the opposite. Many who use the scheme are already struggling financially and psychologically and the government's backflip is a victory for those who rely on it.

All of us have worthy and commendable organisations in our electorates struggling to help those at risk with disabilities. In the Gympie electorate there are numerous organisations that address the needs and provide assistance for these most vulnerable in our society. Our community could not operate without organisations such as the Red Cross's mobility hire, the Blue Care day respite centre, the Blue Care nursing service and the Bravo Disability Support Network. There is also Centacare Community Services, the Gympie Stroke Support Group, the Jessie Witham day respite centre, the Parkinson's support group, Avenues Lifestyle Support and Weeroona Association Inc.

The litany of incompetence and ineptitude by this government makes it harder for these organisations to do their job. The government has been unprepared and has delivered poor oversight. A Queensland Audit Office report from May last year found that fewer than 60 per cent of all people eligible for the NDIS in Queensland are likely to be in the program by the time it reaches full rollout. Notably, Queensland is locked into paying its full \$2 billion a year commitment regardless. According to the QAO report, if Queensland is unable to renegotiate its current commitment to contribute \$2.03 billion it will mean that the state's contribution to each participant's plan increases on average from the planned \$22,500 to \$39,700.

Despite being obliged to have a local area coordinator in place six months before the rollout began in different locations around the state, Queensland had managed to do so in only one. In May last year only seven per cent of the total projected number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants for 2019 were in the scheme. Four months later, in September, a further report advised that those with impaired decision-making abilities may be disadvantaged in accessing the scheme. Incompetence and being unprepared for what we knew was going to be rolled out is negligent. In the interests of and support for those who are disabled and vulnerable, I do not oppose the bill.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.38 pm): I am going to hear that speech many times this afternoon because those opposite are all reading off the same script. Sadly, I am only going to get to rebut it once, but let me start by rebutting that absolutely poorly read, half-believed load of nonsense that we just heard from the member for Gympie. I will start by dealing with one of the organisations mentioned, the Queensland Narrating Service. The member for Gympie would not know where it is and he would not know what it does. He would not know anything about that situation. Instead of coming in here and saying that those opposite are somehow supporting this bill, he has come in here and taken massive swipes at the government. Rather than being constructive, as those opposite said they were going to be, he has come in here and taken massive swipes at the government.

Let me set the record straight in relation to the Queensland Narrating Service—a great organisation based in my electorate across the road from my electorate office, an organisation that I have visited on many occasions, an organisation that I have used to read my newsletters on to digital formats so that the 10 per cent of people in my electorate who have low or no vision are able to get my materials and read those materials and use those materials, an organisation that is a fantastic organisation.

Who said no to this organisation? Was it the Palaszczuk Labor government? No. It was the NDIA and the NDIS—federal government agencies. I suggest to the member for Gympie that, instead of coming in here and being negative, he gets back to the substance of this bill. I was there—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Member for Greenslopes, could you speak through the chair, not argue across the chamber. Thank you.

**Mr KELLY:** I was there in an Every Australian Counts T-shirt. I waved the placards. We all know that I am a good placard waver. Why did I wave those placards? It was not because the NDIS is one of the most significant changes in the delivery of services that we are seeing across OECD countries.

Throughout the world economists are watching what we are doing. This is a massive experiment. The reason I was out there waving placards, the reason anybody who has worked with people with disabilities is supporting this initiative, is that it is focused on empowering people with disability. At the heart of the NDIS, this is what it is about.

When I was younger, as a nurse I used to think that my job was just to go in there, provide health care and get people to the next stage. As I grew older and worked with people with disabilities—on a number of occasions I went back into nursing and then went back to working with people with disabilities—my understanding shifted. I realised that, as a carer, I was there to empower people. Whether they were in a hospital, or in a disability care situation, my job was to try to help them to get back in control of their life and to live the most meaningful life they could possibly live. That is why the NDIS is so important.

People who require care for any reason—whether that is because they are ill, they have a disability, they are aged, or for any other reason—will be in an inherent power imbalance in their relationship with a carer. This bill is crucial to the success of the NDIS. Of course, we want to empower people with disabilities, but people with disabilities will need help to get those services and receive help from people delivering those services. We have to have in place processes that make sure that we have quality and safe services. This bill certainly ensures a smooth transition to the NDIS.

The NDIS is a massive change. A significant amount of work is going on between the federal and state governments on these transitional processes. This bill makes sure that we have in place those good systems so that we can continue to receive complaints if problems occur, that we have systems to investigate and the powers to correct practices and deal with problems. This bill is good, because it does not just restrict itself to dealing with NDIS funded services; it looks at the gamut of services and care that is being provided to anybody with a disability no matter who is funding those services. I think that is a real strength of this bill.

I talked about the relationship and the work that is going on between the federal and state governments. I will come back to QNS. When it became obvious that QNS was not going to receive any funding from the federal government, I went to the minister's office. I can tell members that QNS is continuing to receive funding from the Palaszczuk Labor government. QNS is one of many organisations that, sadly, are not being funded by the federal government's NDIS scheme.

I am pleased to see that this bill maintains very strict guidelines on restrictive practices. Anybody who has ever had to participate in applying physical or chemical restraints to people will know what a gut-wrenching situation that is to go through. It is not something that anybody in a caring situation would want to be involved in if there were any other options. I am pleased that we will continue to have systems in place whereby, if a restrictive practice is needed for somebody with a disability, there are processes to oversight that and there is in place strict, positive behaviour support to make sure that a whole range of other things have been tried in advance before we move to that. In terms of maintaining the good-quality standards that we have in Queensland, I think this bill gets the mix right while we move to a more nationally consistent approach.

Having monitored and supervised both staff and volunteers in this sector, I think the screening process is also very important. It is important that we do anything we can do to make sure that people who show up to care for people with disabilities are there for the right reasons and have the best of intentions and that they have no criminal history that may be of relevance to caring for people. This bill gets that balance right.

We hear across so many sectors about the need for information sharing, domestic violence being one such area. We know that we live in an age when we have not only the information to share but also much greater capacity to link and integrate our systems. If we get that information-sharing system right, we can deliver a much better level of care to people.

If we are going to empower people with disabilities to make their own choices about the sorts of services that they receive, we will inherently have a risk where people will not necessarily get the quality services they are chasing. We have to make sure that, if things are not going the way they should, people with a disability, particularly those with an intellectual disability or mental health issues, have strong advocacy. This bill certainly addresses those issues. I would like to commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.45 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. I would like to thank the committee members who conducted an inquiry into this quite detailed bill: the members for Nudgee, Currumbin, Maryborough, Pumicestone, Cairns and Hinchinbrook. The objectives of the bill are to:

ensure that Queensland has made all urgent and critical amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019; ensure that the Disability Services Act 2006 operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, in particular in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening; ensure that existing quality and safeguards under the Disability Services Act continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the Disability Services Act that will be outside the NDIS; strengthen the operation of Queensland's disability worker screening system—the yellow card system—during the transition to new NDIS worker screening; amend the Coroner's Act 2003 to ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to the State Coroner; amend the Public Guardian Act to ensure that community visitors must continue to visit visitable sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect participants' rights and interests; and enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commission to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner's functions under the NDIS Act.

To give effect to Queensland becoming a participating jurisdiction from 1 July 2019, it is important to ensure that Queensland has the necessary legislative framework in place to support the operation of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. This bill progresses urgent and critical amendments to reflect the new roles and responsibilities under the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Framework from 1 July 2019, including ensuring the framework for the use of restrictive practices as well as a worker screening system for people working and volunteering with people with a disability.

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

Queensland will continue the operation of the NDIS worker screening check following the finalisation of national negotiations of detailed policy documents referred to under the IGA and the passage of legislative amendments to support the implementation of the IGA. In the meantime, Queensland will retain its screening process under the yellow card system as prescribed by the Disability Services Act 2006.

The bill will progress changes to expand the range of offences that will automatically disqualify a person from being able to hold a yellow card. Consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the bill includes the offences of bestiality, kidnapping of a child, kidnapping for ransom of a child, child stealing and abduction of a child under 16.

The offences of abduction, child stealing and kidnapping will only be treated as disqualifying if the context in which the offence was committed was not familial. The bill amends the term 'visitable site' in the Public Guardian Act 2014 and 'death in care' in the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that both the community visitor program and coronial inquests of deaths in care target the most vulnerable NDIS participants in receipt of supports and services from registered NDIS providers providing specified categories of high-intensity supports.

The bill also amends the Disability Services Act 2016, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that information, including confidential information, may be shared or requested from the NDIA or NDIS commissioner. This will enable the commissioner, the Public Guardian and the State Coroner to perform their relevant functions. Those two were among the matters that attracted the most interest from submitters to the committee.

The Office of the Public Guardian argued that while the new definition proposed under the bill is generally supported by the OPG, its placement within the main body of the act rather than within the regulation is not supported as it limits flexibility to change. Concerns were raised about the narrowing of the definition of where a death is a death in care. The exclusion of deaths in private dwellings or aged-care facilities was argued not to be appropriate and that these deaths should remain encompassed in the jurisdiction.

This bill is a sensible and necessary step to enable Queensland's participation in the NDIS scheme and the LNP will be supporting the bill. It is crucial that no Queenslander living with a disability is made worse off by their transition away from state arrangements to the NDIS and this bill will help to ensure that Queensland's accountability frameworks remain in place as the transition continues.

Unfortunately, the Labor government has put Queenslanders living with disability at a disadvantage because of its past incompetence and neglect. During the 2018-19 budget estimates questioning it was revealed that hundreds of NDIS letters had been sent to deceased Queenslanders in December 2017. This was a gross oversight and it led to a great deal of trauma and angst on the part of their families. This has led to issues of transition that Labor are not addressing. These include people being at risk of homelessness due to not being able to secure NDIS or state funding in time and services, such as the Queensland Narrating Service, no longer being funded and being at risk of closure.

The Palaszczuk Labor government decided to cut the Taxi Subsidy Scheme on 30 June making it the only state to do that to its scheme. Other states have delayed cutting their equivalent of the TSS while those living with disability continue to transition to the NDIS. We know that the government at the final hour decided to save the system, which is something that we commend, but it shows a bit of a tin ear to the needs of people who require support for their disability in order to get around. There are a number of people in my electorate who came to me who were very frightened indeed about that announcement. It was difficult to assure them that they would not be disadvantaged in the process. The TSS provides half of the cost of a taxi up to the maximum subsidy of \$25 per journey, as well as a \$20 lift payment to drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis. The axing of the scheme coincided with Queensland's NDIS rollout even though the NDIS does not replicate the subsidy and every other state has agreed to maintain their own subsidy schemes.

Labor is mismanaging the transition to the NDIS and it is Queensland's most vulnerable who are paying the price for that. In May 2018 the Queensland Audit Office tabled a report on how effectively the Queensland government is managing the transition to the NDIS and how well prepared it is to oversee services after the transition. It was found that fewer than 60 per cent of all people eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland were likely to be in the program by the time it reaches full rollout. Notably, Queensland is locked into paying its full \$2 billion-a-year commitment regardless.

In my own electorate of Southern Downs a number of very distressed people were being supported by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, who took on the role as an NDIS provider but have decided to withdraw from that because they feel that they cannot make it work. The QAO report states that if Queensland is unable to renegotiate its current commitment to contribute \$2.03 billion upon full scheme implementation, this would see the state's contribution to each participant's plan increase on average from the planned \$22,500 to \$39,700. Where is that money going to come from? We are talking about big bucks here. It is another example of poor management.

In May 2013 the LNP signed up to the NDIS with the Gillard government. We have a proud history of preparing for it, of making sure that when we were in power the necessary steps were being taken to make sure that the transition would go smoothly, including allowing clients in Queensland to have the same discretion of using their funding as they would under the NDIS. I pay tribute to the former minister Tracy Davis for that work. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. In doing so I say very proudly that Mount Ommaney is home to some of the most fantastic and world-class disability services in Australia. The electorate of Mount Ommaney is proudly home to Youngcare, located in Sinnamon Park, which, as we all know, has been doing amazing work for a very long time caring for young people with disability. It was a project that was championed by the former premier Anna Bligh very, very proudly. I am sure many of us in this House saw the *60 Minutes* story all of those years ago about Shevaune and her husband. Youngcare is Shevaune's legacy. I am proud to be the member for the electorate where that wonderful facility is situated and to see how Youngcare has grown over the years. I have visited many times and it is always wonderful to see the activities that are occurring there. In fact, Youngcare celebrated its 10th anniversary a little while ago. It is wonderful to see how that facility has come along. It does not stop there. We also have Montrose Access, which has recently relocated from its former premises on Consort Street to Darra where it can provide even more services. We have a Multicap as well.

In Mount Ommaney we know that the NDIS is something that affects each and every Queenslander. I am incredibly proud to have not only some innovative service providers in my electorate but also some really strong advocates for disability services and the rights of persons with disability. Wendy Lovelace is a resident at Youngcare and has come to see me many times. She is a very outspoken advocate for disability services and is often featured in the media. I also have people

who come to see me quietly as their local member, such as Sally and Jo. I will not mention their last names. I thank them for coming to see me. It is very timely that the member for Southern Downs referred to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme because it was that scheme that they came to see me about.

The Taxi Subsidy Scheme was due to finish because it was meant to fold in with the NDIS. There was meant to be an overarching program that covered the needs of everybody with a disability and we were meant to see that covered off. Unfortunately that simply has not been the case. Many members of parliament had constituents come to see them. The Minister for Main Roads did listen to our representations. I thank my constituents, particularly Sally and Jo, who did come to see me about this issue. Sally in particular explained that right now she is working three days a week and uses a taxi to get to and from work. Once the NDIS kicks in in its current form it would not be possible for her to continue to access all of the subsidies she currently does. She said how can she be put in a situation where she is no longer able to work the hours she currently works. She is going to have to cut back. Here is a person who has a disability who has a job she loves and was looking to have to cut back because she could not afford transport to and from work because her work was outside of public transport routes.

It is great to see that under the Palaszczuk government this subsidy will continue to be applied. A further \$6 million has been committed in the 2019-20 budget to continue that subsidy payment for people like Sally and Jo. It will continue to provide affordable transport for people with disability who have been medically assessed as unable to use other forms of subsidised public passenger transport. I am incredibly excited to see that the Palaszczuk government has taken this up.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### Message from Governor

 Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.00 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2019

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 11 June 2019

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 11 June 2019, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019 [900].

### Introduction

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.01 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019 [901].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019, explanatory notes [902].

I introduce the appropriation bill for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, which provides appropriation for the 2019-20 financial year. The bill combines the appropriation for the 2019-20 budget and interim supply for 2020-21 to allow normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service to continue until the 2020-21 appropriation bill receives assent.

The government remains committed to the independence of the Legislative Assembly, and this extends to the means by which public moneys are appropriated to ensure its continued functioning. We are therefore adhering to the current convention that the Legislative Assembly's appropriation be contained in a bill separate from the Appropriation Bill for the other activities of government.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill will provide the necessary funds to ensure the continued operations of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service. These include advisory and information services to assist the parliament, its committees and members to fulfil their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities, the services provided by the Parliamentary Library, Committee Office, Parliamentary Reporting Service, Chamber and Procedural Services, and Security and Attendant Services as well as the provision of accommodation, hospitality and members' entitlements.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.03 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

## BUDGET PAPERS

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.03 pm): I table the budget papers for 2019-20.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Appropriation Bills [\[903\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1 [\[904\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2 [\[905\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3 [\[906\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4 [\[907\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Budget Highlights—Backing Queensland Jobs [\[908\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Backing jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders [\[909\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Backing jobs for small business [\[910\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Backing jobs for women [\[911\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Disaster recovery [\[912\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Brisbane and Redlands [\[913\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Central Queensland [\[914\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Darling Downs [\[915\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Far North Queensland [\[916\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for the Gold Coast [\[917\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Ipswich [\[918\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Logan [\[919\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Mackay-Whitsunday [\[920\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Outback Queensland [\[921\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay [\[922\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Townsville [\[923\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for Wide Bay [924].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Governor, Public Service Commission, Queensland Audit Office [925].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury [926].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland [927].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships [928].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture and Fisheries [929].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women [930].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors [931].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Corrective Services [932].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education [933].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Employment, Small Business and Training [934].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Environment and Science [935].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management [936].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works [937].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games [938].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, The Public Trustee of Queensland [939].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs [940].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy [941].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Public Safety Business Agency [942].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [943].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning [944].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Youth Justice [945].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads [946].

## APPROPRIATION BILL

### Message from Governor

 Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.03 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2019

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 11 June 2019

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 11 June 2019, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation Bill 2019 [947].

## Introduction

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.04 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2019 [948].*

*Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2019, explanatory notes [949].*

Today I deliver a Queensland budget unashamedly focused on our regions. I do so because Queensland is the most decentralised state in the federation—a state that relies, more than any other, on the strength of its regional cities and towns, on the prosperity of its regional economies and on the character and resilience of its regional communities. Our regions define who we are as Queenslanders. When our regions do well all of Queensland does well, and so in shaping this budget it is regional Queenslanders who have been at the forefront of our thoughts.

This is a budget for regional Queensland—our tourism regions, our agricultural regions and our coal and resource regions—and it builds on a significant ongoing commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government to regional Queensland. Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested \$29 billion in infrastructure outside of Greater Brisbane—that is almost 70 per cent of our entire capital spend—to strengthen our regional economies and improve hospitals and schools. The list of projects completed or underway is too long to mention in detail, but the investment across our state includes:

- the Smithfield Bypass in Far North Queensland;
- the berth 4 upgrade at the port of Townsville;
- the Mackay Ring Road;
- the Rockhampton Ring Road;
- the Capricornia Correctional Centre expansion;
- major upgrades to the Bruce Highway;
- the Sunshine Coast University Hospital;
- the Gold Coast Light Rail extension; and
- the Kingaroy and Roma hospitals redevelopments.

We are not about to stop investing in regional Queensland.

### Staying the course

Budgets are about choices. Today, through this budget, the Palaszczuk Labor government is choosing to stay the course. We choose to continue our strategy of investing in jobs and in front-line services to meet the needs of a growing state. We choose to support business, particularly small and medium sized business, to create jobs. We choose to prepare our state for the future by investing in new industries and new skills. We choose not to cut, sack and sell. We make these choices because our economic plan is working to create jobs.

The proof is in the numbers. Since 2015, 199,000 jobs have been created, and the gap between unemployment in the regions and South-East Queensland has narrowed. Because of this government's focus on delivering infrastructure and creating jobs, in recent years this gap has fallen from 2.5 per cent to 0.7 per cent today. In fact, in the last year alone in regional Queensland jobs are being created twice as fast as population growth.

### Infrastructure

These outcomes are no coincidence. They have been achieved as a result of the Palaszczuk government's focus on our No. 1 priority—jobs for Queenslanders. In this budget we stay the course. We continue our focus on job-generating infrastructure with an investment of \$49.5 billion over the next four years. This year the capital program will invest almost \$13 billion in job-generating infrastructure, directly supporting more than 40,000 jobs, and more than 25,000, or 63 per cent, of those jobs will be in regions outside of Greater Brisbane. This contrasts sharply with the federal government's Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, which is yet to spend a single cent or deliver a single job in regional Queensland. Here is a sample of what our government is delivering right across Queensland:

- we are continuing the work on the Mackay Ring Road;
- we are expanding the Townsville port;

- we are upgrading the RG Tanna Coal Terminal in Gladstone;
- we are upgrading the M1 at key congestion points, including the Pacific Motorway and Gateway Motorway merge upgrade;
- we are improving regional roads including the Kennedy Developmental Road and the Barkly Highway from Mount Isa to Cloncurry;
- we are delivering Cross River Rail to double our rail network capacity across the river, meaning more trains from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast;
- we are building the new North Queensland Stadium, due to open ahead of the NRL premiership season next year;
- we are making a multimillion dollar investment in train-manufacturing jobs in Maryborough at Downer EDI;
- we are developing a new export hub for regional Queensland; and
- we are building a new counterterrorism training facility at Wacol.

There is so much more.

In this budget we are investing another \$70 million in the Building our Regions program, bringing our total commitment in this job-generating program to \$515 million. Building infrastructure creates good jobs in construction but it also builds our economic capacity, attracting new industry and private investment.

### **Our economy today**

That is why now is not the time to change course. Despite the challenges of natural disasters, Canberra's cuts and an unfair GST distribution, it is not the time to diminish our investment in Queensland's economic prosperity. Our commitment to keep building job-generating infrastructure and capital projects will see our borrowing with Queensland Treasury Corporation remain at affordable levels—\$72 billion in 2019-20. Queensland can afford this continued investment.

The general government debt-to-revenue ratio is a key measure of our capacity to sustain our investment. The government's careful management of borrowings means that this ratio will remain lower than any other major state except New South Wales, and it is only lower in New South Wales because they sold their assets.

Queensland's economy and our budget are strong. Counting the total value of everything we produce, Queensland is a \$350 billion economy—three times what it was in 1990. Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen next financial year to three per cent and then 2¾ per cent for the following three years. In fact, 2019-20 is expected to be the third year in a row that Queensland's growth rate outperforms national growth.

We will achieve surpluses in every year of the forward estimates period, and this will see revenue growth outpace expenses growth over the forward estimates period. We will continue to see the net worth of the state grow. By 2021, for the first time, the state's net worth will be more than \$200 billion.

### **Sectors and innovation**

As our economy grows, we also need to underpin its strength through diversification. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to developing new industries.

### **Advanced manufacturing**

Queensland is emerging as an advanced manufacturing state, creating new products for a new decade. For example, together with industry and the community, we won the \$5.2 billion Land 400 contract with Rheinmetall at Ipswich. This will see advanced manufacturing activity never before undertaken here in Queensland, with new skills and new capabilities contributing to a more diverse economy.

### **Energy**

As well, Queensland is at the forefront of the global energy revolution—another opportunity to diversify our economy. No state has more to gain from gas and hydrogen, solar and wind. We lead the nation when it comes to energy supply and reform. We power the nation with our energy exports to the

national grid. We help to power the globe with Queensland's coal and now our LNG exports which total \$15 billion a year. This is all thanks to a Labor government with the foresight more than a decade ago to create an entirely new resource industry for our state.

Now we have the opportunity to do it again with hydrogen. Global demand for hydrogen is increasing, with the market expected to reach an astonishing US\$155 billion by 2022—only three years away. We want Queensland to be the home of this new industry, in the same way as we have become a key player in LNG. Our renewable resources of solar and wind, combined with the existing gas pipeline infrastructure and port facilities, give us a competitive edge for the future production and export of hydrogen. That is why this budget provides \$19 million to help kickstart the hydrogen industry here in Queensland.

### **Innovation**

This government continues to support the entrepreneurs who are helping to diversify our economy, like the entrepreneurs from RedEarth Energy Storage at Darra who have developed battery systems that can store excess electricity for use after the sun goes down; like the social entrepreneurs who founded Orange Sky in Brisbane—this enterprise has now expanded to 29 services across the country, and each week their vans do 10 tonnes of laundry and provide 122 showers for people in need; like the homegrown start-up company Didgigo, based in Cairns and delivering new and exciting bespoke solutions in the global tourism industry; and the amazing work of immunologist Professor Ian Frazer, who is investigating the use of a new therapeutic vaccine he invented to treat head and neck cancers.

Our \$175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund is helping Queensland to be at the forefront of a developing biofuels industry. For example, the latest biorefinery pilot project in the Gladstone region will target production of four tonnes of renewable diesel and jet fuel daily, creating an estimated 50 jobs.

### **Resources**

Our efforts to build innovative new industries rest on the shoulders of Queensland's continuing traditional strengths. Queensland is a resources state. In the past four years we have attracted more than \$20 billion worth of new investment in resources and created more than 7,000 jobs, and we will continue to innovate in mining and exploration.

The north-west minerals province contains approximately 75 per cent of Queensland's base metal and mineral endowment including copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold and phosphate deposits. These are the very resources the world's new economy is demanding. We want to unlock this potential. That is why this budget invests in new initiatives to promote exploration, mining and exports in the north-west minerals province. This includes common user facilities at the port of Townsville—open for use by any above-rail operator. It means that wagons of mineral concentrate that are destined for the world's markets will no longer have to be unloaded more than 12 kilometres away and transported by truck through Townsville to the port.

Our investment also includes a reduction in rail access charges on the Mount Isa line. This means our resources will get from pit to port in the most competitive and cost-effective way. This is a clear signal to global markets that we are very serious about opening up the north-west minerals province to the world, and we have backed it with a half-a-billion-dollar investment in this year's budget.

### **Agriculture**

Queensland is an agricultural state, and we are meeting the rising demand for clean and green food from the growing Asian middle class. This has helped us set trade records—with total exports rising more than 16 per cent to \$85 billion in the year to April 2019, including almost \$10 billion of rural exports. In the face of instability and uncertainty in international markets, we have worked with the agricultural sector to secure jobs and opportunities. For example, this budget dedicates \$14 million towards securing an international investor in Mackay Sugar Ltd to secure more than 800 jobs on top of the proposed private investment of \$120 million.

### **Tourism**

Queensland is a tourism state. Tourism numbers in our state are at an all-time high. We have seen record highs in international visitor numbers, with nearly 2.8 million visitors spending \$6 billion in our economy. Queensland's tourism is thriving by offering new experiences—and more visitors than ever have fallen in love with our natural beauty and cherished lifestyle. That is how we have created thousands of tourism jobs, investing in direct flights from key locations in Asia whose people want to come straight to Queensland.

Our budget again invests in a wide range of initiatives to attract tourists to Queensland and support jobs. From the south-east corner to the outback, we have our plan for jobs in tourism, backing it in with a more than \$600 million investment in major events, programs and projects including:

- completing the Wangetti Trail;
- the rejuvenation of Great Barrier Reef island resorts;
- outback tourism infrastructure, including an investment in a new glass bridge spanning the Cobbold Gorge;
- the rejuvenation of Airlie Beach;
- infrastructure for Great Keppel Island;
- premium ecotourism facilities on Whitsunday Island;
- the continuation of the World Science Festival; and
- funding for exclusive Queensland blockbuster exhibitions.

### **Payroll tax relief**

Queensland is the place to do business. What we have achieved as a state—in our emerging and traditional businesses—we have achieved in partnership with the business community. We know that the private sector creates most jobs in our economy, and more than four in 10 private sector workers in the state work in small and medium businesses. These businesses are the beating heart of our economy.

Small and medium sized enterprises make up more than 99 per cent of all businesses in our state. If even one in five of them were to employ just one extra person, that would be an additional 80,000 new jobs in our economy. That is why a centrepiece of this budget is help for small and medium sized businesses, especially in our regions.

Today I announce a payroll tax relief package worth \$885 million to assist small and medium sized businesses to create jobs for Queenslanders. From July, the exemption threshold for payroll tax will be increased for all Queensland businesses from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million. This will mean that 1,500 additional businesses will no longer pay any payroll tax in our state.

Queensland's new tax-free threshold for business is double that of Victoria. This means that a business in Queensland can employ twice as many people—and operate at twice the size of a business in Victoria—before paying a single dollar in payroll tax. As well, regional businesses who employ 85 per cent or more local workers will receive a payroll tax discount of one per cent off the set rate. Our combined payroll tax threshold increase and the regional discount will mean that an estimated 13,000 businesses are better off from 1 July. This demonstrates our continued determination to create jobs in regional communities.

We will also keep our Back to Work incentive program, which has provided support to more than 9,000 Queensland businesses that have been able to take on 19,000 previously unemployed Queenslanders. To further help address youth unemployment, the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees, due to expire on 30 June, will be extended to June 2021. Since the scheme started in 2015, more than 5,300 businesses have claimed a total of \$76 million in rebates.

In addition to payroll tax relief and Back to Work programs, we are driving down electricity costs for regional businesses. The latest Queensland Competition Authority decision will see energy prices drop by almost six per cent for regional small businesses and 4.4 per cent for regional households. This is a direct result of this government's facilitation of renewable energy generation into the grid right across our state.

### **Health**

As I have said, budgets are about choices. We have chosen to stay the course on our economic plan to create jobs, and we are staying the course on building—not cutting—our front-line services. In 2015 Queenslanders made the choice to stop the Liberal National Party's cuts, and we have rebuilt the services the previous government stripped away. In Health we have employed almost 6,000 nurses, more than 2,000 doctors and 500 ambulance officers to provide front-line health services for Queenslanders across the state.

This budget provides a more than \$18 billion operating budget for Queensland Health and more than \$770 million in capital investments to help keep Queenslanders healthy. Regional hospitals in Roma and Gladstone will receive \$78 million for redevelopments that support local jobs and improve

health care for our regions. Community helicopter providers like CareFlight will receive more than \$58 million to help rapidly transport our most seriously critically ill patients. There will be even better mental health care at Hervey Bay and Maryborough hospitals, along with new MRI and CT scanning equipment for Redcliffe Hospital.

This budget commits \$80 million over four years for a range of initiatives under the Shifting Minds Suicide Prevention Flagship program. Tragically, too many young Indigenous Queenslanders are taking their own lives. Of this \$80 million investment, the Palaszczuk Labor government will direct almost \$7 million toward the specific circumstances of Indigenous mental health and wellbeing.

### **Education and training**

Good education and training transforms lives by unlocking opportunity, and it transforms the economy by creating a future-ready workforce. The Palaszczuk government has:

- mandated that apprentices or trainees make up at least 15 per cent of the workforce on large-scale government projects;
- provided a payroll tax rebate for businesses that take on apprentices; and
- made TAFE free.

Never forget those four words: Labor made TAFE free.

We have restored education services previously cut. In this budget we again deliver a record investment in education and training. We are increasing our investment in education infrastructure by a massive 80 per cent on last year's budget. This means better and new schools with world-class learning environments and facilities. We have committed an additional \$30 million over two years to support universal access for kindergarten in the year before school.

We know that early intervention can make all the difference to how a life is led. That is why this budget continues our commitment to vulnerable youth. In addition to our historic \$330 million youth justice package, we will support at-risk young people through the expansion of our FlexiSpace program. This program provides support to keep at-risk young people engaged in learning. Our \$17 million investment over coming years will see this program expanded to up to 52 state schools across the state.

It is hard to learn on an empty stomach. That is why we will fund Foodbank to expand their proven school breakfast program to an additional 70 schools throughout Queensland.

### **Climate change, natural disasters and renewable energy**

This has been another tough year for Queenslanders enduring extreme weather events. In the long term, there is no greater threat to job creation than climate change. It is places like Queensland, where regional jobs matter so much, that stand to lose the most.

You only have to look at the natural disasters that have hit our communities and our budget over the past decade to see the very real impact we are facing: the bushfires in Central Queensland in November last year and the unprecedented February flood events in Townsville and the north. We think of our farmers in areas like Cloncurry, Normanton and Julia Creek who battled drought for years to keep their farms productive and how their happiness at the first sight of rain turned to devastation as their stock was wiped out by the deluge.

We remember Cyclone Trevor hitting our communities in Cape York Peninsula hard, then crossing the coast further south as a low-pressure system, flooding our communities in Central and Western Queensland—communities like Barcaldine, Tambo and Longreach. As Queenslanders we take pride in the fact that we band together in times like this. We lend a helping hand to those in need.

Queenslanders know better than anyone how these events devastate the economy and damage the budget bottom line. All told, 84 disasters in the past decade have now caused more than \$15 billion in damage to public infrastructure including an estimated \$1.3 billion in damage since November 2018 alone.

That is today's reality. Extreme weather events already cost us through direct government expenditure, lost revenue and lost production. We are paying the price of climate change right now, and it will only grow over time. Because of the environmental emergency unfolding over decades, the government has an immediate economic responsibility. We must act to mitigate the climate risk to the state's economy and the livelihoods of Queenslanders. We must heed calls from business leaders within our economy—from energy and mining to retail, insurance and finance.

We must not ignore warnings from the Reserve Bank of Australia. In March, the Deputy Governor of the RBA, Guy Debelle, warned of the serious consequences of climate change to our economy when he said—

... the physical impact of climate change and the transition are likely to have first-order economic effects ... [including] ... challenges for financial stability ...

In short, if we do not act now, climate change will cut jobs and growth, lift prices and inflation, and destabilise our insurance and banking systems. The problem is environmental and economic, urgent and important. In response, our leadership must be global and local. That is why we are pursuing a range of initiatives to lower emissions and create more renewable energy. For example, next financial year the government's renewable and low-emissions electricity generator, CleanCo, will begin operating and trading in the National Electricity Market.

CleanCo will assist in the provision of a cleaner, more affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply for Queensland. Alongside the government's existing generation businesses, CleanCo will play a key role in the government's commitment to generate 50 per cent of the state's energy from renewable sources by 2030. As always, Queensland will carry its weight. We will always do our part.

### **Canberra**

That is what makes Canberra's treatment of Queensland all the more disappointing. As we struggle with natural disasters and the challenges of funding the needs of a growing state, the federal government is intent on being a ball and chain around our ankle.

This government was not counting on a federal Labor win at the recent election—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:**—but we cannot underestimate the impact of what another term of a Morrison Liberal National Party government means for our state: less investment in Queensland's infrastructure, less for our schools and hospitals and other services—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:**—and less revenue from the GST. Let us take the GST distribution as an example. The federal government earlier this year announced a new approach to distributing GST revenue to the states. As a result of these changes—and Mr Frydenberg's directions to the Grants Commission—Queensland will be the only state in the federation to receive less in GST revenue next year than last year. In fact, Queensland's share of the GST has been slashed by \$866 million as a direct result of Canberra's interference.

As a result of Canberra's cuts, there will be an increase in land tax rates for companies and trusts of 0.25 per cent. This change is forecast to raise \$238 million over the forward estimates and apply only to landholdings over the value of \$5 million. Land tax rates for individuals will not change. We will also bring the land tax absentee surcharge adjustment into line with New South Wales and Victoria. This will see an increase in the surcharge from 1.5 per cent to two per cent, along with a widening of the definition to include foreign companies and trusts. The estimated revenue for these measures is \$540 million over the forward estimates. The measures will help buffer Queensland from Canberra's rip-off.

The government makes these land tax changes reluctantly, and so I make this commitment: if Canberra fixes the current bias in the GST calculations and returns what we are owed as a state, we will repeal these land tax measures. I urge Queensland business to lobby their state and federal LNP members of parliament and demand they return Queensland's fair share of GST.

### **Petroleum royalty**

Earlier I spoke of the achievement of creating an entire LNG industry from scratch. This relatively new industry is providing jobs and economic prosperity for regional Queensland. However, the current royalty regime has been in place essentially since the industry commenced operations 10 years ago. A feature of the arrangements is that different organisations are operating under separately struck royalty arrangements. We intend to review royalty arrangements with a view to levelling the playing field. In the

process we will also increase royalties overall by 2.5 per cent, to 12.5 per cent for petroleum. This is still a very fair outcome for a global industry operating in an international market in circumstances where other royalty rates, for example in Canada, are as high as 30 per cent. We will bring industry and producers together to work out a new scheme which is fair for all and will get us the best outcome.

These resources are from our regions and it is only fair that Queenslanders get a dividend. Our petroleum resources are in high demand, internationally and domestically. The petroleum dividend returned to Queenslanders for their resources will be in the order of \$476 million over the forward estimates.

### Conclusion

Let me conclude where I began. Budgets are about choices. The Palaszczuk Labor government chooses to stay the course. We do so because all of the evidence points to the fact that our economic plan is working. Our promise to Queenslanders was that we would not cut, sack and sell. This budget delivers on that promise. We will continue our plan to back Queensland jobs and stand by our communities, to invest in our regions and build critical infrastructure, to grow and diversify our economy, to encourage small and medium businesses to grow, to deliver the front-line services Queenslanders rely upon and to never shy away from the tough challenges. This is a budget for all Queenslanders, but particularly this is a budget for Queensland's regions. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

## REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.35 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

##### REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation 2004, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 11 June 2019

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 11 June 2019, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [950].

## Introduction

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.35 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009, the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation 2004, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [[951](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes [[952](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The bill includes a number of amendments to implement revenue measures I announced in the 2019-20 budget relating to land tax, payroll tax and petroleum royalty. The bill achieves these objectives by amending the Land Tax Act, the Payroll Tax Act, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act and the Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation.

Mr Speaker, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Land Tax Act imposes land tax on land owned as at midnight 30 June each year. Land tax is imposed at different rates depending on the value of an owner's landholdings and whether the owner is a resident individual, company, trustee or an absentee.

The bill amends the Land Tax Act to modestly increase by 0.25 percentage points the land tax rates applying to companies and trustees that, as at 30 June 2019, have taxable landholdings valued over \$5 million. The increases will not apply to land exempt from land tax, such as land used for a primary production business.

It is estimated that these changes will only apply to the top 5% of companies and trusts currently paying land tax.

Under the Land Tax Act, an absentee is a person who does not ordinarily reside in Australia. Absentees can include Australian citizens or permanent residents living overseas. Absentees have a lower tax-free threshold and currently pay land tax at the same general rates as companies and trustees. They also pay a 1.5 per cent surcharge.

From the 2019-20 financial year, the Land Tax Act will be amended to increase the absentee surcharge to 2 per cent. This will harmonise the rate with other jurisdictions like New South Wales and Victoria.

The Act will also be amended to ensure that Australian citizens and permanent residents who hold permanent visas are not assessed as absentees. Instead, they will benefit from the higher tax-free threshold and lower tax rates that apply to resident individuals and will not be subject to the absentee surcharge.

From the 2019-20 financial year, the Land Tax Act will also be amended to impose a 2 per cent surcharge on foreign companies and trustees of foreign trusts.

Like the absentee surcharge, the foreign surcharge will apply to the taxable portion of the taxable value of land which is equal to or greater than \$350,000.

The Payroll Tax Act currently imposes payroll tax at a rate of 4.75 per cent on taxable wages paid or payable in a financial year once the total Australian wages of an employer, or group of employers, exceeds the exemption threshold of \$1.1 million. Employers may claim a deduction for their Queensland taxable wages which phases out at a rate of \$1 for every \$4 of taxable wages above \$1.1 million. Employers with payrolls over \$5.5 million currently receive no deduction.

The Payroll Tax Act will be amended to increase the exemption threshold to \$1.3 million from 1 July 2019. Employers with payrolls of \$6.5 million or less will be able to claim a deduction.

The Payroll Tax Act will also be amended to marginally increase the payroll tax rate for employers, or groups of employers, with yearly Australian taxable wages above \$6.5 million to 4.95 per cent.

A 1 per cent payroll tax rate discount will apply to regional employers for four years from 1 July 2019. The discount will be available to employers if their ABN registered business address is outside of South-East Queensland and 85 per cent of their taxable wages are paid to employees are located outside SEQ.

The rate discount will mean that regional employers will pay payroll tax at a reduced rate of either 3.75 per cent or 3.95 per cent.

The Payroll Tax Act provides a 50 per cent rebate for wages of apprentices and trainees which expires on 30 June 2019. The bill amends the Payroll Tax Act to extend this rebate for a further 2 years ending 30 June 2021.

The bill also includes amendments to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act and the Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation from 1 July 2019 to increase the rate of petroleum royalty to 12.5 per cent of the wellhead value of petroleum disposed of by a petroleum producer.

For petroleum producers that lodge calendar year annual returns, a transitional rate of 11.25 per cent will apply for annual royalty returns lodged for the return period ending 31 December 2019.

The bill also amends revenue legislation to protect Queensland's revenue and support administration of taxation and royalty legislation.

Amendments to the Duties Act are to clarify that for assessing transfer duty, references to consideration include both monetary and non-monetary consideration.

The bill also amends the landholder duty provisions to ensure that where a landholder, or a subsidiary of a landholder, holds land-holdings as a partner for a partnership, those land-holdings are included for calculating landholder duty.

Amendments to the royalty-related provisions in the Mineral Resources Act, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act and their respective Regulations are included in the bill to introduce provisions for how royalty documents are given to and by the Minister and ensure the validity of service of royalty documents given before the commencement of the amendments. These amendments will support royalty administration and provide certainty for royalty payers and Government.

The bill also amends the Taxation Administration Act and Taxation Administration Regulation to facilitate expansion of the Office of State Revenue's new online portal, OSR Online, by ensuring that documents can be validly given to and by clients electronically using OSR online and clarifying when documents given this way are taken to be given. Additionally, the bill amends the Taxation Administration Act to clarify that the terms of the Commissioner of State Revenue's employment are governed by the Public Service Act 2008.

Finally, the bill also proposes to amend the Auditor-General Act 2009 to enable the sharing of financial data provided by departments to the Queensland Auditor-General with the Treasurer and Queensland Treasury for whole-of-Government budgeting and monitoring purposes.

The proposed changes to the Auditor-General Act 2009 are consistent with the Treasurer's existing powers under section 26 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009.

Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a first time.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

## APPROPRIATION BILL

## REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.37 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. under the provisions of standing order 137, the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and not stand referred to a committee and be set down for its second reading to enable the bill to be passed through all remaining stages at this week's sitting; and
2. in accordance with standing order 172, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 176, be also treated as cognate with the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill for the second reading debate, but with separate questions being put with regard to the second reading of (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill and (b) the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.38 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.38 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson